Democracy North Carolina

Research Campaign Money on the State Board of Elections' Website

Go to http://www.ncsbe.gov/Campaign-Finance/report-search for each of these searches

RESEARCH A CANDIDATE OR POLITICAL COMMITTEE

STEP 1: Choose **"1. Search by committee/entity"** (Options 2. and 3. are explained below)

STEP 2: Type in just part of the name of a candidate, PAC or party to get a list of committees with that name. Then choose the committee you want and click. Note the abbreviations at bottom of the screen for party entities, e.g., REC = Republican Exec Committee.

STEP 3: By clicking on a name, you get a list of reports – generally, 4 in even years, 2 in odd years. Recent reports are filed electronically and viewable by clicking on DATA. Some reports may be only PDF files to view ("IMAGE"). The "48 hour" reports, filed before an election, should be included in a later report. Reports with Y in Amended column may be partial or complete updates. Other documents posted are often interesting, e.g., penalty assessment letters and correspondence with State Board.

STEP 4: Click on DATA in order to see parts of the report (summary, receipts, expenditures, etc.) Click on a section. Then click on "Export data to .CSV" to dump the contents into an Excel file.

DONORS & OTHER SEARCHABLE INFO

Records entered into DATA (see above) are searchable in some fields on the Transaction site, including a donor's or payee's name or a candidate. To use this feature, choose **"3. Search reported transactions"** or go to **http://cf.ncsbe.gov/CFTxnLkup/. CAUTION:** Records go back to 1989 but many disclosure reports were never entered into DATA so are not in the Searchable database.

DONOR: Choose "Receipts" under Type on the Transaction site. Enter the donor's last name or enter parts of a last name and first name with * (wildcard). There are so many typos and names out of alpha order (e.g., a name with "Jr" may be under J) that you should start very broad. Export the results and sort by name and later by city and address to find more transactions of the donor and donor's kin.

CANDIDATE/PAC/PARTY: Use Transaction site to see years of records of a committee (candidate, party or PAC) instead of viewing one report at a time. Click on "Comm Search," then type part of the committee name in the new box, click Find, then select the desired committee, and then click ADD at bottom of box which will enter the committee name on the Transaction site. Search and Export results to view many years. Remember, choose Receipts or Expenditures in "Type" before hitting Search.

LARGE DATASET: Use "Advanced Search" at top of the Transaction site to search on Employer, Occupation, etc. or to download a large amount of data, such as contributions to all candidates for a state office. Experiment. You can select a date range, city, amount range (ignore county), etc.

INDEPENDENT COMMITTEES & REPORT TYPES

Use **"2. Search by document type"** to view Independent Expenditure and Electioneering Comm. reports, Penalty Documents, etc.: scroll down Document Type, check boxes and then Search. Enter Year of report filing deadline at top (or year before & after in case it was not posted correctly).

FOR A FEDERAL CANDIDATE/PAC Go to **opensecrets.org** for their donors and other info.

Questions? Call the State Board of Elections at 919-814-0700 and ask for Campaign Finance