



Spotlight

On Political Money and the Yeas \$ Nays

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1Q 2016

Donors Give, Congress Votes, Citizens Cope

House Push for Deregulation Aligns With Campaign Receipts

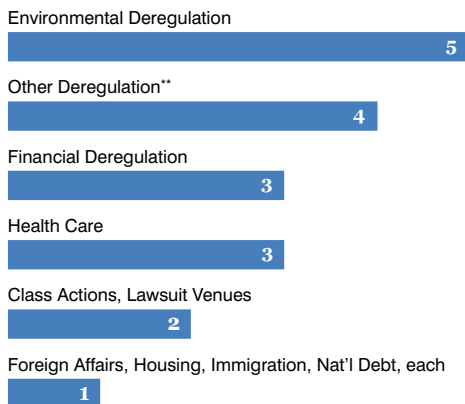
With huge contributions flowing into presidential and congressional races at the same time growing numbers of economically pressed voters are rebelling against entrenched powers in both parties, it's not surprising that the issue of campaign-finance reform has become a flash point in the U.S. political discussion.

Bernie Sanders, running for president as a Democrat, has led the way in stoking public displeasure over the extent to which interest groups and wealthy individuals influence outcomes on Election Day and the policy-making that follows. Donald Trump, while personally wobbly on the issue, has brought into electoral politics many individuals who decry the campaign-finance system as an enabler of the establishment they seek to topple. And Hillary Clinton, pummeled by Sanders over ties to Wall Street, features a detailed political-money reform agenda on her presidential campaign's website.

Based on numbers from previous cycles, House races in 2015-2016 appear likely to attract more than \$1 billion in publicly reported contributions, and Senate races this cycle could garner more than \$800 million in disclosed donations. In addition, large sums of unlimited, anonymous contributions are being brought to bear on congressional races by businesses, labor unions and super-rich solo donors under the "corporations are people" and "free speech" rationales of the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United ruling.

Final Passage Votes on Major House Bills*

Number of Votes by Category, January-March, 2016



It is difficult for the public to relate such high-flying numbers to the mundane business of making laws. To help shed light on the connection, this newsletter provides a snapshot of three typical months in the legislative life of the U.S. House — describing all major bills passed during the period and listing relevant donations received by the bills' leading sponsors. While perfectly legal, the associations shown here offer a glimpse of how special interests advance their agendas, which may or may not coincide with those of everyday constituents watching from the sidelines.

During January-March of 2016, GOP leaders brought to the floor and passed 21 major bills, 15 of which were tailor-made for the party's business wing — 12 dealing with financial, environmental and other forms of deregulation; one undercutting class-action lawsuits by consumers; one bemoaning the national debt and one designed to move civil litigation from federal to more-business-friendly state courts. The following pages provide details of these measures and associated campaign contributions.

*All major bills were sponsored by Republicans, who control the House.

**Other than environmental and financial deregulation.

Financial Deregulation

Key Votes and Campaign Contributions, January–March 2016

These pages describe the three categories of deregulation bills that dominated House activity in the First Quarter of 2016 — Financial, Environmental and Other — and show data on campaign receipts by the bills' top sponsors in the 2015-2016 and 2013-2014 cycles. Because Republicans control the House, each bill is GOP-sponsored, with some having Democratic as well as Republican co-sponsors.

The Financial-Insurance-Real Estate Sector, identified by the Center for Responsive Politics, is comprised of companies and individuals that stand to benefit from financial-deregulation bills. The sector has contributed \$453.4 million to congressional candidates and party committees so far in the 2015-2016 election cycle, according to the center. In 2013-2014, the sector contributed \$517.6 million to congressional races.

1. Vote #61 To pass HR 1675, which would require the Securities and Exchange Commission to review and prune its regulations every 10 years. (02/03/16)

Lead sponsor Randy Hultgren, R-Ill., has received \$257,450 in Financial-Insurance-Real Estate Sector donations in the 2015-2016 cycle (31% of his total).

The bill's original co-sponsors are John Delaney, D-Md., who has taken in \$317,850 in sector donations in the current cycle (39% of his total), Jared Polis, D-Colo., \$111,950 (14%) and Michael Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., who is leaving Congress and not fund-raising.

In 2013-2014, Hultgren received \$501,100 in sector contributions (28% of his total), Delaney \$731,500 (28%), Polis \$165,930 (14%) and Fitzpatrick \$742,690 (24%).

2. Vote #63 To pass HR 766, which would limit federal prosecution of fraudulent activity by banks under the 1989 Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act (FIFRA). (02/04/16)

Lead sponsor Blaine Luetkemeyer, R-Mo., has received \$714,030 in Financial-Insurance-Real Estate Sector contributions this election cycle (60% of his total).

The bill's original co-sponsors are Steve Stivers, R-Ohio, who has taken in \$792,820 in sector donations this cycle (40% of his total) and Alcee Hastings, D-Fla., \$67,050 (13%).

In 2013-2014, Luetkemeyer received \$533,330 in sector contributions (41% of his total), Stivers \$1.05 million (48%) and Hastings \$94,500 (13%).

3. Vote #137 To pass HR 2745, which would limit Federal Trade Commission reviews of proposed mergers and acquisitions. (03/23/16)

Lead sponsor Blake Farenthold, R-Texas, has received \$59,750 in Financial-Insurance-Real Estate Sector contributions in the 2015-2016 cycle (8% of his total).

The original co-sponsors are Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., who has received \$138,850 in sector donations this cycle (13% of his total) and Tom Marino, R-Pa., \$44,670 (6%).

In 2013-2014, Farenthold received \$131,600 in sector contributions (12% of his total), Goodlatte \$212,550 (11%) and Marino \$100,250 (10%).

Environmental Deregulation

Key Votes and Campaign Contributions, January-March 2016

The Energy-Natural Resources Sector, identified by the Center for Responsive Politics, is comprised of companies, interest groups, individuals and other parties affected by environmental deregulation bills. The ENR sector has contributed \$89.6 million to congressional candidates and party committees so far in the 2015-2016 cycle, according to the center. In 2013-2014, the sector contributed \$115.9 million to congressional races.

4. Vote #42 To pass HR 1644, which would block new Environmental Protection Agency regulation of mountaintop mining. (01/12/16)

Lead sponsor Alex Mooney, R-W.Va., has taken in \$70,520 in campaign funds from the Energy-Natural Resources Sector this cycle (9% of his total).

The bill's original co-sponsors are Bill Johnson, R-Ohio, who has received \$478,900 in ENR donations this cycle (40% of his total) and Doug Lamborn, R-Colo., \$69,780 (21%).

In 2013-2014, Mooney received \$156,000 in sector contributions (8% of his total), Johnson \$190,650 (9%) and Lamborn \$81,850 (17%).

5. Vote #45 To adopt SJ Res 22, which would kill a new rule extending Clean Water Act protection to headwaters. (01/13/16)

Bob Gibbs, R-Ohio, the floor manager, has received \$72,000 in ENR Sector contributions so far this cycle (13% of his total).

Bill Shuster, R-Pa., who spoke for the resolution, has received \$199,500 in ENR funds this cycle (8% of his total) and Adrian Smith, R-Neb., also a backer in House debate, has received \$38,250 in sector funds (5%).

In 2013-2014, Gibbs received \$123,050 in sector contributions (11% of his total), Shuster \$400,790 (10%) and Smith \$53,500 (5%).

6. Vote #101 To pass HR 2406, which would ease or kill certain environmental rules in order to expand hunting and fishing access to open federal lands. (02/26/16)

Lead sponsor Robert Wittman, R-Va., has received \$36,650 in Energy-Natural Resources Sector contributions in the 2015-2016 election cycle (5% of his total).

The bill's original co-sponsors are Gene Green, D-Texas, who has taken in \$162,800 in ENR donations in the current cycle (12% of his total), Jeff Duncan, R-S.C., \$68,650 (22%) and Tim Walz, D-Minn., \$36,750 (4%).

In 2013-2014, Wittman received \$36,650 (3% of his total), Green \$169,950 (17%), Duncan \$49,730 (8%) and Walz \$32,050 (2%).

7. Vote #109 To pass HR 4557, which would block a new rule to curb emissions from the manufacture of bricks and clay products and ceramics. (03/03/16)

Lead sponsor Bill Johnson, R-Ohio, has received \$478,900 in Energy-Natural Resources Sector contributions this cycle (40% percent of his total).

The bill's original co-sponsors are John Shimkus, R-Ill., recipient of \$346,200 in ENR donations this cycle (15% of his total), Terri Sewell, D-Ala., \$62,250 (7%), Sanford Bishop, D-Ga., \$47,500 (8%) and Martha Roby, R-Ala., \$39,100 (3%).

In 2013-2014, Johnson received \$190,650 in sector contributions (9% of his total), Shimkus \$340,950 (15%), Sewell \$62,250 (4%), Bishop \$25,500 (2%) and Roby \$44,750 (4%).

8. Vote #123 To pass HR 3797, which would ease the impact of two new clean-air rules on power plants fueled by coal refuse (03/15/16)

Lead sponsor Keith Rothfus, R-Pa., has received \$252,980 in ENR contributions this cycle (25% of his total).

The bill's original co-sponsors, all Pennsylvania Republicans, are Mike Kelly, whose campaign has received \$185,050 in ENR funds (17% of his total), Glenn Thompson \$181,330 (27%) and Lou Barletta \$62,200 (10%).

In 2013-2014, Rothfus received \$56,100 in sector contributions (2% of his total), Kelly \$78,550 (5%), Thompson \$86,050 (7%) and Barletta \$28,750 (2%).

Other Major Deregulation Votes

9. Vote #12 To pass HR 712, which would raise obstacles to government consent decrees that require new regulations on businesses to be put into effect. (01/07/16)

Key Votes and Campaign Contributions, January–March 2016

Lead sponsor Doug Collins, R-Ga., has received \$76,025 in campaign funds this cycle from the Miscellaneous Business Sector (11% of his total).

Among the bill's original co-sponsors are David Trott, R-Mich., who has received \$135,950 in sector contributions (17% of his total); Steve Chabot, R-Ohio, \$134,350 (22%); Renee Elmers, R-N.C., \$118,900 (9%) and Lamar Smith, R-Texas, \$108,660 (9%).

In 2013-2014, Collins received \$112,100 in sector contributions (13% of his total), Trott \$184,800 (4%), Chabot \$164,500 (18%), Elmers \$159,400 (8%) and Smith \$150,400 (10%).

10. Vote #20 To pass HR 1155, which would establish an outside commission with subpoena powers for reviewing and eliminating a broad swath of federal regulations. (01/07/16)

Lead sponsor Jason Smith, R-Mo., has received \$117,164 in Miscellaneous Business Sector contributions this cycle (13% of his total).

The bill's original co-sponsors are Ted Poe, R-Texas, who has taken in \$55,850 in sector donations this cycle (10% of his total) and Trent Franks, R-Ariz., \$14,550 (7%).

In 2013-2014, Smith received \$149,800 in sector contributions (9% of his total), Poe \$91,950 (10%) and Franks \$37,267 (9%).

11. Vote #81 To pass HR 2017, which would weaken a new Food and Drug Administration requirement that restaurant chains prominently display nutritional information such as calorie counts. (02/12/16)

Lead sponsor Cathy McMorris Rogers, R-Wash., has received \$163,720 from the Miscellaneous Business Sector this cycle (9% of her total) and lead co-sponsor Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif., has received \$96,100 (3%).

In 2013-2014, McMorris Rogers received \$287,590 in sector contributions (11% of her total) and Sanchez \$92,600 (6%).

12. Vote #124 To pass HR 4596, which would delay until December 2021 a Federal Communications Commission rule that small Internet service firms provide transparent price and performance information. (03/16/16)

Sponsor Greg Walden, R-Ore., has received \$366,810 in Communications and Electronics Sector donations in the current cycle (19% of his total). Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., who spoke for the bill, received \$176,036 in sector donations (25% of her total) and Robert Latta, R-Ohio, also a backer in House debate, received \$68,150 (13%).

In 2013-2014, Walden received \$488,100 in sector donations (14% of his total), Eshoo \$342,683 (23%) and Latta \$168,300 (14%).
