**Minnesota Governor’s campaign finance data exercise:**

--data from 2010 and 2014 governor elections (both won by Mark Dayton)

Go to Minnesota Campaign Finance Board’s searchable database page:

<http://www.cfbreport.state.mn.us/dataViewer/cfbsearch_disclaimer.html>

click “continue to searchable data system”

choose “contributions received by a candidate”

select “2014” for the year  
push radio button: “select one or more criteria”

select “governor” from office pull-down menu

push “search”

download results

Open results in Notepad.

Delete extraneous info at the top

Save and close file

You will also need from Dropbox:

Governor2009.csv

Governor2010.csv

Governor2011.csv

Governor2012.csv

Governor2013.csv

Create a new Access database

Import governor2009.csv

--rename fields

--make sure date field is set as date/time and amount as numeric

--save specs

--name new table “governor”

Import each of the others, including 2014

--apply the saved specs

--append to existing table

Review table

--use filters to look at each column; make sure everything landed in the right place

--sort donor date from A to Z to check start and end dates

--Run group-by queries on key fields (recip, donortype, donorname, state, employer, inkind) to look for standardization problems

Analysis:

1. Across these two elections, which candidate received the most in total contributions?

SELECT Governor.Recip, Sum(Governor.Amount) AS SumOfAmount

FROM Governor

GROUP BY Governor.Recip

ORDER BY Sum(Governor.Amount) DESC;

| **Query1** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Recip** | **SumOfAmount** |
| Minnesotans for Matt (Entenza) | $5,879,825.62 |
| Mark Dayton for a Better Minnesota | $3,773,176.38 |
| Tom Emmer for Governor | $1,854,034.26 |
| Johnson (Jeff) for Governor | $1,365,040.34 |
| Margaret (Kelliher) for Governor | $1,209,783.02 |
| (Thomas) Horner 2010 | $873,466.00 |
| Honour for Governor (Scott Honour) | $844,050.24 |

1. Does that hold true when you look at only cash donations? (where inkind= “no”)

SELECT Governor.Recip, Sum(Governor.Amount) AS SumOfAmount

FROM Governor

where inkind="No"

GROUP BY Governor.Recip

ORDER BY Sum(Governor.Amount) DESC;

| **Query1** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Recip** | **SumOfAmount** |
| Minnesotans for Matt (Entenza) | $5,812,808.56 |
| Mark Dayton for a Better Minnesota | $3,716,594.28 |
| Tom Emmer for Governor | $1,823,064.99 |
| Johnson (Jeff) for Governor | $1,333,535.97 |
| Margaret (Kelliher) for Governor | $1,182,913.16 |
| (Thomas) Horner 2010 | $844,211.50 |
| Honour for Governor (Scott Honour) | $809,268.00 |

1. How much money was donated each year?

select year(donationdate), sum(amount)

from governor

group by year(donationdate)

order by 1

| **Query1** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Expr1000** | **Expr1001** |
| 2009 | $1,835,854.02 |
| 2010 | $11,612,307.83 |
| 2011 | $177,511.21 |
| 2012 | $214,507.90 |
| 2013 | $2,003,573.29 |
| 2014 | $3,167,278.45 |

1. How much was donated each election cycle? (2009-2010 versus 2013-14)

This is going to require a little added value to our database because right now we don’t have a field that indicates the election cycle. We also have a couple middle years in there that don’t really count too much.

So we need to add a new field to the table: call it “cycle”

Then launch an update query and run these queries:

Update governor set cycle = “2009-10” where year(donationdate)=2009 or year(donationdate)=2010

UPDATE Governor SET cycle="2013-14" where year(donationdate)=2013 or year(donationdate)=2014

Now start a new regular query to ask our question – how much was donated in each cycle?

| **Query1** | |
| --- | --- |
| **cycle** | **SumOfAmount** |
|  | $392,019.11 |
| 2009-10 | $13,448,161.85 |
| 2013-14 | $5,170,851.74 |

SELECT Governor.cycle, Sum(Governor.Amount) AS SumOfAmount

FROM Governor

GROUP BY Governor.cycle;

1. Which candidate raised the most money in the 2009-10 cycle?

select recip, sum(amount)

from governor

where cycle='2009-10'

group by recip

order by 2 desc

| **Query1** | |
| --- | --- |
| **recip** | **Expr1001** |
| Minnesotans for Matt (Entenza) | $5,877,325.62 |
| Tom Emmer for Governor | $1,853,534.26 |
| Mark Dayton for a Better Minnesota | $1,209,785.06 |
| Margaret (Kelliher) for Governor | $1,202,883.02 |
| (Thomas) Horner 2010 | $872,466.00 |

1. Who gave Matt Entenza the most money and how many contributions?

SELECT donorname, sum(amount), count(\*)

FROM Governor

where recip like "\*entenza\*"

group by donorname

order by 2 desc

| **Query2** | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **donorname** | **Expr1001** | **Expr1002** |
| Entenza, Matt | $5,283,721.39 | 101 |
| Bergh, Kjell A | $2,500.00 | 2 |
| Stevens, Simon M | $2,500.00 | 2 |
| Karim, Jawed M | $2,500.00 | 2 |
| Freier, Dan C | $2,500.00 | 2 |

\*\*Perhaps these should be re-categorized as “self” donations?

1. In the 2009-10 cycle, what percentage of each candidate’s money came from outside of Minnesota?

(requires two queries – save each one and then join)

select recip, sum(amount)

from governor

where cycle='2009-10'

group by recip

order by 2 desc

select recip, sum(amount)

from governor

where cycle='2009-10' and state<> “MN”

group by recip

order by 2 desc

When joining the tables, be sure to get all records from the “total” query and then do the percent calculation right in the select line

SELECT total2010.recip, total2010.Expr1001 AS total, Outstate2010.Expr1001 AS Outstate, Outstate2010.Expr1001/total2010.Expr1001 as Pct

FROM Outstate2010 RIGHT JOIN total2010 ON Outstate2010.recip = total2010.recip;

| **Query1** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **recip** | **total** | **Outstate** | **Pct** |
| Rob Hahn for Governor | $2,050.00 | $1,250.00 | 0.609756097560976 |
| Minnesotans for (John) Marty | $126,855.93 | $27,740.00 | 0.218673261864857 |
| (Paul) Thissen 2010 Committee | $272,490.42 | $55,912.58 | 0.205190993503551 |
| Linda (Eno) and Howard Campaign | $1,100.00 | $200.00 | 0.181818181818182 |
| Mark Dayton for a Better Minnesota | $1,209,785.06 | $184,428.04 | 0.152446947890066 |
| (Patricia) Anderson4Governor | $22,500.00 | $3,250.00 | 0.144444444444444 |
| (Thomas) Bakk-Minnesota's Next Governor | $310,346.42 | $40,400.00 | 0.130177109824563 |
| David Hann for Governor | $31,610.00 | $4,100.00 | 0.129705789307181 |

1. Can we do anything with the “inkind description” column? (do a group by query and see what it shows)

Answer: no – data is very inconsistent and needs to be standardized first

Discussion: If we clean it up, what could we do with it?

1. Which candidates donated to their own campaigns (donation type = “self”)?

SELECT Governor.Recip, Sum(Governor.Amount) AS SumOfAmount

FROM Governor

WHERE (((Governor.DonorType)="self"))

GROUP BY Governor.Recip;

1. Where did Mark Dayton get the most money (across all years)?

SELECT Governor.DonorName, Sum(Governor.Amount) AS SumOfAmount

FROM Governor

WHERE (((Governor.Recip) Like "\*dayton\*"))

GROUP BY Governor.DonorName

ORDER BY Sum(Governor.Amount) DESC;

| **Query4** | |
| --- | --- |
| **DonorName** | **SumOfAmount** |
| Minn DFL State Central Committee | $22,500.00 |
| Solon, Yvonne Prettner Senate Dist. 7 Committee | $15,000.00 |
| Pogemiller, Lawrence J Senate Dist. 59 Committee | $10,000.00 |
| Bergh, Kjell | $7,500.00 |
| Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation | $7,000.00 |
| Haselow, Justine | $7,000.00 |
| Dorsey Political Fund | $7,000.00 |

\*\*Sort the results A to Z. See any problems with consistency? Leading spaces?