

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [For \\$200, a Person Can Fuel the Decline of Our Major Parties](#)

Article Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/30/opinion/campaign-finance-small-donors.html#:~:text=In%20total%20small%2Ddonor%20dollars,the%20Trump%20campaign%27s%20total%20receipts.%E2%80%9D>

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Tweet: [Ideologically driven donors of \\$200 or less are driving political polarization in the US, as small donors hold far more extreme views than those of the mean voter. @Edsall](#)

Summary: A 2022 paper, “Small Campaign Donors,” documents the striking increase in low-dollar (\$200 or less) campaign contributions in recent years. The total number of individual donors grew from 5.2mm in 2006 to 195mm in 2020. The appeal of extreme candidates can be seen in the OpenSecrets listing of the top members of the House and Senate ranked by the percentage of contributions they have received from small donors in the 2021-22 election cycle: Bernie Sanders raised \$38.3mm, of which 70%, came from small donors; Marjorie Taylor Greene raised \$12.5mm, of which 68% came from small donors; and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez raised \$12.3mm, of which 68%, came from small donors. House Republicans who backed Trump and voted to reject the Electoral College count on Jan. 6 received an average of \$140,000 in small contributions, while House Republicans who opposed Trump and voted to accept Biden’s victory received far less in small donations, an average of \$40,000.

Related Articles: [Is the Surge to the Left Among Young Voters a Trump Blip or the Real Deal?](#) and [What Happened In 2022 and Republican Gains in 2022 Midterms Driven Mostly by Turnout Advantage](#)

Primary Topic: Politics

Topics: Database, Politics, Weekly

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