

Executive Summary

Albert Mata's campaign stands alone as being funded primarily by in-district contributions, as supported by figures 1 and 2.

Figures 3 and 4 reveal the stark contrast between the small-donor movement that fuels Mata's campaign and the high-dollar investments that are driving the West and Alonzo campaigns.

Dallas election code allows any individual to contribute up to \$1000 to any campaign per election cycle. However, the lack of oversight permits campaigns to violate these laws without accountability. Figure 5 identifies the West campaign as the sole violator in the District 1 race.

Let's review the difference between in-district contributions and illegal donations. Mata's campaign received \$3,450 from zip codes within District 1. West's campaign received \$14,000 above the limit set by the Dallas Election Code. By comparison, West's campaign received 4 times as much funding from illegal donations than Mata received from all his District 1 donors.

Analysis

Our first dataset was created by taking the sum of all contributions per zip code and aggregating by candidate.

Looking at figure 1, we see the two zip codes that contributed the most to each campaign. Albert Mata is the only candidate whose top two zip code contributions came from within District 1.

Figure 1. Top 2 Contributing Zip Codes per Candidate

Candidate	Top-Contributing-Zipcode	In District or Out?
Alonzo	75220	OUT
	75211	IN
Mata	75224	IN
	75208	IN
West	75201	OUT
	75208	IN

One of the primary motivations for this analysis was to determine whether each campaign is funded by donations within their district. Figure 2 clarifies this by taking the sum of all contributions from zip codes within District 1 and comparing that to the total contributions per campaign.

This analysis considered 75211, 75208, and 75224 to be within District 1.

Figure 2. Donations per Zip Code Within District 1

Candidate	Sum of all In-District Contributions	In-District Contributions Compared to Total Contributions
Alonzo	\$4,600	18%
Mata	\$3,450	84%
West	\$27,313	16%

Figure 2 reveals that Mata is the only candidate whose campaign is funded primarily from in-district donations.

Figure 3. Contributions per Zip Code per Candidate

Candidate	Average	Median	Mode
Alonzo	\$2,100	\$2,000	\$2,000
Mata	\$512	\$100	\$100
West	\$2,544	\$950	\$950

Figure 3 shows us that Alonzo's campaign is largely funded by married couples who donate under a single record. For example, Joe and Sue Smith write a check to a campaign for \$2000. The Dallas Election Code would interpret this as Joe contributing \$1000 and Sue contributing \$1000. However, the campaign finance documents would record this as a single donation of \$2,000.

Figure 3 reveals a major contrast between Mata and the other candidates. West and Alonzo are largely fueled by high-dollar donations but Mata is driven by small-donor contributions.

Figure 4 clarifies the wealth disparities by presenting the number of recorded donations that contributed more than \$900 to any campaign. Mata's campaign stands out again as being driven by small donations.

Figure 4. Number of Donations Above \$900 per Candidate

Candidate	Number of Donations Above \$900	Total Number of Donations	% of Total Donations Above \$900
Alonzo	23	28	82%
Mata	1	10	10%
West	90	262	34%

Dallas City Election Code allows an individual to contribute up to \$1000 to any single campaign per election cycle. For each record, we took the sum of contributions in excess of \$1000. For example, Joe Smith donates \$1,001 to a campaign. Our analysis would ignore the first \$1000, but consider the \$1 an illegal contribution.

Figure 5. Sum of All Donations in Excess of \$1000 per Candidate

Candidate	Number of Individual Donations greater than \$1000	Sum of all donations in excess of \$1000 (Sum of illegal contributions)
Alonzo	0	\$0
Mata	0	\$0
West	3	\$14,000

We reviewed each of the individuals who donated above the legal limit. Two of them are luxury real estate owners, one of whom is a millionaire and the other is a billionaire. The third individual made their donation under an address in Santa Barbara, California. The address is registered to a mailbox rental company, making this a phantom donor.

Dallas has a history of turning a blind eye to violations of campaign finance law. The Dallas Ethics Advisory Commission, the city manager, and the Texas Ethics Commission have all declined to uphold Dallas' election code in the last decade, despite complaints. Looking back on the last five years, the Ethics Advisory Commission has cancelled 43% of their 21 scheduled meetings.

Sources

Ethics Advisory Commission Meeting Records
dallascityhall.com

Campaign Finance Records
campfin.dallascityhall.com

- There are no records published to the above source for “Mariana Griggs”.

- The campaign finance documents for Chad West include duplicates of donations and misspellings throughout the records. Please see the Error Analysis section for more information on how this team overcame these misrepresentations.

Error Analysis

There are no duplicate entries present in Albert Mata or Monica R Alonzo's campaign finance records.

There is one major error present in Chad West's records: duplicate entries for a single donation. For example, Joe Smith donates \$1000 to Chad West but the records show that Joe made 3 donations of \$1000 to that campaign.

To account for this error, a statistical analysis was performed based on unique donors. The analysis yielded the following:

- On average, a single unique donor is recorded 3.4 times (Mean)
- At least 50% of all unique donors appear 3 times or more (Median)
- At most, a single unique donor appears 11 times (Max)
- Most unique donors appear 3 times (Mode)

The results told us that most records were recorded 3 times. An alternate hypothesis proposed that donors might have made multiple valid contributions, which would explain why so many donations were recorded several times. We reviewed the dataset for such a situation, but found that this was a statistically insignificant case.

Consequently, the results in this analysis are based on 33% of the contributions per unique donor that contributed to Chad West's campaign. This lends confidence to ratio-based results, but reveals a margin of error for sum-based results.

Contributors

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