

# Transparency or Deception? How Rejecting PAC Contributions Affects Contribution Patterns

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# Motivation

## POLITICS

### Why So Many Democratic Candidates Are Dissing Corporate PACs

Their pledge not to accept money from business entities is mostly symbolic. But voters can expect to hear it a lot more often in elections to come.

### The Verdict Is In: Rejecting Corporate Cash Wins Elections

Dozens of Democratic House candidates touted their rejection of corporate PAC donations, helping them raise individual contributions and oust incumbents.

NOV 15, 2018 5:48PM EST

2018 MIDTERMS



Alex Kotch @alexkotch

Investigative reporter and extreme money-in-

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ELECTIONS

## Corporate America hikes contributions to key Democrats

The shift, driven by rising expectations of a change in House control, could exacerbate tension among liberals over corporate PACs.

By THEODORIC MEYER | 08/05/2018 07:00 AM EDT

## Democrats Who Swore Off Corporate Campaign Donations Are Still Getting a Boost From Big Money



Libby Watson

11/02/18 1:29PM • Filed to: CAMPAIGN FINANCE ✓



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OPENSECRETS NEWS

## Democrats are rejecting corporate PACs: Does it mean anything?

By Karl Evers-Hillstrom | December 7, 2018 3:14 pm

# Motivation

## Research Question

Do pledges to reject corporate PAC contributions minimize corporate influence in elections?

# Why do candidates refuse corporate PAC money?

- Americans are very skeptical about money in politics (Lubenow 2001)
- Voter believe contributions from corporations are more corrupt than those from other sources (Bowler and Donovan 2016)
- Voters also think that small-dollar contributions are the most trustworthy

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