Derek Willis ProPublica

Sandra Fish, New Mexico In Depth

Ben Wieder, Center for Public Integrity

<http://ire.org/events-and-training/event/2702/3113/>

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bit.ly/influence-nicar17

What legislation will people be spending money on now?

Keep campaign finance data on computer and look it up whenever legislation comes up to see who is sponsoring it.

When do ppl vote against their party and why

<http://www.followthemoney.org/help/tutorials/anomaly-detection-tool/>

Financial disclosure forms will tell you if lawmakers are married to lobbyists!

Story can also be how inconsistent these reports are and how much ppl leave off of them.

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Think about influence the way that influencers think about influence; don’t divide by federal vs state vs local. Most places with a plan to influence will target all three. Lobbying firms will have federal practice and state practice.

Look for corporate sponsorships.

Revolving Door stories- bring someone into a company and paying someone who still has relationships with the agency that is regulating these companies. (occurs at DEA, SEC, etc)

This weakens regulatory body.

Intern for a law firm, then go work for the regulatory agency, then go back to the law firm. But then some regulatory agencies require you to work in the business before they hire you.

Look further down the ticket. AG’s often move up to higher positions.

Other places to look for data:

IRS

* [527 data](https://forms.irs.gov/app/pod/dataDownload/dataDownload)
* Electronically-filed [990s](https://aws.amazon.com/public-datasets/irs-990/)-- we made [this data](https://www.publicintegrity.org/2016/08/03/20030/search-nonprofit-network) searchable

FCC

* [Public inspection files](https://publicfiles.fcc.gov/)

DOL

* [Union filings](https://www.dol.gov/olms/regs/compliance/rrlo/lmrda.htm#.ULZCXYUbp3Y)

Corporate disclosures

* Included sometimes in corporate governance/good government sections

Self-Defined Systems for Tracking Influence

* [Election DataBot](https://projects.propublica.org/electionbot/)
* [Bill Nelson’s votes against party](https://projects.propublica.org/represent/members/N000032-bill-nelson/votes-against-party/115)
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Legislators on the floor will often get comfortable and say things they wouldn’t if they were talking to a reporter.

Don’t often effectively explain how government works. Make it grab their attention, make it real to them.

Ask what should we expect from X politician? Then use that as a measure.

Look at FCC for who is running TV ads off-session