

# Campaign Financing State-by-State

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## Abstract

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## 1 Introduction

Campaign financing is highly regulated in the United States, and for good reason. By analyzing donations from PACs, individuals, committees, etc, we can gain a deeper insight on the political, social, and economic landscape is America—by state. How much weight does campaign financing carry, and how influential is that factor on the success of an election? do blue states contribute more than red or swing states? when is campaign financing most important, and when (if ever) does it outweigh the incumbency effect?

## 2 Hypotheses

(and potential questions to explore)

- When state and federal elections are held campaign finances take a major role in the results. If candidates gain more funds before and during an election, especially if they are an incumbent, they are more likely to be reelected over the challenger, in a blue state democrats are more likely to gain more donations over republicans.
- If challengers gain more campaign funds through donations than the incumbent they are more likely to win the election. (i.e. Does financing outweigh the incumbency effect?)
- Blue states are more likely to donate to a political campaign than red states, which would in turn give democrat politicians more chances of winning the election.
- Democrat politicians are more likely to win in states with larger populations and bigger cities due to higher donations over republicans.

### 3 Data

We are looking at campaign financing (state by state) on both a local and a federal level in the united states. We are examining individual donations, PAC donations, party and committee donations, and analysing them as these factors relate to party ID and location (state/district/etc.)

we are still in the process of cleaning, organizing, recompiling, tidying, and sorting our data, so we have yet to have our final data all in one place.

- <http://ippsr.msu.edu/public-policy/correlates-state-policy>
- <https://www.fec.gov>
- <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/state-politics-and-policy-quarterly>
- [ConCand1202018m.pdf\(fec.gov\)](#)
- [ConCand7202018m.pdf\(fec.gov\)](#)
- State Legislative Campaign Finance Research: A Review Essay - Graham P. Ramsden, 2002 (sagepub.com)
- <https://www.followthemoney.org>
- <https://politicalmoneyline-com.eu1.proxy.openathens.net>

note:

because we plan on analyzing both local and federal campaigns and their finances, we will likely be working from multiple data frames.

#### 3.1 Packages

List (incomplete):

- cspp,
- formatR,
- Ggplot2,
- Purr,

- stringr,
- readr,
- tidyselect,
- dplyr,
- mapproj,
- ggcorrplot,
- haven,
- devtools(?),
- rlang

## 4 Methods

There are many packages out there (such as the cspp one) that are specifically focused on political analysis and even on state by state research. Once our data is cleaned we will each begin to examine the data and build/use models/run regression analysis on the data we get; both federal and local (Sorensen and Prevo respectively).

## 5 next steps

1. Clean data
2. Data visualizations
3. Regression analysis (simple and multiple)

## 6 References

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