

# Campaign Finance Talk

The Voice of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network

[www.mcfn.org](http://www.mcfn.org)

June 2006

## 84 Systems, No Connections

by Rich Robinson

In the weeks before last November's Detroit mayoral election, several captains of Detroit industry made major contributions to incumbent Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's leadership political action committee, Generations PAC. Among the top givers: Compuware's Peter Karmanos: \$100,000; James Nicholson of PVS Chemicals: \$25,000; Roger Penske of Penske Automotive: \$25,000; Manuel "Matty" Maroun, who owns the Ambassador Bridge and manages the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel: \$10,000 (Maroun's wife, son and daughter-in-law also kicked in \$5,000 each); Cynthia Pasky of Strategic Staffing Solutions: \$10,000; and Jerome Morgan of JerMor Plumbing and Heating, a major contractor for the City of Detroit: \$50,000.

Generations PAC, in turn, reported that it gave Mayor Kilpatrick's campaign committee \$250,000, a late infusion of cash that helped the mayor complete a comeback campaign after he had trailed badly in early voter preference polls and lost the primary election to challenger Freman Hendrix, who won a plurality of votes but not a majority, thus forcing the November run-off election.

Generations PAC was supposed to have filed a campaign finance report on October 25, 2005 and it should have reported any other late contributions it received between October 20<sup>th</sup> and Election Day. But it did not. It simply held its reports until after the turn of the new year and kept its major benefactors' identities a secret until months after Election Day. The cost for exercising this commonly used ploy is a fine of \$1,000 for filing a late report.

Mayor Kilpatrick's campaign finance reports and those of Generations PAC are so full of anomalies that it would take an entire newsletter to explain them all, but consider just one thing: Generations PAC reported that it gave Kilpatrick for Mayor \$250,000. Kilpatrick for Mayor didn't report receiving anything from Generations PAC. And the treasurer for both committees was the same man, Gregory Terrell.

Without a real audit it is impossible to tell whether this is an honest mistake, a case of incompetent bookkeeping or a matter of a quarter-million dollars disappearing into the vapors. Whatever it

is, there is a reason that this case hasn't gotten the attention that it deserves: Generations PAC filed its reports electronically (though very late) with the Department of State's Bureau of Elections; and Kilpatrick for Mayor filed paper reports with the clerk of Wayne County. There is no communication between the two systems. In the best of circumstances, one end of these transactions would have been in one system and the other end of the transactions in the other system. As it occurred, there was only one end to the transactions.

The tragedy about all this is that the Department of State made the investment to develop an outstanding electronic campaign finance reporting system that can be queried for *state* records by anyone with Internet access, from anywhere, at any time. Meanwhile, Michigan's 83 counties are struggling with varying degrees of vigor to make their county and local campaign finance records accessible to their citizens and the press. In a sense, 83 counties are reinventing the wheel, and some of them, unfortunately, have invented square wheels.

Although most counties do not provide any Internet access to their campaign finance reports, there have been a few qualified successes. Macomb County has an outstanding system for serving images of its campaign finance reports over the Internet. Ingham County serves images of reports, too, but only one page at a time. Wayne County serves images of its reports, but only to two computer terminals in the clerk's office. None of these systems puts records into a database that can be queried by a contributor's name, or a recipient's name, or by amount of contribution.

This situation calls for inter-governmental cooperation between the state and the counties. Either the state should license its outstanding system to the counties for free so they can make their reports easily accessible to the people and the press; or the Department of State should become the home for all reports for township, city, county and state committees. Unless there is technology sharing and a mandate for electronic filing, we can expect that more millions of dollars will disappear into the vapors between systems that don't communicate.

# Top 150 PACs Up 24 Percent

The state's top 150 political action committees (PACs) are setting new fundraising records so far in the 2005-2006 election cycle. Through April 20, 2006 the top 150 PACs had raised \$23,155,591. That figure is 24.0 percent higher than the \$18.7 million the top 150 PACs had raised at this point in the 2003-2004 cycle, and 38.0 percent more than the \$16.9 million raised at this point in the 2001-2002 cycle.

In releasing the list, Rich Robinson of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network said, "Interest groups are investing more than ever before to move the political process in Lansing, and citizens should not be deluded into thinking they're doing so for selfless reasons."

As is customary, the legislative caucuses' PACs are the top fundraisers. Ironically, those are the only state PACs that are subject to contribution limits, which are \$20,000 per year. As of the April reports, the House Republicans had raised \$2,202,000 and had \$1,117,000 on hand; the Senate Republicans had raised \$1,645,000 and had \$1,344,000 on hand; the House Democrats had raised \$1,572,000 and had \$1,042,000 on hand; and the Senate Democrats had raised \$871,000 and had \$925,000 on hand.

The legislative caucuses' PACs are a bellwether of fund-raising from the interest groups. Three of them are running 90 percent ahead of last cycle, and the Senate Republicans are up by 40 percent. That is a clear indication of how aggressive the money chase is.

Governor Jennifer Granholm's Leadership Fund had raised the most among officeholders' leadership PACs at \$483,000. Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's Generations PAC was in second place with \$389,900. The Commonwealth PAC, set up to boost the presidential prospects of Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, was the third-biggest leadership PAC with \$350,000, largely from sources in Utah and Massachusetts.

Among the interest groups' PACs, Comcast has made a major new push. After putting only \$2,500 in its PAC last election cycle, it has already put \$106,000 in its war-chest. After working in concert with the phone companies, the Telecommunications Association and the Cable Telecommunications Association to deregulate Michigan's telecomm industry last year, Comcast is now engaged in a legislative tug-of-war against the new AT&T (\$125,000 in its PAC) as the industry leaders fight for broadband/TV market share.

"It appears certain that there will be more money to follow this year than ever before," Robinson noted. "And that money will be pushing the policy agenda in Lansing. We should have limits on the money that individuals and interest groups can dump into these PACs, because without limits we are seeing irresistible forces that are steamrolling the public interest."

The PACs will file their next reports on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

*The complete list of Michigan's top 150 PACs so far this election cycle is available online at [www.mcfn.org](http://www.mcfn.org).*

## Top 150 PACs, 2006 Election Cycle

Rank	Name	01/05-04/06	01/03-04/04	Change (%)	2004 Cycle
1	House Republican Campaign Committee	\$2,202,499	\$1,162,448	89.5	\$3,019,668
2	Senate Republican Campaign Committee	1,645,445	1,168,721	40.8	1,448,961
3	MI House Democratic Fund	1,572,066	825,589	90.4	1,927,803
4	MI Education Assn. / MEA PAC	896,542	1,069,335	(16.2)	1,579,535
5	Senate Democratic Fund	870,720	455,085	91.3	568,086
6	MI Assn. of Realtors / REALTORS PAC	803,170	575,540	39.6	945,332
7	United Auto Workers / UAW MI Voluntary PAC	600,000	375,000	60.0	1,125,000
8	MI Trial Lawyers Assn. / Justice PAC	512,851	386,788	32.6	861,039
9	[Jennifer] Granholm Leadership Fund	482,960	233,507	106.8	464,191
10	MI Beer & Wine Wholesalers Assn. PAC	436,160	379,675	14.9	683,316
11	Blue Cross/Blue Shield of MI / BCBSM PAC	433,234	609,363	(28.9)	920,421
12	Generations PAC (Kwame Kilpatrick)	389,900	150,000	159.9	150,000
13	The Commonwealth PAC (Mitt Romney)	350,500	n/a	n/a	87,080
14	Auto Dealers of Michigan PAC <sup>1</sup>	337,438	261,184	29.2	404,125
15	DTE Energy Co. PAC	328,122	313,976	4.5	485,881
16	MI Regional Council of Carpenters PAC	313,957	301,613	4.1	426,185
17	MI Health & Hospital Assn. / Health PAC	309,901	209,961	47.6	351,510
18	Comerica Inc. PAC	306,633	98,148	212.4	293,578
19	MI Infrastructure & Transportaion PAC / MITA PAC <sup>2</sup>	273,822	204,050	34.2	304,800
20	MI Manufactured Housing RV & Campground Assn. PAC	255,430	464,244	(45.0)	525,037

## Top 150 PACs, 2006 Election Cycle (continued)

Rank	Name	01/05-04/06	01/03-04/04	Change (%)	2004 Cycle
21	Miller Canfield PAC	250,000	185,000	35.1	260,000
22	MI Bankers Assn. PAC / MI BANK PAC	230,016	212,572	8.2	324,573
23	Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers / IBEW COPE <sup>3</sup>	214,995	77,115	178.8	301,615
24	Detroit Auto Dealers / DAD PAC	214,750	197,650	8.7	380,250
25	Anthony Marrocco Victory PAC	200,025	168,074	19.0	168,074
26	Great Lakes Education Project (DeVos)	192,100	466,085	(58.8)	881,385
27	Republican Victory Committee (Jason Allen)	173,200	1,000	17,220.0	31,087
28	[Wayne] Kuipers Impact Fund	168,525	37,638	347.7	43,613
29	No. VI Leadership Fund (Craig DeRoche)	157,075	73,875	112.6	229,125
30	JDC Genesee Fund (John Cherry)	154,325	162,085	(4.8)	267,930
31	MI Restaurant Assn. PAC	151,878	135,608	12.0	232,581
32	MI Credit Union League Action Fund	150,684	92,395	63.1	131,209
33	MI Chamber of Commerce PAC	149,688	164,800	(9.2)	222,433
34	MI Farm Bureau PAC	144,684	133,503	8.4	181,392
35	Operating Engineers Local 324 PAC	137,078	149,007	(8.0)	379,186
36	MI Assn. of Insurance Agents / Agent PAC	136,320	134,174	1.6	164,496
37	Automobile Club of MI PAC / ACPAC	130,806	108,754	20.3	168,082
38	MI Auto Dealers Assn. / MAD PAC	128,641	176,706	(27.2)	249,588
39	Great Lakes Sugarbeet Growers PAC	127,384	57,112	123.0	60,463
40	AT&T Michigan PAC <sup>4</sup>	124,549	128,737	(3.3)	211,051
41	Knights of the Round Table Leadership PAC (Mike Bishop)	124,150	29,251	324.4	106,126
42	COMM-PAC	115,000	111,336	3.3	199,876
43	MI State Medical Society / MI Doctors PAC	114,866	117,375	(2.1)	189,685
44	Dykema Gossett PAC	113,738	64,561	76.2	114,201
45	CMS Energy Employees for Better Government	110,623	109,237	1.3	165,635
46	MI Assn. of CPAs / MACPA PAC	107,428	94,800	13.3	138,919
47	Comcast Corp. PAC / COMPAC	106,052	n/a	n/a	2,400
48	Citizens for Michigan (Anthony Soave)	105,000	136,400	(23.0)	171,400
49	Singh PAC	104,946	3,000	3,398.2	147,600
50	Detroit Regional Chamber PAC	104,183	92,775	12.3	127,103
51	MI Petroleum Jobbers PAC	99,260	134,595	(26.3)	166,335
52	AFSCME PAC	96,725	186,848	(48.2)	243,242
53	MI Dental Assn. / Dent PAC	92,963	104,452	(11.0)	143,168
54	MHSA PAC	90,400	108,565	(16.7)	163,565
55	MI Assn. of Home Builders / Friends of Housing	88,767	109,969	(19.3)	133,931
56	Local 58 IBEW	86,959	95,770	(9.2)	151,343
57	MI Assn. of Health Plans PAC	85,428	11,670	632.0	28,290
58	DaimlerChrysler PAC	82,583	83,614	(1.2)	130,381
59	MI Laborers Political League	81,762	110,044	(25.7)	181,342
60	County Road Assn. of MI / CRAM-RUSH PAC	80,836	79,212	2.1	140,396
61	Macomb Crimefighters PAC	79,450	n/a	n/a	n/a
62	Friends of Ferris	78,778	96,138	(18.1)	96,595
63	Fannie Lou Hamer PAC	77,893	43,768	78.0	129,488
64	[Mike] Cox 5200 Club	77,842	381,529	(79.6)	682,958
65	MI Soc of Anesthesiologists PAC	77,624	73,787	5.2	104,447

## Top 150 PACs, 2006 Election Cycle (continued)

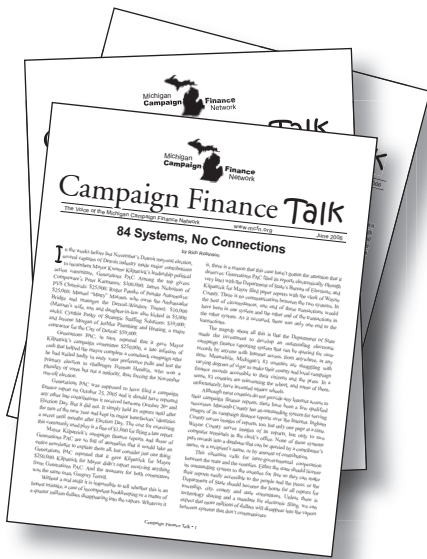
Rank	Name	01/05-04/06	01/03-04/04	Change (%)	2004 Cycle
66	Command Officers Assn of MI PAC	77,569	n/a	n/a	14,841
67	Brooke PAC (Jackson Natl. Life)	77,313	9,682	698.5	31,068
68	MI Optometric Assn. PAC	76,040	73,946	2.8	113,502
69	Michigan List	73,736	561	13,049.5	74,416
70	Health Alliance Plan PAC	73,618	n/a	n/a	n/a
71	[Gilda] Jacobs Millennium PAC	73,161	-	n/a	-
72	Burton Leland Leadership Fund	71,150	17,770	300.4	28,270
73	Fifth Third Bancorp PAC	71,121	64,683	10.0	127,414
74	General Motors Corp. PAC - MI	70,855	92,301	(23.2)	137,881
75	Karoub Associates PAC	70,758	42,959	64.7	71,447
76	Republican State Leadership Comm MI PAC	70,500	-	n/a	19,900
77	MI Funeral Directors Assn. PAC / MFDA PAC	69,469	78,295	(11.3)	98,915
78	MI Osteopathic PAC	68,033	66,912	1.7	127,184
79	Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 333 PAC	66,776	59,925	11.4	88,729
80	Building Industry Assn. PAC	65,466	35,202	86.0	44,792
81	Ken Sikkema Leadership Fund	64,000	116,565	(45.1)	242,315
82	Ford Motor Civic Action Fund	62,981	53,610	17.5	86,802
83	Waste Management PAC	62,627	49,108	27.5	74,013
84	MI Licensed Beverage Assn. PAC	61,536	42,669	44.2	82,994
85	JP Morgan Chase & Co MI PAC	61,436	43,840	40.1	83,480
86	United Parcel Service / UPS PAC	60,666	17,950	238.0	41,640
87	Meijer PAC	60,257	103,622	(41.8)	145,914
88	[Mike] Bishop Majority Fund	57,900	n/a	n/a	n/a
89	Political Action for Voter Education / PAVE	57,575	141,298	(59.3)	205,198
90	Progressive Women's Alliance of West MI	57,437	9,045	535.0	34,340
91	Delta Dental PAC	57,188	65,221	(12.3)	112,395
92	Troopers PAC	57,000	52,652	8.3	86,852
93	Pharmacy PAC	55,358	41,225	34.3	63,662
94	Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn PAC	53,820	26,075	106.4	31,775
95	Detroit Political Action Group	53,570	n/a	n/a	10,900
96	MI Petroleum PAC	53,400	31,630	68.8	64,580
97	Huntington Natl Bank MI PAC	52,996	34,868	52.0	63,534
98	Detroit Police Officers Assn. PAC	52,956	57,743	(8.3)	89,809
99	Committee for Responsible Government	51,150	n/a	n/a	98,320
100	United Food & Commercial Workers PAC	50,409	29,967	68.2	47,078
101	Ed Gaffney Leadership Fund	50,362	2,500	1,914.5	33,392
102	Wisdom PAC	49,000	1,135	4,217.2	1,335
103	Diamond PAC (Jewell Ware)	48,425	42,000	15.3	63,700
104	Chris Ward Majority Fund	46,075	10,642	333.0	83,352
105	[Andy] Meisner Majority Fund	45,137	n/a	n/a	n/a
106	Ironworkers Local 25 PAC	45,120	41,218	9.5	50,786
107	Westfield Federal PAC of Ohio Farmers Insurance Co.	44,917	3,250	1,282.1	7,780
108	MI State Firefighters Union PAC	43,987	43,262	1.7	69,977
109	Pfizer MI PAC	43,160	14,528	197.1	33,978
110	MI Distributors & Vendors Assn. PAC / MDVA PAC	43,132	40,469	6.6	51,574

# Voters' Guide on Democracy Issues

The Michigan Campaign Finance Network is working to organize a diverse group of organizations to join us in asking all candidates for the Michigan Legislature to respond to a candidate questionnaire on issues affecting our democracy. The questionnaire includes questions on registration and voting, campaign finances, ethics, lobbying, redistricting and term limits. We expect to web-publish the candidates' responses to the questionnaire at least two weeks prior to the primary election on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

If you did not receive notice of this newsletter by email, you're not in our email address book. Send an email to [mcfn@mcfn.org](mailto:mcfn@mcfn.org) and we'll add you to our email list and let you know when the voters' guide is available.

MCFN does not make candidate endorsements. This voters' guide is being produced strictly to inform voters about candidates' positions on issues.



## Sign Up for Our E-Newsletter

We value you as a reader and we hope you value *Campaign Finance Talk*. To receive future editions, send email to [mcfn@mcfn.org](mailto:mcfn@mcfn.org) with the word "subscribe" in the subject line. We'll deliver future editions of *Campaign Finance Talk* to your computer mailbox.

If you received email notification of this edition, you're already on our list and you don't need to take additional action.

## DeVos TV Campaign Tops \$5.4 Million

Three months prior to the traditional beginning of political campaign season and five months before Election Day, Dick DeVos for Governor already had purchased more television advertising than any gubernatorial campaign committee in Michigan history: \$5.4 million. DeVos is unchallenged in the August primary election for the Republican nomination to face Democratic incumbent Governor Jennifer Granholm.

The Michigan Campaign Finance Network collected the advertising data between May 25<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup> from the public files of 28 commercial broadcasters across Michigan and Comcast cable's central sales office. The \$5.4 million total represents

gross sales through June 1<sup>st</sup> and does not include production costs for the advertisements.

In comparison, George W. Bush for President had spent \$5.4 million for television advertising in Michigan through May 26, 2004 and John Kerry for President had spent \$3.9 million through the same date. By Election Day 2004, the Bush campaign and its party and 527-committee allies had spent \$16.8 million for television advertising in Michigan, while Kerry's campaign and its supporters spent \$21.2 million.

Despite the fact that the two gubernatorial candidates probably already had raised and spent more campaign cash than any two candidates in state history by

June 1<sup>st</sup>, neither campaign is required to report its activity for this year until July 28<sup>th</sup>. In contrast, federal candidate committees are required to report quarterly, in addition to pre- and post-election reports.

Dick DeVos for Governor television spending by market through June 1, 2006	
Detroit:	\$2,355,080
Grand Rapids / Kalamazoo:	\$960,995
Lansing:	\$643,681
Flint / Tri-Cities:	\$453,745
Northern Lower Peninsula:	\$415,586
Western Upper Peninsula:	\$142,455
Cable:	\$428,195
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$5,397,927</b>

# Campaign Finance Talk

The voice of the



200 Museum Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48933  
(517) 482-7198 • Email: [mcfn@mcfn.org](mailto:mcfn@mcfn.org)  
[www.mcfn.org](http://www.mcfn.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS  
PRESORT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LANSING, MI  
PERMIT #485

62006



# Campaign Finance Talk

## Inside...

84 Systems, No Connections .....	p.1
Top 150 PACs up 24 Percent .....	p.2-4
Voters' Guide on Democracy Issues .....	p.5
DeVos TV Campaign Tops \$5.4 Million .....	p.5

All articles were written by Rich Robinson, executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network.

All articles were written by Rich Robinson, executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network.

---

### **Yes! I support the important work of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network.**

(Please check all that apply.)

- Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- I would like to receive regular email updates.
- Please send me the *Citizen's Guide to Michigan Campaign Finances - 2004*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The Michigan Campaign Finance Network is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Mail this coupon to: 200 Museum Drive, Lansing, MI 48933.

62006