

U.S. Government Campaign Finance Analysis

Go to the website <http://www.opensecrets.org/industries/> and answer the following questions:

1. Which party benefits the most from campaign contributions from interest groups?

2. Briefly describe the types of groups that tend to give more to PACs. Speculate on why this might be.

3. For each of the two major parties what types of groups tend to give more to each. Speculate on why this might be.

4. Choose an interest group from the area on the left side of the webpage labeled “**Or jump to an interest group.**” Examine the graphs. (be sure to scroll down) From the data provided, formulate a general statement about how giving from this industry changed over time.

5. Read the articles “Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002: an overview” and “Justices, 5-4, Reject Corporate Spending Limit.” Go back to the graphs for your selected interest group. What changes do you see after McCain-Feingold? After the Citizens United v. FEC case? Which of these do you see as the better step for ensuring that the constitutional principle of Popular Sovereignty is maintained? Why?