

Insurance PACs Gave Nearly \$28M; Dems Close Gap But Still Trail GOP

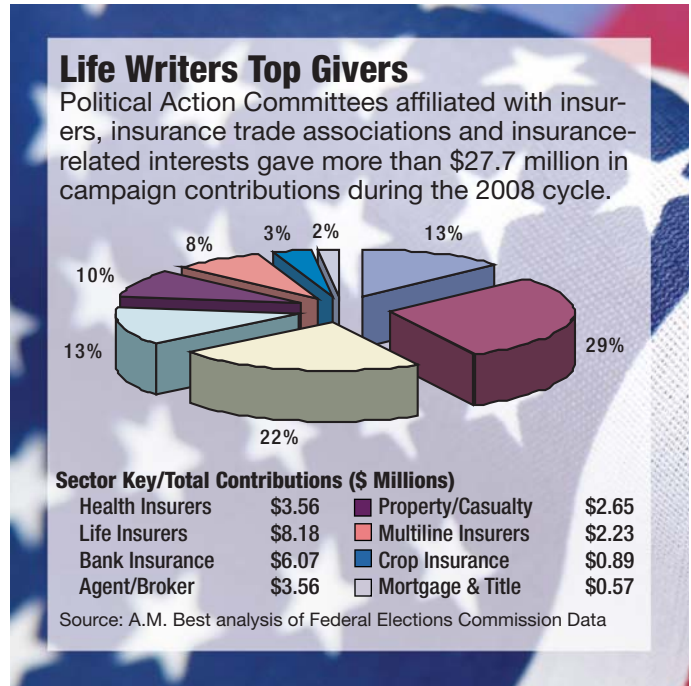
By R.J. Lehmann

Insurance-related political action committees gave more than \$27.7 million in contributions during the 2008 campaign cycle, placing them among the largest fund-raising blocs of any industry, according to a *Best-Week U.S./Canada* analysis of U.S. Federal Elections Commission filings.

Filings by more than 180 PACs associated with insurance companies, brokers, trade associations, health maintenance organizations and other industry-related interests show Democrats have narrowed the gap in insurance industry fundraising, receiving roughly \$13.2 million to Republicans' \$14.6 million. However, the GOP still held a slight fundraising edge in six of eight industry segments, with Democrats out-raising Republicans only among life insurers and multiline insurers.

Those funds could prove important as the industry hopes to earn a seat at the table during what figures to be one of the most crucial congressional sessions in recent memory. Comprehensive financial services reform is at the top of the agenda for both houses during the 111th Congress, when Democrats will have larger majorities in both chambers. Meanwhile, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., and Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee Chairman Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., have reached out to President-elect Barack Obama with plans to move comprehensive reform of the U.S. health care system early in the next session.

Broken down by industry segment, here are the groups who gave the most, and members who received the most, in insurance PAC funds over the past two years.



Life Insurers

Total Contributions: \$8,180,727

To Democrats: \$4,496,308; **To Republicans:** \$3,684,169

Largest PACs: Aflac Inc., \$1,563,000; New York Life Insurance, \$1,210,850; Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance, \$774,250; Investment Company Institute, \$653,756; Metlife Inc., \$522,676

Top House Recipients: Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D., \$139,300; Rep. Paul E. Kanjorski, D-Pa., \$132,498

Top Senate Recipients: Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., \$85,861; Sen. Gordon H. Smith, R-Ore., \$76,500

Agent/Broker

Total Contributions: \$3,557,564

To Republicans: \$2,091,230; **To Democrats:** \$1,461,334

Largest PACs: National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, \$1,367,200; Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, \$952,000; Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers, \$483,219; National Association of Health Underwriters, \$392,250; Aon Corp., \$173,245

Top House Recipients: Rep. Paul E. Kanjorski, D-Pa., \$43,500; Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D., \$39,500

Top Senate Recipients: Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., \$40,000; Sen. Elizabeth Dole, R-

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Marketing

5 Insurers' advertising through sponsorship revs to full throttle.



Mergers & Acquisitions

7 Broker Gallagher acquires two Stanton units.



Special Report

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6 Rating Actions

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■ **PAC**

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N.C., \$35,931

Health Insurers

Total Contributions: \$3,564,379

To Republicans: \$1,910,890; **To Democrats:** \$1,649,489

Largest PACs: Wellpoint Inc., \$485,500; UnitedHealth Group, \$333,500; Humana Inc., \$322,550; Blue Cross & Blue Shield Association, \$316,000; America's Health Insurance Plans, \$303,500

Top House Recipients: Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., \$71,100; Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va., \$51,500

Top Senate Recipients: Sen. Susan M. Collins, R-Maine, \$57,000; Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., \$56,900

Property/Casualty Insurers

Total Contributions: \$2,645,304

To Republicans: \$1,560,342; **To Democrats:** \$1,086,462

Largest PACs: Property Casualty Insurers Association of America, \$409,700; Travelers Cos., \$383,750; Zurich Insurance, \$341,111; National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, \$287,000; Chubb Corp., \$210,000

Top House Recipients: Rep. Paul E. Kanjorski, D-Pa., \$77,049; Rep. Melissa Bean, D-Ill., \$49,658

Top Senate Recipients: Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., \$49,500; Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., \$49,300

Multiline Insurers

Total Contributions: \$2,232,760

To Democrats: \$1,135,505; **To Republicans:** \$1,097,255

Largest PACs: Liberty Mutual Insurance, \$478,500; USAA, \$459,853; Hartford Financial Services, \$445,364; Allstate Insurance, \$239,000; Nationwide, \$236,500;

Top House Recipients: Rep. Paul E. Kanjorski, D-Pa., \$56,000; Rep. Melissa Bean, D-Ill., \$39,250

Top Senate Recipients: Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., \$41,000; Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., \$32,000

Mortgage and Title Insurance

Total Contributions: \$570,700

To Republicans: \$306,000; **To Democrats:** \$264,700

Life of the Party

Democrats will begin the 111th Congress in control of both the White House and both houses of Congress for the first time since 1994. These are the ten insurance political action committees that contributed the most to Democrats in the 2008 election cycle.

PAC	Contributions to Democrats	% of Total Spending
AFLAC Inc	\$765,000	49%
New York Life Insurance	\$684,000	56%
Natl Assn/Insurance & Financial Advisors	\$640,500	47%
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance	\$470,750	61%
Indep Insurance Agents & Brokers/America	\$375,000	39%
Metlife Inc	\$297,500	57%
Hartford Financial Services	\$256,000	57%
Liberty Mutual Insurance	\$246,000	51%
Pacific Mutual Life	\$226,000	67%
UnitedHealth Group	\$201,700	60%

Source: A.M. Best analysis based on Federal Elections Commission data

Largest PACs: Fidelity National Financial, \$149,800; American Land Title Association, \$128,500; Landamerica Financial Group, \$84,500; PMI Mortgage Insurance, \$64,000; First American Corp., \$61,200

Top House Recipients: Rep. Paul E. Kanjorski, D-Pa., \$49,000; Rep. Spencer Bachus, R-Ala., \$34,000

Top Senate Recipients: Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., \$25,500; Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., \$25,000