

Fact Sheet: Political Campaign Contribution

UC CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLITICAL CANDIDATES

The University of California does not make any financial contributions to presidential campaigns or to candidates for local, state or federal office.

As a non-profit institution of public higher education, UC does not have a Political Action Committee (PAC), and as a matter of law and policy does not make financial contributions.

However, individuals who are employed by the university are permitted by law to make campaign contributions using their own personal funds. They may contribute individually to campaigns of their choosing. The university does not encourage its employees to make political contributions and has no knowledge of individual political contributions.

The Federal Election Commission (FEC), which oversees campaign finance and reporting laws at the federal level, requires candidates for federal office to collect and report data about contributors including the name, address, employer, and contribution amount.

In reports filed by an individual campaign with the FEC, the University of California may appear in the field for employer. This is because an employee may have contributed independently, not the university itself. The FEC's website is <http://www.fec.gov/>.

Sometimes organizations that track campaign contributions, such as <http://opensecrets.org>, take the official data provided by the FEC about campaign contributions and report by demographic breakdown, such as by industry or employer. This type of data tracking and bundling can be misleading because it implies that the company or entity supports the candidate in question and provided the funds. In fact, the listing merely means that a particular group of contributors happens to work for the listed entity.