

# SPECIAL REPORT

## Contributors pony up big bucks for million-dollar mayor's race

The Don Henley slate of council candidates can't sing but they can sure use the rock-'n'-roller's money. Henley donated \$15,000 to Place 6 challenger **Willie Lewis** and another \$10,000 to Place 5 contender **Bill Spelman**. This is not the first time that Henley shared the gold from his record sales with Austin politicians. In the 1996 council races, Henley gave **Daryl Slusher** \$40,000 and **Beverly Griffith** \$20,000, and both went on to win. Henley also gave \$30,000 to Slusher in his 1994 effort to challenge mayor **Bruce Todd's** reelection, to no avail. But the biggest campaign-finance news is not what Henley's doing but what mayoral candidates **Ronney Reynolds** and **Kirk Watson** are doing—and by contrast what mayoral candidate and former council member **Max Nofziger** is failing miserably at—to raise money. Through the contribution reports filed April 25, eight days before the

May 3 election, the eight mayoral candidates had raised nearly \$1 million. Reynolds and Watson alone raised 99.4 percent of it. By the time the May 3 general election is over, they will far surpass the million-dollar mark. Assuming our prediction holds true and Watson and Reynolds go into a runoff, they may raise another \$500,000 between them for that final round. It's a good thing for Reynolds he has the high name recognition that goes with his six years on the council. Watson is raising \$1.70 for every dollar Reynolds raises, and now holds a financial advantage of more than \$192,000. And Watson has more than twice as many donors as Reynolds. Financially, Nofziger fell out of the race completely in this reporting period. He

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### The Last Money Reported Before May 3 Elections

	Contributions April 25, 1997	Contributions April 3, 1997	Contributions Total to Date	Total Loans	Number of Contributions	Average Contribution
<b>Mayor</b>						
Kirk Becker-P	\$59	\$111	\$170	0	7	\$24
Raymond Blanchette-C	N.A.	\$500 limit	\$500 limit	0	N.A.	N.A.
Jennifer Gale-P	\$40	\$88	\$128	0	57	\$2
John Johnson-C	N.A.	\$500 limit	\$500 limit	0	N.A.	N.A.
Ted Kircher-C	N.A.	\$500 limit	\$500 limit	0	N.A.	N.A.
Max Nofziger-P	\$2,030	\$3,561	\$5,591	\$1,000	268	\$21
Ronney Reynolds-C	\$75,400	\$273,998	\$349,398	0	903	\$387
Kirk Watson-P	\$128,555	\$466,298	\$594,853	0	2,227	\$267
<b>TOTALS MAYOR</b>	<b>\$206,084</b>	<b>\$744,056</b>	<b>\$950,140</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>3,462</b>	<b>\$274</b>
<b>Place 2</b>						
Laurin Currie-P	\$2,955	\$300	\$3,255	* 3,130	22	\$148
Gus Garcia-C	\$32,410	\$56,787	\$89,197	0	615	\$145
Joe Gonzales-C	Did not report	\$505	\$505	0	3	\$168
Becky Motal-C	\$40,549	\$22,000	\$62,549	0	384	\$163
<b>TOTALS PLACE 2</b>	<b>\$75,914</b>	<b>\$79,592</b>	<b>\$155,506</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>\$152</b>
<b>Place 5</b>						
Bobbie Enriquez-C	\$9,180	\$11,490	\$20,670	\$5,000	192	\$108
Karen Hadden-P	Did not report	\$5,650	\$5,650	0	128	\$44
Gus Peña-C	\$550	\$1,430	\$1,980	0	26	\$76
Bill Spelman-P	\$22,150	\$12,320	\$34,470	\$3,750	289	\$119
Manuel Zuniga-C	\$39,734	\$53,742	\$93,476	\$61,000	352	\$266
<b>TOTALS PLACE 5</b>	<b>\$71,614</b>	<b>\$84,632</b>	<b>\$156,246</b>	<b>\$69,750</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>\$158</b>
<b>Place 6</b>						
Willie Lewis-C	\$22,490	\$7,465	\$29,955	\$6,275	229	\$131
Eric Mitchell-C	\$26,530	\$61,053	\$87,583	0	347	\$252
Eric Samsom-P	N.A.	\$500 limit	\$500 limit	0	N.A.	N.A.
<b>TOTALS PLACE 6</b>	<b>\$49,020</b>	<b>\$68,518</b>	<b>\$117,538</b>	<b>\$6,275</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>\$204</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$402,632</b>	<b>\$976,798</b>	<b>\$1,379,430</b>	<b>\$77,025</b>	<b>6,049</b>	<b>\$228</b>
Notes: P-Qualified for the ballot by petition C-Qualified for the ballot by paying filing fee of \$500 N.A.-Not Applicable						
Source: Contribution and Expenditure Reports filed by candidates						

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**SPECIAL REPORT**

**Top \$\$ Individuals**

Those who gave \$1,250 or more in the report ending April 25 were:

Don Henley	\$25,000
Richard Garriott	\$5,000
Lee Walker	\$5,000
Gilberto Ocanas	\$4,250
Chi-Kao Hsu	\$4,000
Larry Nieman	\$4,000
Eva Currie-\$	\$3,130
Willie Lewis-\$*	\$3,000
Cal Varner	\$3,000
John Hall	\$2,500
Jack Martin	\$2,500
Patsy Martin	\$2,500
Robert Bobinchuck	\$2,250
Robert Sweeney	\$2,000
David Ward*	\$1,750
Paul Celauro	\$1,500
Jack Garey	\$1,500
Richard Hill	\$1,500
Robert Huang	\$1,500
Kent Lance	\$1,500
Harold Lewis	\$1,500
James Cowden	\$1,400
Thomas Carlson	\$1,250
Daniel Gustafson	\$1,250
John Hart	\$1,250
Scott Hendler	\$1,250
Ferry Lorenz	\$1,250
Prank Niendorf	\$1,250
Randall Onstead	\$1,250
Gabrielle Sheshunoff	\$1,250
Melba Whatley	\$1,250

**Top \$\$ Firms, PACs**

Austin Apartment Assn.	\$11,000
RECA Good Gov't Fund	\$10,000
Winstead Sechrest et al	\$6,000
Texas Assn. of Realtors	\$4,000
Texas Capitol Area Bldrs.	\$3,150
Vinson & Elkins PAC	\$2,750
Page Southerland Page	\$2,500
Ragland & Coates	\$2,500
BM&OH Electo-PAC*	\$2,000
Hilgers & Watkins	\$2,000
NJD Ltd.	\$2,000
Minter Joseph Thornhill	\$1,500
Law Office-Charles Waters	\$1,250
Texas Government PAC*	\$1,250

**Notes:**

\* Also a top contributor in No. 88  
\$ By law, a candidate's loans are counted as contributions

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netted only 10 itemized contributions and added just \$2,030 to his pitifully small war chest, which adds up to less than \$6,000 for the entire campaign. As *In Fact* went to press with this issue, however, the Nofziger campaign was still waging the good fight, and had a press conference scheduled at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 29, to present what they hope will be a damning assessment of some of Watson's contributions. Will they get press? They might, since they're planning to picket in front of the *Austin American-Statesman's* offices. But it better be a bulls-eye to break out of the inside pages. Meanwhile, Watson has committed \$210,000 to media buys and \$10,000 to phone banks. This draws even Reynolds, who has spent \$81,000 on television buys and \$15,000 on phone banks.

**Place 2. Lower Colorado River Authority** financial manager **Becky Motal** had a profitable few weeks in money raising, pulling more than \$40,000 for this reporting period. That's far better than the \$32,000 raised by mayor pro tem **Gus Garcia**. With his previous lead, however, Garcia's still ahead by more than \$26,000 for the campaign. **Laurin Currie** pulled in nearly \$3,000 and got a loan of more than \$3,000, but simply hasn't got the money to compete against these far better funded opponents. Garcia has spent \$18,000 on television and radio ads. Motal has only committed \$7,000 for media buys so far, keeping her cash for a last-minute push.

**Place 5.** Despite Henley's \$10,000, Spelman managed to raise only \$22,000 in the latest reporting period, less than two-thirds the amount **Manuel Zuniga** attracted. Plus millionaire Zuniga dipped into his personal funds for a \$61,000 loan. Counting loans, Zuniga has outstripped Spelman \$154,000 to \$38,000. This gives Zuniga a 4-to-1 dollar superiority, and belies his earlier statement (*In Fact* No. 89) that he would not rack up massive expenditures trying to win a majority in the May 3 general election. His massive spending, compared to the rest of the field, indicates he will do just that. He has paid the **Strategy Group** nearly \$72,000 for a media buy and air time and another \$1,200 to produce a campaign commercial. **Bobbie Enriquez** comes in well behind Spelman in the dollar derby, with less than \$26,000, and that's including a \$5,000 loan. **Karen Hadden's** report was submitted late and not available for this issue. **Gus Peña** had raised less than \$2,000.

**Place 6.** While Lewis got \$15,000 from Henley, he had spent only \$1,100 on media advertising through the April 25 report. Incumbent **Eric Mitchell** not only has the high profile of an incumbent but holds a 2.4-to-1 supremacy in fund-raising. He has spent \$22,000 on media advertising, or 20 times what Lewis did. Mitchell will have the media edge, and Lewis will be able to counter that only with the massive volunteer efforts for which environmentally backed candidates are well known in this town. In the 1996 council races, for example, Slusher beat attorney **Jeff Hart** in the runoff despite being outspent \$252,000 to \$185,000 for the total campaign. Slusher was a former *Austin Chronicle* political writer and a close runner-up in the 1994 mayoral contest, and had a bigger following. Listen closely. You may hear the footsteps of a herd of environmentalists moving to knock Mitchell off the dais. \*