

Money in politics

When “Billionaires and Stealth Politics” [by Benjamin Page, Jason Seawright and Matthew Lacombe] came out in 2018, Page says, multimillionaires who made political contributions gave on average around \$4,500 annually; for billionaires, the amount was \$500,000.

And, he emphasizes, that was just reported contributions, which means it didn't include any so-called dark money, the political giving by undisclosed donors that was blessed by the Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United. Page adds that 21 percent of the multimillionaires in their study bundled political donations from other people. “Twenty-one percent is a lot,” he says. “But then, among the billionaires, it was 36 percent.”

Jaime Lowe,
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