

LOBBY WATCH

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\$32 Million Question:

April 2, 2012

Can Billionaire Simmons Bury Nuke Waste & Obama ‘Socialism’?

Dallas billionaire Harold Simmons gave an unrivalled \$15.4 million to GOP super PACs over the past year. He told the *Wall Street Journal* that he acted to stop “the most dangerous American alive,” that “socialist Obama,” from completing his plans to “eliminate free enterprise.”¹

Lobby Watch’s nationwide dragnet finds that Simmons, his wife and their Contran Corp. gave \$32 million to candidates and committees across the country since 2000. This is major money, even if it’s a fraction of the \$81 million that fellow Texas Republican Bob Perry gave in that period.

Since 2000 the Simmons clan also gave \$7 million to state candidates and PACs in Texas, where Simmons operates a low-level radioactive waste dump. Given the dump’s interest in shifting its radioactive liabilities to Texas taxpayers (AKA “socialism”), it’s fitting that Simmons’ largest home-state contributions—totaling \$1.9 million—went to Texans for Lawsuit Reform PAC.

Simmons-Related Super PAC Donations

Amount	Super PAC	Benefits
\$12,000,000	American Crossroads	GOP
\$1,000,000	Make Us Great Again	Rick Perry
\$1,000,000	Red White & Blue Fund	Rick Santorum
\$1,100,000	Winning Our Future	Newt Gingrich
\$200,000	Restore Our Future	Mitt Romney
\$100,000	Americans for Rick Perry	Duh?
\$15,400,000	TOTAL	

Money from Harold/Annette Simmons and Contran Corp.

Team Simmons gave another \$1.12 million to Rick Perry’s gubernatorial campaigns (and \$1.1 million to Perry presidential super PACs). Once limited to taking nuclear waste only from Texas and Vermont, Simmons’ dump has pushed to expand the amounts, types and sources of waste that it can accept. Governor Perry’s environmental appointees have found it impossible to say “No” to this elite donor.

Harold Simmons Dropped \$32 Million In Political Funds Since 2000

Contribution Type	Amount	Period	Source
Super PACs	\$15,400,000	6/11 – 2/12	Center for Responsive Politics
TX State Contribs	\$6,986,550	1/00 – 12/11	Texans for Public Justice
Fed’l Contribs & 527s	\$5,582,834	1/00 – 12/11	Center for Responsive Politics
Repub. Governors Assn.	\$2,995,000	1/06 – 6/11	Center for Responsive Politics
Lesser 49 States Contribs	\$586,996	1/00 – 12/10	Nat’l Instit. on Money in State Politics
TOTAL	\$31,551,380		

Note: Includes money from Harold & Annette Simmons and Contran Corp.

Over the past decade Simmons gave \$750,200 to *current* members of the Texas Legislature, which serves as another rubber stamp on Simmons' nuclear-waste dreams. Given all this cash, *Lobby Watch* was surprised to discover that 47 of the 181 sitting lawmakers (26 percent) appear to wear lead underpants to work.² They never have been penetrated by Simmons' radioactive contributions. (Obtaining uneviable access to the octogenarian billionaire, the *Wall Street Journal's* Monica Langley recently reported that Harold Simmons buys his own underpants at Wal-Mart).³

Meanwhile Simmons gave an average of \$5,599 apiece to the 134 Texas lawmakers who lack such protective undergarments. An earlier [Lobby Watch](#) found that 83 percent of the lawmakers who took money from Simmons during the 2010 election cycle voted for a 2011 bill that increased the number of states that can dump nuclear waste in Simmons' dump from *two* to 36. By contrast, 88 percent of lead-underpants lawmakers voted against that expansion.

The Simmons clan also contributed \$586,996 since 2000 to state politicians in what Texans call "the 49 lesser states." *Lobby Watch* previously [discovered](#) that Simmons concentrated the vast majority of those political funds in states with two defining characteristics. Those states have nuclear power plants that produce radioactive waste but lack a place to dump this mess.

Don't Mess With Texas.

The 'Lead-Underpants Lawmakers' Who Didn't Take Simmons' Money

Dist.	Member (GOP)
S-6	Mario Gallegos*
S-10	Wendy Davis*
S-13	Rodney Ellis
S-19	Carlos I. Uresti
S-21	Judith Zaffirini*
S-22	Brian Birdwell (R)
S-28	Robert Duncan* (R)
H-6	Leo Berman (R)
H-7	David Simpson (R)
H-12	James White (R)
H-33	Raul Torres (R)
H-36	Sergio Munoz, Jr.
H-38	Eddie Lucio III
H-39	'Mando' Martinez
H-41	Veronica Gonzales
H-42	Richard Raymond
H-43	Jose M. Lozano (R)
H-49	Elliott Naishtat
H-50	Mark Strama
H-51	Eddie Rodriguez
H-57	Marva Beck (R)
H-69	Lanham Lyne (R)
H-76	Naomi Gonzalez
H-77	Marisa Marquez
H-83	Charles Perry (R)
H-84	John Frullo (R)
H-86	John Smithee (R)
H-90	Lon Burnam
H-95	Marc Veasey
H-100	Eric Johnson
H-103	Rafael Anchia
H-104	Roberto Alonzo
H-110	Barbara Mallory
H-111	Yvonne Davis
H-118	Joe Farias
H-119	Rolando Gutierrez
H-124	Jose Menendez
H-125	Joaquin Castro
H-127	Dan Huberty (R)
H-131	Alma A. Allen
H-137	Scott Hochberg
H-139	Sylvester Turner
H-140	Armando Walle
H-143	Ana E. Hernandez
H-145	Carol Alvarado
H-146	Borris L. Miles
H-150	Debbie Riddle (R)

* Did Not Face 2010 Election.

Warning: Subsequent pages contain a long laundry list of those Texas PACs and politicians who have the most Simmons money stuffed into their drawers...

Geiger Counter: Top Texas Recipients of Simmons' Money

Simmons Amount	Recipient	Office Held or Sought
\$1,900,000	Texans For Lawsuit Reform PAC	PAC
\$1,120,000	*Rick Perry	Governor
\$495,000	*Greg Abbott	Att. Gen'l
\$444,000	*David Dewhurst	Lt. Gov.
\$379,000	Associated Republicans of TX	PAC
\$195,500	*Jerry E. Patterson	Land Com.
\$156,000	Republican Party of TX	PAC
\$100,100	WCS - TX Solution PAC	PAC
\$100,000	Yes on 12 (Med. malpractice caps)	PAC
\$96,500	Dallas Co. Republican Party	PAC
\$95,000	*Tom Craddick	H-82
\$91,000	*Todd Staples	Ag. Com.
\$61,500	*Susan Combs	Comptroller
\$46,500	*Dan Branch	H-108
\$42,000	*Joe Straus	H-121
\$35,000	*David J. Porter	Rail. Com.
\$35,000	TX Republican Party	PAC
\$29,000	*Kelly G. Hancock	H-91
\$26,500	John J. Carona	S-16
\$25,000	Barry Smitherman	Rail. Com.
\$25,000	Texas Opportunity PAC	PAC
\$24,500	*Bob Deuell	S-2
\$23,500	Victor Carrillo	Rail. Com.
\$21,000	James 'Jim' Moseley	Supreme Ct.
\$20,000	Dan Haley PAC (John Cornyn)	Att. Gen'l
\$20,000	Carole Keeton Strayhorn	Governor
\$20,000	Don Willett	Supreme Ct.
\$19,000	Kel G. Seliger	S-31
\$18,500	Wallace Jefferson	Supreme Ct.
\$18,500	*Steve Ogden	S-5
\$18,000	*Glenn A. Hegar, Jr.	S-18
\$17,000	James 'Mike' Jackson	S-11
\$16,000	*D. Bryan Hughes	H-5
\$15,500	SW Research & Medical PAC	PAC
\$15,500	*E. 'Jeff' Wentworth	S-25
\$15,000	Kip Averitt	S-22
\$15,000	*Garnet F. Coleman (D)	H-147
\$15,000	James R. Dunnam (D)	H-57
\$15,000	*Pete P. Gallego (D)	H-74
\$15,000	*Linda L. Harper-Brown	H-105
\$15,000	Heritage Alliance PAC	PAC
\$14,500	*Dan Patrick	S-7
\$13,500	Betty J. Brown	H-4
\$13,500	Craig Estes	S-30
\$13,500	*John Whitmire (D)	S-15
\$12,500	*Phillip 'Phil' King	H-61
\$12,500	Royce West (D)	S-23
\$11,750	Elizabeth Ames Jones	Rail. Com.
\$11,500	Troy Fraser	S-24
\$11,500	J. 'Tony' Goolsby	House
\$11,250	Phil Johnson	Supreme Ct.

\$11,000	*Paul Green	Supreme Ct.
\$11,000	Steven D. Wolens	House
\$10,750	Jesse 'Dale' Wainwright	Supreme Ct.
\$10,500	*Mark M. Shelton	H-97
\$10,500	Carolyn I. Wright	Appeal Ct. 5
\$10,250	*William W. Zedler	H-96
\$10,000	Buster Brown	Senate
\$10,000	Joe Crabb	H-127
\$10,000	Robert 'Bryan' Daniel	House
\$10,000	Robert M. Fillmore	Appeal Ct. 5
\$10,000	Eva Guzman	Supreme Ct.
\$10,000	H2O4TEXAS PAC	PAC
\$10,000	*Chris Harris	S-9
\$10,000	Frank Madla	Senate
\$10,000	Michael J. Savoie	House
\$10,000	Stars Over Texas PAC	PAC
\$10,000	David A. Swinford	H-87
\$10,000	Texans for a Rep. Majority	PAC
\$10,000	TX Conservative Coalition	PAC
\$10,000	Twenty-One PAC	PAC
\$9,500	*Charles Howard	H-26
\$9,000	*Jerry A. Madden	H-67
\$8,500	*Dennis H. Bonnen	H-25
\$8,500	*Warren D. Chisum	H-88
\$8,500	Nathan L. Hecht	Supreme Ct.
\$8,500	Douglas S. Lang	Appeal Ct. 5
\$8,500	Bob Pemberton	Appeal Ct. 3
\$8,500	*James R. Pitts	H-10
\$8,500	Eugene 'Gene' Seaman	House
\$8,250	Carl H. Isett	House
\$8,100	*Jim Murphy	H-133
\$8,000	*Kevin P. Eltife	S-1
\$8,000	*James Landtroop	H-85
\$8,000	David Medina	Supreme Ct.
\$8,000	David Sibley	S-22
\$8,000	James M. Stanton	Judge-134
\$7,750	*Dwayne A. Bohac	H-138
\$7,750	*Dan Flynn	H-2
\$7,500	David Puryear	Appeal Ct. 3
\$7,500	George 'Buddy' West	House
\$7,500	Ben Bentzin	Senate
\$7,000	Kim Brimer	Senate
\$7,000	*Byron Cook	H-8
\$7,000	*Ken J. Legler	H-144
\$7,000	*Don 'Dee' Margo II	H-78
\$7,000	Joe Nixon	House
\$7,000	*John Zerwas	H-28
\$6,750	Kent Grusendorf	House
\$6,500	*Angie C. Button	H-112
\$6,500	*John Davis	H-129
\$6,500	*Jim Jackson	H-115
\$6,500	Bill Keffer	House
\$6,500	*Tracy O. King (D)	H-80

\$6,500	*Florence Shapiro	S-8
\$6,500	Corbin Van Arsdale	House
\$6,000	*Joe Driver	H-113
\$6,000	Kenn George	House
\$6,000	Kyle Janek	Senate
\$6,000	*Robert Lee Nichols	S-3
\$6,000	*Tan' Parker	H-63
\$6,000	*Kirk P. Watson (D)	S-14
\$6,000	Tommy Williams	S-4
\$5,750	*Michael 'Tuffy' Hamilton	H-19
\$5,500	Toby Goodman	House
\$5,500	*Todd A. Hunter	H-32
\$5,500	Jonathan Neerman	GOP Co. Ch.
\$5,500	*Randy K. Weber	H-29
\$5,250	*Sidney C. Miller	H-59
\$5,000	*Charles 'Doc' Anderson	H-56
\$5,000	Geoffrey Bailey	House
\$5,000	Jeff V. Coen	Judge-254
\$5,000	Christi L. Craddick	Rail. Com.
\$5,000	Wade Emmert	GOP Co. Ch.
\$5,000	Jeff Leach	House
\$5,000	Kerry P. FitzGerald	Appeal Ct. 5
\$5,000	Melissa Y. Goodwin	Appeal Ct. 3
\$5,000	Ed Harrison	Senate
\$5,000	James E. 'Pete' Laney	House
\$5,000	Thomas R. Latham	H-101
\$5,000	Wallace 'Ken' Law	Appeal Ct. 3
\$5,000	*Debra H. Lehrmann	Supreme Ct.
\$5,000	Charles R. Matthews	Rail. Com.
\$5,000	Lana R. Myers	Appeal Ct. 5
\$5,000	Harriet O'Neill	Supreme Ct.
\$5,000	*Robin 'Rob' Orr	H-58
\$5,000	E. Lee Parsley	Appeal Ct. 3
\$5,000	Mike H. Schneider	Supreme Ct.
\$5,000	Xavier Rodriguez	Supreme Ct.
\$5,000	TX House Leadership Fund	PAC
\$5,000	TX Rep. Reps. Camp. Com.	PAC
\$5,000	Nancy A. Thomas	Judge-160
\$5,000	Martha J. Wong	House
\$5,000	Leslie B. Yates	Appeal Ct.-14
\$4,750	*James L. Keffer	H-60
\$4,750	Elizabeth Lang-Miers	Appeal Ct. 5
\$4,750	*Aaron Pena Jr.	H-40
\$4,500	James 'Brian' McCall	House
\$4,500	Thomas C. Merritt	House
\$4,500	*Jane Nelson	S-12
\$4,500	*Beverly Woolley	H-136
\$4,250	Jim' McReynolds (D)	H-12
\$4,000	Kenneth Armbrister	Senate
\$4,000	*Fred H. Brown	H-14

\$4,000	*Dawnna Dukes (D)	H-46
\$4,000	Juan 'Chuy' Hinojosa (D)	S-20
\$4,000	*Joan Huffman	S-17
\$4,000	*Richard 'Wayne' Smith	H-128
\$3,750	*Gary Elkins	H-135
\$3,750	*Jodie A. Laubenberg	H-89
\$3,750	Elvira Reyna	House
\$3,600	*Larry A. Phillips	H-62
\$3,500	Scott E. Campbell	House
\$3,500	*Drew Darby	H-72
\$3,500	Al Edwards (D)	H-146
\$3,500	*B. Allen Fletcher	H-130
\$3,500	*Tim Kleinschmidt	H-17
\$3,500	*Edmund P. Kuempel	H-44
\$3,500	Karen K. Wiegman	House
\$3,500	Will Wilson Jr.	Appeal Ct. 3
\$3,250	Mark S. Homer (D)	House
\$3,250	Delwin Jones	House
\$3,250	*Ralph Sheffield Jr.	H-55
\$3,000	*Myra E. Crownover	H-64
\$3,000	Kirk T. England (D)	H-106
\$3,000	*Helen Giddings (D)	H-109
\$3,000	*Chuck' Hopson	H-11
\$3,000	*Tryon D. Lewis	H-81
\$3,000	*John C. Otto	H-18
\$3,000	Brian 'Keith' Walker	House
\$2,750	Terry Keel	House
\$2,600	Robert W. Francis	Crim. Ap. Ct.
\$2,500	Mike L. Anderson	House
\$2,500	Kevin E. Bailey	House
\$2,500	Scott A. Brister	Supreme Ct.
\$2,500	*Bill A. Callegari	H-132
\$2,500	*Wayne Christian	H-9
\$2,500	Patrick B. Haggerty	House
\$2,500	*Harvey R. Hilderbran	H-53
\$2,500	Gregory A. Meyers	House
\$2,500	*Geanie W. Morrison	H-30
\$2,500	Jeffrey L. Rose	Judge-353
\$2,500	*Roy 'Al' Scoggins	Appeal Ct.-10
\$2,500	TX Bipartisan Justice Com.	PAC
\$2,500	TX Rep. Legislative Caucus	PAC
\$2,500	William O. Welch	House

*Elected to office in 2010.

¹ "Texas Billionaire Doles Out Election's Biggest Checks," *Wall Street Journal*, March 22, 2012.

² This characterization may be influenced by reporter Matt Taibbi, who visited Simmons' dump and wrote, "A person entering its gates feels an irresistible urge to wear lead underpants." See "[Rick Perry: The Best Little Whore in Texas](#)," *Rolling Stone*, October 26, 2011.

³ See first end note. As the British know, Rupert Murdoch's intrepid reporters will stop at nothing for an exclusive!