

CAMPAIGN MONEY KEY FACTS & METHODOLOGY

Public Campaign examined the political influence of four property management companies that have recently employed and exploited immigrant guestworkers in Florida. Through cleaning contracts with Destin-based Mister Clean Laundry and Cleaning Service, these vacation and luxury property companies have stolen wages and treated workers poorly: Edgewater Beach Resort Management, Oaseas Resorts, Silver Shells Corporation and Five Star Beach Properties.

Political contributions from these property management companies, their political action committees, and their executives were analyzed by Public Campaign using data from the Center for Responsive Politics and the National Institute for Money in State Politics, nonprofit organizations that monitor state and federal election spending. The data were downloaded from Influence Explorer, a tool provided by the Sunlight Foundation making campaign finance data more searchable, then lightly cleaned and standardized to account for variations in spelling. All election cycles available were included. For the 2014 cycle, we searched for campaign contributions using data from the Federal Election Commission.

KEY FINDINGS

- The companies and their executives have given about \$174,000 to state and federal candidates and their PACs since 1990, including \$19,550 in the 2012 cycle.
- The top recipient is the Republican Party of Florida with \$18,241 in donations. Another \$6,000 went to the Republican Party of Florida Federal Campaign Account.
- Other recipients include Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL), Rep. Steve Southerland (R-FL), Sen. Mark Rubio (R-FL), Sen. Spencer Bachus (R-AL), and Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-FL).
- The donors gave \$147,207 to Republicans, versus \$5,850 to Democrats (25:1).

About Public Campaign

Public Campaign is a national, nonpartisan nonprofit organization focused on raising the voices of everyday people in the political process through common sense reforms of the way our elections are financed. Public Campaign also works to highlight the role special interest campaign donations play in the development of public policy at the state and federal levels. <http://publiccampaign.org>

About the National Guestworker Alliance (NGA)

Founded in 2006 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the NGA is a national membership-based organization working across sectors to protect the rights of all workers—both guestworkers and U.S. workers—employed in industries using federal guestworker programs, and to promote just and dignified migration and work. Visit <http://guestworkeralliance.org>