

## Barrasso's money

John Barrasso was appointed by Governor Dave Freudenthal on June 22, 2007 to occupy the U.S. Senate seat left vacant by the death of Craig Thomas. Barrasso took office on June 25, 2007.

According to the 3Q 2007 FEC filing by "Friends of Barrasso," his principal campaign committee, individual contributions started to flow into his campaign coffers upon his arrival in Washington. Many of the earliest contributions, which started coming within two days of Barrasso taking office, are from individuals who show employment with special interest groups from out-of-state. For example, from Helena, Montana ... Alexandria, Virginia ... Batesville, Texas ... Chevy Chase, Maryland ... Vienna, Virginia ... Arlington, Virginia ... Indianapolis, Indiana ... Tulsa, Oklahoma ... Washington DC ... Old Lyme, Connecticut ... Clarksville, Maryland and Falls Church, Virginia.

There were also very early contributions from Wyoming cities of Torrington, Jackson, and Douglas.

The maximum allowable contribution amount from an individual for a U.S. House race is \$2,300.00 per cycle. Some contributors made the maximum contribution to John Barrasso during the third quarter for both the upcoming primary and general elections.

Other than special interest contributions, such as energy industry employees, some of the maximum contributions came from individuals in the medical field.

Patrick and William Bresnan, both of Greenwich, Connecticut and executives with Bresnan Communications sent two \$2,300.00 contributions (presumably one each for the primary and general elections). Sending contributions for a general election when the candidate has not moved through the primary shows confidence. Three members of the Holding family, owners of The Sinclair Companies, also sent maximum contributions of \$2,300.00 each.

Two people with the same surname - Orcutt - from Casper, sent \$2,300.00 each.

Three principals of two other communication companies (Legend and Patrick) from Maryland, contributed \$2,300.00 each. Communications must be an industry concerned about the future of their industry. A stockbroker from Merrill Lynch in Princeton, New Jersey sent two checks for \$2,300.00 each to Barrasso. Lots of out-of-state money has flowed to JB.

Two of the oddest contributions came from the Wyoming Democrat Governor's Chief of Staff, Chris Boswell, and his wife - \$500.00 each.

Interestingly, John Barrasso's then-wife Linda Nix had made a contribution to the Dave Freudenthal primary election campaign in 2002.

Hmmm.



Almost forty percent (40%) of the individual contributions to John Barrasso came from out-of-state and almost all of them from the East Coast. Three were from Utah, one from Montana and one from Colorado - of 218 contributions.

From the Barrasso FEC filing through November 2007, there were some interesting "Committees Who Gave To This Candidate" contributions and timing.

Remember, John was sworn in on June 25, 2007. His first two votes were "No" votes on the 26th and 28th of June - against the **Employee Free Choice Act** and against the **Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act**. Through early August, nearly all bills voted in the Senate had to do with education or national security matters. Only his "No" vote against continuing health care coverage for needy children deviated from those subjects.

So, during his first six weeks in the Senate, most special interest PACs had no indication of how he would vote on bills of interest to their industries.

Yet, substantial political contributions came to the untested appointed Senator. In five months, he received \$419,700 from PACs. No experience. Just PAC money.

He voted "No" on the **Children's Health Insurance Reappropriation Act of 2007** on August 2, 2007. On August 3, 2007, Barrasso received a \$4,000.00 contribution from AFLAC INC. POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (AFLAC/PAC).

Arriving on June 25th, John had two \$5,000.00 checks from a PAC known as BLUEGRASS COMMITTEE. They were both posted June 27, 2007. DEFEND AMERICA PAC came through with two \$5000.00 checks on July 23, 2007 - still before Barrasso had cast any positive votes.

Some PACs adopt vague names so one cannot determine their special interest just by seeing their name. Barrasso has received \$5000.00 checks from PACs going by names like BATTLE BORN PAC (\$10000 total), BLUEGRASS COMMITTEE (\$10000 total), DEFEND AMERICA PAC (\$10000 total), IMPACT AMERICA, KITPAC, MAKING BUSINESS EXCEL PAC, NEW REPUBLIC MAJORITY FUND, ORRIN PAC (\$10000 total), SENATE MAJORITY FUND (\$10000 total), SENATE VICTORY FUND PAC, SNOW PAC (\$10000 total), SUN PAC, and TALLATCHEE CREEK INC. PAC

## Gay Woodhouse to run for Laramie County Commissioner

Cheyenne attorney Gay Woodhouse recently announced that she would be a candidate in the Republican primary election for Laramie County Commissioner. The only seat up for election is now held by Jack Knudson and he has not announced whether he will seek a third term.

Mrs. Woodhouse is a Wyoming native, born in Torrington, where her mother and father again live. She was raised in the tiny Goshen County town of Huntley and graduated from Huntley High School in 1968. She matriculated to the University of Wyoming, earning a bachelor's degree in English and then a law degree.

She and her family have lived in Cheyenne since 1978.

Her professional experience includes a stint as an attorney in the Wyoming Attorney General's Office (1978-1989). She was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Cheyenne (1990-1995) and she was Wyoming Attorney General from 1998-2001.

She opened her own law office in Cheyenne in 2001 and has become known, through her work on behalf of residents of all of Laramie County, as the aptly titled "Champion of the People."

She has worked with many nonprofit organizations in Cheyenne and Laramie County, including Southeast Wyoming Mental Health (Peak Wellness); Prevent Child Abuse Wyoming; Safe Harbor, a Children's Justice Center; Cheyenne Rotary Club; and, Pathfinder, Inc.

She recently became President of the Wyoming State Bar Association.

Gay Woodhouse said in her press release announcing her candidacy: "I see a need to have someone on the Board of Commissioners for Laramie County who has a legal background and an interest in seeing that government works for the citizens it represents. It is my hope that the citizens will also see me as a good fit to represent them in this capacity."

Also: "Some of the issues that must be addressed as we move forward are the availability of water for existing and future residents, building and maintaining safe roads throughout the County, continuing the reasonable specific purpose tax projects, addressing the needs for alternative energy sources, and working cooperatively with all levels of government including state, local and federal to ensure that maximum benefits can flow to our community, and working diligently toward quality growth and development for our entire County."

The 2008 primary election is August 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Editor's note: It is with mixed emotions that I report Gay's candidacy. I personally believe that the quasi-partnership created between the Cheyenne Herald and attorney Gay Woodhouse is one that will be difficult to replicate. Since 2002, our combined efforts on behalf of residents of the City, towns and rural Laramie County have made this a better area to live, work and raise a family and have provided a measure of protection for many residents. While I have no doubt that Gay will be an exceptional county commissioner, I will miss her role in our "partnership." I respect Gay's judgment and I'm sure that she determined this was the best course of action.*

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