Center for Responsive Politics Donor Demographics Methodology

The analyses use all itemized contributions data made available through the Federal Election Commission. This includes all contributions whose aggregate total exceeds $200.

The analyses only use fundraising information made public by the Federal Election Commission. Campaigns are not required to itemize donations from fundraising that total $200 or less, however, the Democratic online fundraising platform ActBlue and the Republican online fundraising platform WinRed itemize all donations raised through their platform. This gives us access to donor demographic information of Democratic and Republican small-dollar contributions given through these online fundraising platforms as of June 30. All of the candidates' large-dollar contributions are from donors whose aggregate totals have surpassed $200 as of the latest filing deadline.

OpenSecrets identifies gender demographic data by applying an algorithm based on donor name and title from itemized contributions reported to the Federal Election Commission. Itemized donations list a person's name, title, address, and employer, thus giving us demographic information to work with. Because we cannot pull out information from donors whose donations are unitemized, we can only understand the gender demographics of itemized donations.

CRP uses chemiron to identify the number of female and male donors. This algorithm assigns a gender to a contributor based on their name, as well as other identifying information (like whether they use the prefix "Mrs." or "Mr."). The tool uses US Census data and lists of popular male and female first names for different countries. Whenever available, the data came from national statistics institutes and was accompanied by frequency information. CRP reconciled any discrepancies, gender-neutral, non-binary, or unassigned names manually where possible. We excluded from the donor demographic data any contributions that were discrepancies, gender-neutral, non-binary, undeterminable, or "unassigned" that we were unable to reconcile.