

Notes on the Methodology Used for Corporate Contributions to Sponsors of Anti-Voter Legislation¹ (see [spreadsheet](#) for results)

The Voting Rights Lab's [State Voting Rights Tracker](#) and the Brennan Center's 2021 [State Voting Bills Tracker](#) (as of 3/30/21) were used to identify anti-voter legislation introduced in 13 states - primarily "battleground" states. Local news analysis and an independent reading of proposed bills were used to select those that would clearly adversely impact people's ability to vote. In addition, we chose bills that have seen or were most likely to see legislative action. We ended up analyzing contributions to sponsors of 43 bills.

Bill sponsors were identified from state legislative data and bill text downloaded from VRL's tracker. Where a bill was authored by a committee, sponsorship was assigned to the committee chair.

All contributions were taken from states' secretaries of state/board of elections websites, with the exception of contributions counted in Virginia and Wisconsin, where SOS portals were not transparent. For those states, equivalent data was retrieved from the National Institute on Money in Politics' [website](#). For state House members and Senate members elected in 2020, data is limited to the most recent election cycle (2019-present); in the case of Senate members elected in 2018, data is limited to 2017-present. Because reports are visually scanned, contribution amounts could be greater, since mistakes would have occurred and some abbreviated names of subsidiary PACs were probably omitted as a result.

Contributions were limited to contributions directly attributable to corporations or company PACs. Contributions by individuals reporting their affiliation with specific companies (e.g. executives, employees and board members) were not included. Contributions made by individuals through their employer's PAC are reflected in the results, since PACs do not

¹ A [recent report by Public Citizen](#) examines a similar, but broader set of data, including contributions made since 2015 to state legislators who voted for any of the 245 anti-voter laws introduced since March 1, 2021.

distinguish contributions made by individual employees versus the company. Moreover, we believe they should be included regardless. As the Conference Board suggested in a recent report on corporate political activity, “the press, employees, and others conflate corporate giving and PAC giving. To some extent, that’s understandable given the legal authority companies have to create, administer and, if they wish, determine who receives funds from the PAC.”²

Indirect corporate contributions made to partisan committees, business trade associations, “dark money” organizations [e.g. 501(c)4 non-profits], Super PACs, lobbyists and other third-party entities that often act on behalf of corporate interests are not included.

Although there are a number of anti-voter bills in New Hampshire, we did not include the sponsors of those bills since they receive very little in corporate contributions. Minnesota does not allow corporations to donate directly to state candidates’ campaigns.³

² Paul Washington and Merel Spierings, “Under a Microscope: A New Era of Scrutiny for Corporate Political Activity,” The Conference Board, March 25, 2021. Downloaded at <https://bit.ly/3fEHwDC>.

³ “A corporation may not make a contribution or offer or agree to make a contribution directly or indirectly, of any money, property, free service of its officers, employees, or members, or thing of monetary value to a political party, organization, committee, or individual to promote or defeat the candidacy of an individual for nomination, election, or appointment to a political office.” from Sec 211B.15 MN statutes.