

**James M. Jeffords**

contributions to a sample of candidates in the 2010  
effects of the bills limits on the amounts candidates  
petitiveness of Vermont elections, see our earlier  
[PoliticalProcess/contributionlimits.pdf](#)

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**Methodology**

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are arranged by amount from the smallest to the largest. The red line in the graph represents the contribution limit of \$500 per election cycle (\$250 per election) for House candidates proposed under S.20.

The contribution limits proposed in S.20 would affect a very small proportion of contributions given to Vermont state house candidates. Of the 30 candidates profiled, 5 would each have lost \$500 in contributions each.

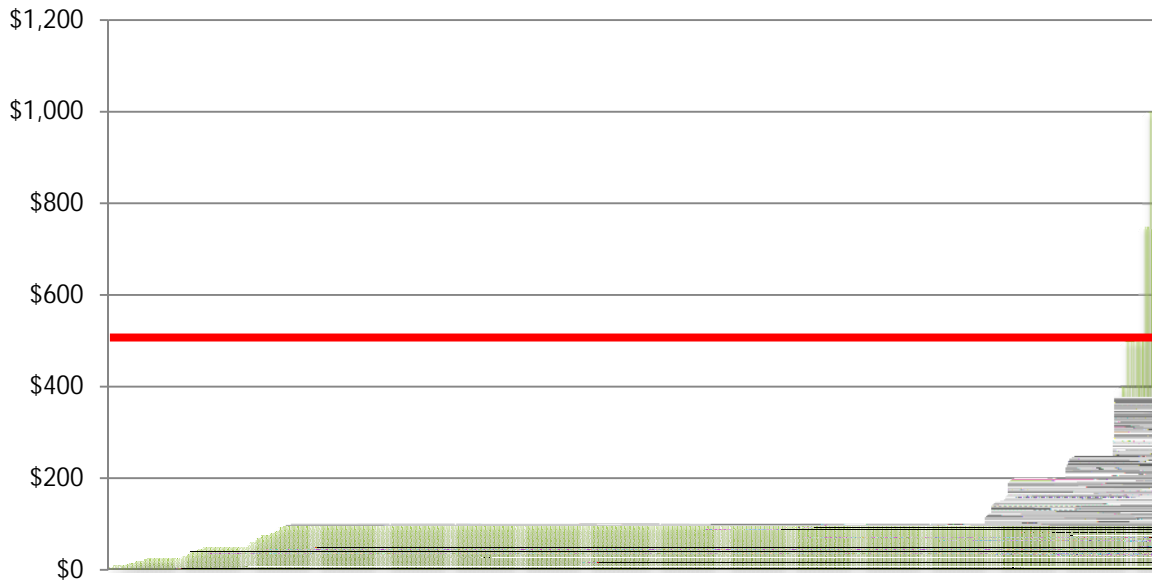


Figure 1: Total amount contributed from each individual non party and non family source (organized)



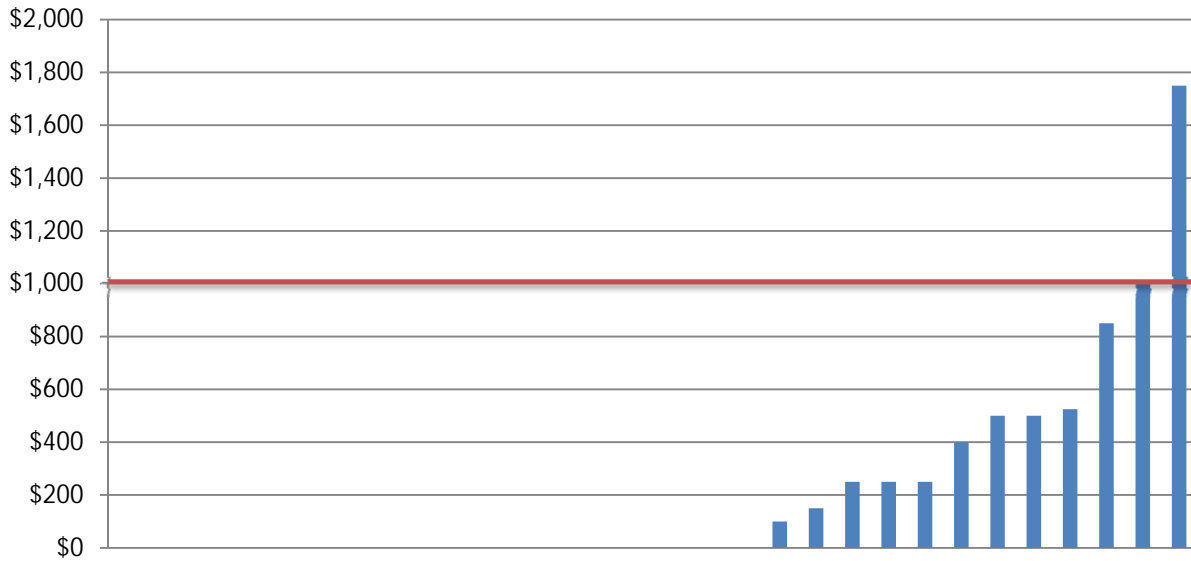


Figure 3: Total party contributions for the 2010 election cycle to sample of 30 house candidates (red line represents the total election cycle party contribution limit).

Source: same as Figures 1 and 2

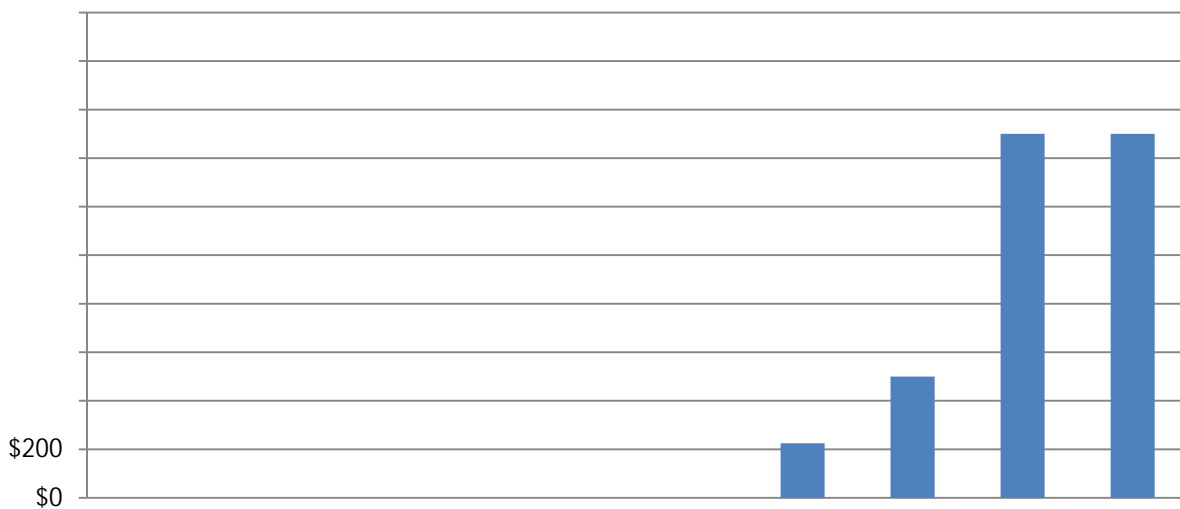


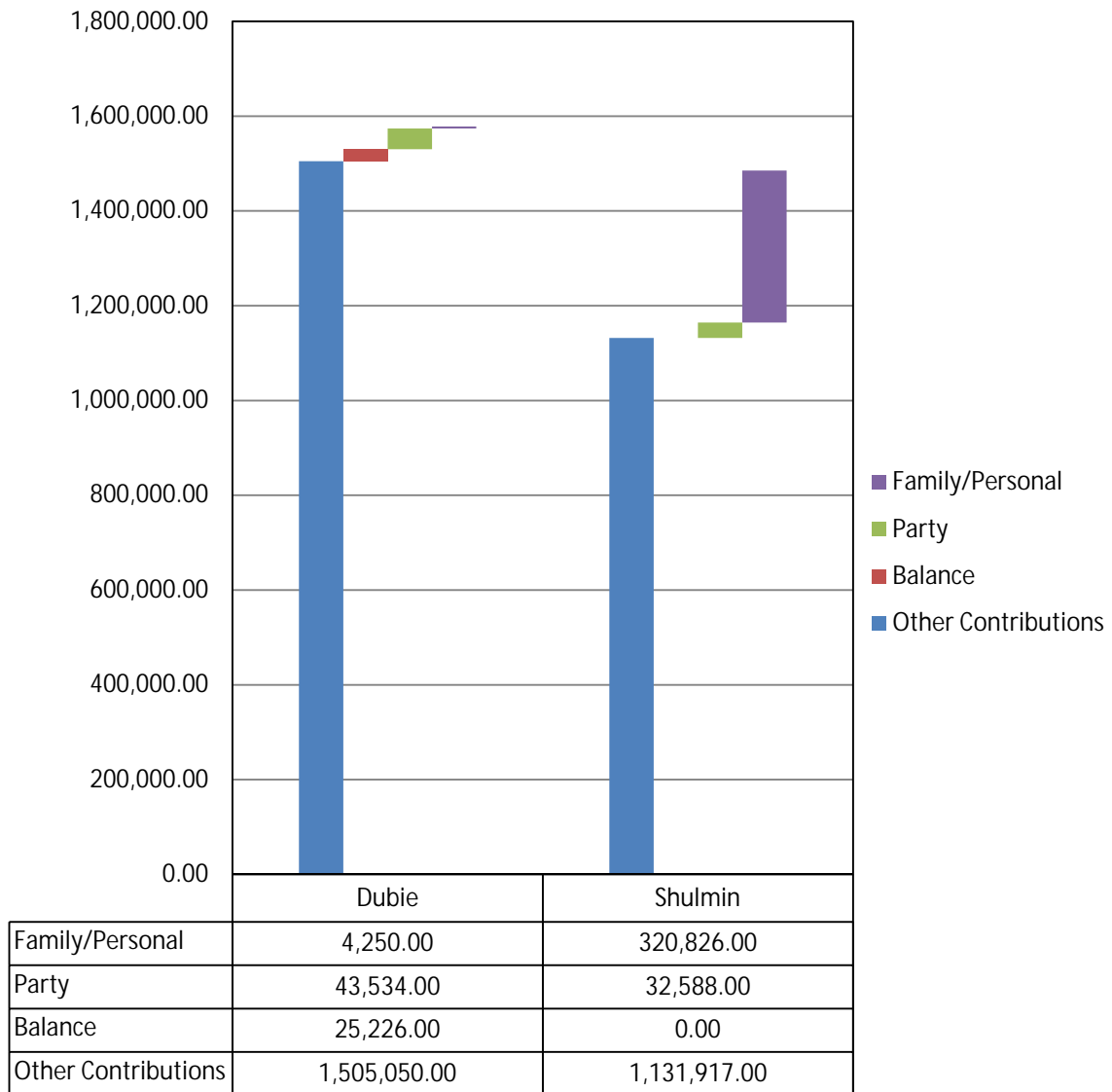
Figure 4: Total party contributions for the 2010 election cycle to sample of 10 senate candidates (red line represents the total election cycle party contribution limit).

## Effect of Party Contribution Limits on Gubernatorial Candidates

In Figure 3 we have graphed the total amounts raised during the 2010 election cycle by source for the two major party candidates in the 2010 gubernatorial election in Vermont, Republican candidate Brian Dubie and Democratic candidate Peter Shumlin. The amounts are broken down by source, with blue bars representing non party contributors who gave in amounts less than \$2,000 (none of these contributors' totals exceeded that amount),<sup>4</sup> green bars representing party contributions, orange bars representing balances carried over from previous campaigns, and purple bars representing personal and/or family contributions.

In total, Brian Dubie raised \$1,578,060 in campaign contributions. Of that total, \$1,505,050 was contributed by non party contributors who gave in amounts less than \$2,000. Dubie's campaign also received \$4,250 from family members and had a forwarded balance of \$25,226. Brian Dubie received \$43,534 from Republican Party organizations, amounting to 2.76% of his total contributions.

In total, Peter Shumlin raised \$1,485,331 in campaign contributions. Of that total, \$1,131,917 was contributed by non party contributors who gave in amounts less than \$2,000 and represented 76.21% of the overall contributions. Shumlin's campaign saw personal and family contributions to the amount of \$320,826 which represented 21.6% of the total contribution amount. The Democratic Party contributed \$32,588 to the campaign which represents 2.19% of the total.



**Figure 3: Money raised by source for major party general election candidates in the 2010 Vermont gubernatorial contest.**

**Source:** Created by the authors from data obtained from the National Institute for Money in State Politics, accessed March 4, 2011, [www.followthemoney.com](http://www.followthemoney.com).

Prepared in response to a request by Senator Jeanette White by Kelly Walsh, Adam Roof, and Christopher Teel, under the supervision of Professor Anthony Gierzynski on March 4, 2011.

Disclaimer: This report has been compiled by undergraduate students at the University of Vermont under the supervision of Professor Anthony Gierzynski. The material contained in the report does not reflect the official policy of the University of Vermont.