Researching donor history

Manatee donations (no restrictions on use for elections)

Supervisor of Elections website **www.votemanatee.org**

Click on the **Candidate Information** tab on the left of the home page.
For **Local Candidates and Committees** for Manatee County races, select your choice from the drop-down menu. The "**Current reporting group**" will show candidates for countywide and district races for the most current election. Use the down arrow to find elections by year going back multiple years.

Once you find the candidate you are researching, **Print** the information or **Export** a comma-delimited file which can be opened in Excel or other database programs.

You can also access **Federal & State Candidates** by clicking on that choice on the home page and the link will take you to the FL Division of Elections website for candidates and their finance reports.

Florida   (no restrictions on use of data for elections; cannot be used for commercial purposes)

Division of Elections candidate website   **https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/**

In the first window, select the year you want to research, then click on **View List**. Select the race you are researching and all candidates in that race will appear. Click on the candidate's name for their finance reports.

Another place to search for candidates, committees or specific donors by name is
   http://dos.elections.myflorida.com/campaign-finance/contributions/

Under **Election year**, accept the default or use the down arrow to find a different year. If you want all years, select **All**, which shows at the top of the drop-down list.
For a candidate, scroll down to **Candidate Search** and type in the candidate's first and last name.
For a committee, scroll down to **Committee Search** and type in the committee name (or approximation).
For a specific donor, scroll down to **Contributor Criteria** and type in first and last name (or just last).

If you want a specific area, you can put in all or part of a zip code in **Zip -** put **342** for local Manatee/Sarasota donors.
The default for **Limit Number of Records Returned To:** is 500 donors. If you think the candidate, committee or donor may have more than 500 donations, you can change this number up to 10,000.
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At the bottom, you can retrieve the information to your screen or tab-delimited text file which can be opened in Excel or other data program. Make your selection and click on **Submit**.

Federal (information restricted to research, not for political, charitable or commercial use)
Federal Elections Commission   **http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/norindsea.shtml**

FEC Notice: Reports and statements filed by political committees may be inspected and copied by anyone. The names and addresses of individual contributors, however, may not be sold or used for any commercial purpose or to solicit any type of contribution or donation, such as political or charitable contributions. 2 U.S.C. §438(a)(4); 11 CFR 104.15. This restriction applies to Federal reports and statements. Any person who violates this restriction is subject to the penalties of 2 U.S.C. §437g.

Open Secrets   http://www.opensecrets.org/indivs/
Type first and last names, State FL

Federal law prohibits the use of contributor information for the purpose of soliciting contributions or for any commercial purpose. This database includes Federal Election Commission records of receipts from all individuals who contribute at least $200 (smaller contributions are not part of the public record). Bear in mind that contributions to politicians can also be made through Political Action Committees."