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## What the Money Tells Us

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) financial reports for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter are now available and we can see whether those who have touted various contenders -- both Democrats and Republicans -- are putting their money where their mouths are.

### Money in Dixie's US Senate Races

It's no surprise that all of the US Senators up for re-election in the South this year are substantially ahead of their challengers in fundraising. Nevertheless, at this point, it looks like US Senate races in four Southern states are going to be battlegrounds this fall.

**Kentucky.** US Sen. **Mitch McConnell** (R), the Senate Minority Leader, is raising plenty of money -- \$7,741,000 on hand, but two of his Democratic opponents, both millionaires, are also raising serious cash for the May 20 primary. **Bruce Lunsford**, who has waged two statewide campaigns previously, has \$666,000 on hand, and the less well-known **Greg Fischer** has raised \$855,000. This doesn't suggest the powerful and politically astute McConnell is in trouble, only that either Lunsford or Fisher could give him well-financed opposition in November.

**Louisiana.** US Sen. **Mary Landrieu** (D) was thought to be vulnerable in a Deep South state that hasn't shown much enthusiasm for Democratic politics of late. Landrieu's opponent, State Treasurer **John Kennedy** (R), outraised Landrieu in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, but his \$1,623,000 cash on hand has a way to go to reach Landrieu's \$4,564,000. A recent Southern Media & Opinion Research poll gave Landrieu a 50%-38% lead.

**North Carolina.** Incumbent **Elizabeth Dole** (R) has a sufficient \$2,664,000 on hand, but one of her Democratic foes, state Sen. **Kay Hagan** (D) has \$516,000. That's not enough to defeat Dole, but it is enough to cement her favored position in the May 6 primary over investment banker **Jim Neal**. The latest poll, taken in mid-April by Public Policy Polling (D), gives Hagan 35%, Neal 8%. If Hagan continues to attract funding and the presidential race in North Carolina is close -- one poll showed **Obama** and **McCain** tied at 47% each -- she could put Dole on the hot seat.

**Oklahoma.** Two-term **James Inhofe** (R) is probably a substantial favorite in November, which is likely to back McCain solidly over either **Clinton** or Obama, but state Sen. **Andrew Rice** (D) is raising respectable cash



for a challenger -- \$597,000 on hand to Inhofe's \$2,222,000.

In other states, the story is what isn't happening.

**Virginia.** This seat is open because of the announced retirement of US Sen. **John Warner** (R). For the GOP nomination, former Gov. **Jim Gilmore** (R) has a not-very-substantial \$546,000 on hand, enough to defeat conservative Delegate **Bob Marshall** (R) in the May 30-31 GOP convention (Gilmore is already claiming a majority of the delegates), but hardly enough to indicate he'll be competitive in the fall against popular former Gov. **Mark Warner** (D), who has a whopping \$4,384,000 on hand.

**Texas.** First term US Sen. **John Cornyn** (R) has mediocre approval ratings, but the highly touted state Rep. **Rick Noriega** (D), darling of the internet liberals, isn't raising money. Cornyn has a Texas-size \$8,689,000 on hand, Noriega a puny \$329,000.

**Mississippi.** US Sen. **Roger Wicker** (R), who took office some four months ago after the resignation of US Sen. **Trent Lott** (R), has been barn-storming the state to make sure he gets elected to the remaining four years of the term. His opponent, former Gov. **Ronnie Musgrove** (D), has plenty of name ID and as much clout as a Democrat can muster here, but he's still way behind in the money chase: Wicker, \$2,763,000, Musgrove \$337,000.

**South Carolina.** Pay little or no attention to those reports that influential freshman **Lindsey Graham** (R) is in trouble with this state's conservative electorate. Graham had \$4,777,000 on hand. "**Buddy**" **Witherspoon**, the conservative Republican National Committeeman, had a paltry \$258,000. As for

the two Democrats who filed, **Mike Cone** has \$109 and **Bob Conley** has \$42.

**Tennessee.** **Lamar Alexander** (R), who has a slew of Democratic big-wigs on his campaign committees, has \$2,875,000 on hand. Of the two Democrats vying for the nomination in the August 7 primary, ex-state Democratic chair has \$217,000; Knox County Clerk **Mike Padgett** has \$77,000. Those numbers suggest Tuke has the lead in the primary, but won't be much of a threat in November.

**Georgia.** Atlanta lawyer **Jim Martin**'s rapid overtaking of **Vernon Jones** -- \$333,000 to \$256,000 -- in the Democratic race suggests a two-way race for the nomination to oppose US Sen. **Saxby Chambliss** (R). But the sums are far too small to forecast a competitive November race, especially since Chambliss has \$3,367,000 on hand.

**Alabama.** Neither state Sen. **Vivian Figures** (D) nor **Johnny Swanson** (D) has much cash to talk about -- \$45,000 for Figures, \$886 for Swanson. US Sen. **Jeff Sessions** (R) has more than enough -- \$4,033,000.

**Arkansas.** **Mark Pryor** (D) has \$3,693,000 on hand and no Republican opponent. His Green Party foe has a mere \$3,500.

### Finances in Southern US House Races

**Alabama.** In the 2<sup>nd</sup> District (Montgomery, etc.), the big bucks have so far not gotten behind the Democrats' much talked **Bobby Bright**, the mayor of Montgomery. His \$46,000 cash-on-hand badly trails three of the four Republicans in the race, suggesting that the GOP will hold on to this open seat. But in the 5<sup>th</sup> District (Huntsville, etc.), state Sen. **Parker Griffith** (D) has jumped to a significant money lead over the lone Republican making an FEC report: \$112,000



on hand for Griffith, \$22,000 for Huntsville lawyer **Ray McKee** (R).

**Florida.** The Democratic challengers to the state’s three Cuban-American Republican members of congress are all bringing in the dough, not as much as the incumbents, but enough to wage significant campaigns. In the 18<sup>th</sup> District (Miami-Dade), businesswoman **Annette Taddeo** (D) has \$301,000 on hand, to incumbent **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen**’s (R) \$1,711,000. In the 21<sup>st</sup> (Miami-Dade suburbs, etc.), former Hialeah mayor **Raul Martinez** (D) has \$593,000 to US Rep. **Lincoln Diaz-Balart**’s \$1,452,000. And ex-Miami-Dade Democratic chair **Joe Garcia** has \$316,000 to US Rep. **Mario Diaz-Balart**’s (R) \$748,000.

**Georgia.** In the 8<sup>th</sup> District (Macon, etc.), third-term **Jim Marshall** (D) has plenty of cash-on-hand, \$1,187,000, but his GOP challenger, retired Air Force Major General **Rick Goddard**, also has some significant cash, \$404,000. In the 10<sup>th</sup> District (Athens, etc.), freshman **Paul Broun** (R) has begun to bring in some serious dough, outraising his primary opponent **Barry Fleming** (R) by \$888,000 to \$779,000. But Fleming still has a major lead in cash-on-hand: \$596,000 to \$116,000.

**Kentucky.** In the 3<sup>rd</sup> District (Louisville), freshman **John Yarmuth** (D) has a comfortable \$812,000 on hand, but ex-US Rep. **Anne Northup** (R), always a good fundraiser, has already amassed a substantial war chest, \$428,000.

**Tennessee.** In the 9<sup>th</sup> District (Memphis), freshman **Steve Cohen** (D), a white congressman in a majority black district, faces a not-yet-well-financed challenge from African-American labor lawyer **Nikki Tinker** (D) in the August 7 primary; Cohen has \$1,003,000 on hand to tinker’s \$228,000.

**Texas.** In the 10<sup>th</sup> District (Austin, etc.), second-term **Mike McCaul** (R) doesn’t look like he’s piling up the kind of cash he would probably need to turn back the challenge from “Texas Justice” TV lawyer **Larry Joe Doherty**. McCaul has \$318,000 on hand, to Doherty’s \$128,000 (a pre-runoff total). However, McCaul is the son-in-law of Clear Channel CEO **Lowry Mays**. McCaul, points out **Lee Nichols**, a journalist covering the race for the *Austin Chronicle*, “probably doesn’t believe [Doherty] is a real threat, but if he sees worrying poll data, he can open up the cash spigot whenever he’s ready.”

**Virginia.** In the 5<sup>th</sup> District (Charlottesville, etc.), maverick six-term **Virgil Goode** (R) will be getting a well-financed challenge this fall from public service lawyer **Tom Perriello** (D). Goode has \$593,000 on hand; Perriello \$500,000. Watch this one. And in the 11<sup>th</sup> District (Annandale, etc.), former Fairfax County Supervisor **Gerry Connolly** (D) has more money than his main primary challenger, ex-US Rep. **Leslie Byrne** (D), with \$422,000 to \$238,000. But either one will face big money in November; wealthy businessman **Keith Fimian** (R) has \$742,000 on hand.

Federal Election Commission (FEC)  
1st Quarter Reports, Jan. 1 to Mar. 31, 2008  
US Senate

Incumbents in bold

	Net Rcpts	Cash
Alabama		
<b>Jeff Sessions/R</b>		
Vivien Figures/D	186,000	45,000
Johnny Swanson III/D	73,000	886
Arkansas		
<b>Mark Pryor/D</b>	4,469,000	3,693,000
R. Kennedy/Green	9,500	3,500
Georgia		
<b>Saxby Chambliss/R</b>	4,407,000	3,367,000
Dale Cardwell/D	142,000	18,000



Vernon Jones/D	488,000	256,000
Rand Knight/D	129,000	18,000
Jim Martin/D	347,000	333,000

Kentucky

<b>Mitch McConnell/R</b>	7,908,000	7,741,000
Daniel Essek/R	1,000	170
Mike Cassaro/D	81,000	5,250
Greg Fischer/D	1,057,000	855,000
Bruce Lunsford/D	808,000	666,000

Louisiana

<b>Mary Landrieu/D</b>	5,448,000	4,564,000
John Kennedy/R	1,907,000	1,623,000

Mississippi/full term

<b>Thad Cochran/R</b>	1,182,000	1,167,000
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Mississippi/4-yr term

<b>Roger Wicker/R</b>	3,062,000	2,763,000
Ronnie Musgrove/D	449,000	337,000

North Carolina

<b>Elizabeth Dole/R</b>	4,856,000	2,664,000
Kay Hagan/D	563,000	516,000
Jim Neal/D	215,000	139,000

Oklahoma

<b>James Inhofe/R</b>	3,168,000	2,222,000
Andrew Rice/D	971,000	597,000

South Carolina

<b>Lindsey Graham/R</b>	3,521,000	4,777,000
Buddy Witherspoon/R	351,000	258,000
Mike Cone/D	11,400	109
Bob Conley/D	10,200	42

Tennessee

<b>Lamar Alexander/R</b>	3,983,000	2,875,000
Mike Padgett/D	79,000	77,000
Bob Tuke/D	226,000	217,000

Texas

<b>John Cornyn/R</b>	9,115,000	8,689,000
Ray McMurrey/D	18,500	6
Rick Noriega/D	1,493,000	329,000

Virginia

Jim Gilmore/R	754,000	546,000
Bob Marshall/R	52,000	19,400
Mark Warner/D	6,368,000	4,384,000

**FEC Reports, US House**

Incumbents in bold

Net Rcpts    On Hand

Alabama 2

Jay Love/R	\$434,000	\$277,000
Craig Schmidtke/R	274,000	13,000
Harri Anne Smith/R	269,000	139,000
David Woods/R	352,000	309,000
Bobby Bright/D	54,000	46,000

Alabama 5

Parker Griffith/D	115,000	112,000
Ray McKee/R	65,000	22,000

Florida 8

<b>Ric Keller/R</b>	231,000	370,000
Bob Hering/R	69,000	53,000
Greg Lewis/R	3,300	3,200
Todd Long/R	82,000	82,000
James Fry/D	19,000	16,000
Alan Grayson/D	142,000	-4,300
Corbett Kroehler/D	59,000	51
Mike Smith/D	153,000	135,000
Charles Stuart/D	416,000	316,000
Quoc Ba Van/D	2,600	520

Florida 10

<b>Bill Young/R</b>	20,000	595,000
Max Linn/D	174,000	82,000
Samm Simpson/D	5,400	2,000

Florida 13

<b>Vern Buchanan/R</b>	2,339,000	1,123,000
Christine Jennings/D	897,000	483,000

Florida 14

<b>Connie Mack/R</b>	913,000	673,000
Larry Byrnes/D	65,000	55,000
Burt Saunders	31,000	4,500
Jeffrey George/Ind	5,900	200

Florida 15

Alan Bergman/R	2,300	230
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Bill Posey/R	267,000	218,000	Kentucky 2		
Steve Blythe/D	27,000	12,000	Brett Guthrie/R	402,000	354,000
Florida 16			David Boswell/D	34,000	32,000
<b>Tim Mahoney/D</b>	2,128,000	1,032,000	Reid Haire/D	203,000	188,000
Gayle Harrell/R	547,000	256,000	Kentucky 3		
Tom Rooney/R	692,000	442,000	<b>John Yarmuth/D</b>	1,059,000	812,000
Hal Valeche/R	738,000	589,000	Anne Northup/R	495,000	428,000
Florida 18			Louisiana 3		
<b>Ileana Ros-Lehtinen/R</b>	881,000	1,722,000	<b>Charlie Melancon/D</b>	1,103,000	872,000
David Patlak/D	2,500	0	Louisiana 6		
Annette Taddeo/D	322,000	301,000	"Woody" Jenkins/R	291,000	19,000
Florida 21			Don Cazayoux/D	565,000	111,000
<b>Lincoln Diaz-Balart/R</b>	1,070,000	1,452,000	Mississippi 1 (pre-special election numbers)		
Raul Martinez/D	617,000	593,000	Greg Davis/R	637,000	59,000
Florida 22			Travis Childers/D	284,000	8,000
<b>Ron Klein/D</b>	2,755,000	2,113,000	Mississippi 3		
Paul Renneisen/D	22,000	9,400	Gregg Harper/R	601,000	53,709
Allen West/R	101,000	57,000	Joel Gill/D	0	0
Florida 24			North Carolina 3		
<b>Tom Feeney/R</b>	982,000	549,000	<b>Walter Jones/R</b>	433,000	42,000
Clint Curtis/D	37,000	5,800	Joe McLaughlin/R	123,000	15,000
Suzanne Kosmas/D	665,000	581,000	Marshall Adame/D	13,000	1,300
Florida 25			Craig Weber/D	5,600	3,400
<b>Mario Diaz-Balart/R</b>	719,000	748,000	North Carolina 8		
Joe Garcia/D	331,000	316,000	<b>Robin Hayes/R</b>	1,813,000	987,000
Georgia 8			Larry Kissell/D	498,000	131,453
<b>Jim Marshall/D</b>	1,036,000	1,187,000	North Carolina 11		
Robert Nowak/D	10,400	1,080	<b>Heath Shuler/D</b>	972,000	736,000
Rick Goddard/R	577,000	404,000	Spence Campbell/R	188,000	29,000
Georgia 10			Carl Mumpower/R	28,000	2,100
<b>Paul Broun/R</b>	888,000	116,000	Tennessee 1		
Barry Fleming/R	779,000	596,000	<b>David Davis/R</b>	432,000	203,000
Georgia 12			Phil Roe/R	130,000	107,000
<b>John Barrow/D</b>	320,000	737,000	Tennessee 7		
Ray McKinney/R	35,000	10,000	<b>Marsha Blackburn/R</b>	622,000	470,000
John Stone/R	61,000	43,000			



Tom Leatherwood/R	25,000	3,400
Tennessee 9		
<b>Steven Cohen/D</b>	519,000	605,000
Nikki Tinker/D	291,000	228,000
Texas 17		
<b>Mike McCaul/R</b>	722,000	318,000
Larry Joe Doherty/D	557,000	122,000
Texas 22		
<b>Nick Lampson/D</b>	1,346,000	1,003,000
Pete Olson/R	893,000	128,000
Texas 23		
<b>Ciro Rodriguez/D</b>	1,623,000	932,000
Lyle Larson/R	273,000	60,000
Virginia 2		
<b>Thelma Drake/R</b>	1,048,000	594,000
Glenn Nye/D	254,000	223,000
Virginia 5		
<b>Virgil Goode/R</b>	438,000	593,000
Tom Perriello/D	608,000	500,000
Virginia 10		
<b>Frank Wolf/R</b>	1,054,000	716,000
Vern McKinley/R	18,000	4,900
Judy Feder/D	904,000	700,000
Mike Turner/D	82,000	10,000
Virginia 11		
Keith Fimian/R	839,000	742,000
Leslie Byrne/D	347,000	238,000
Gerry Connolly/D	501,000	422,000
Doug Denny/D	65,000	14,000

## Grits

? **Racism in the November Race?** Exit polls in the Pennsylvania primary suggested that race could play a noticeable role in the General Election this fall. About one in four of **Hillary Clinton's** supporters -- 26% -- said that if **Barack Obama** wins the nomination, they will vote for **John**

**McCain**, and another 17% said they would stay home. Fewer of Obama's backers had the same reaction: 16% said they would vote for McCain if Clinton were the nominee, 13% would stay home. While these numbers may simply reflect the hard-fought Obama-Clinton rivalry, they could spell trouble for either Democrat -- but especially Obama -- in November. Another indication of a racial response to Obama was a survey taken by AP-Yahoo on April 2-14, which found that 8% of white respondents said they be "uncomfortable" voting for an African American for president. Given most white voters reluctance to admit to racist feelings, the number could be much higher. If these white voters normally vote Republican, Obama's race won't matter. But if these are swing voters, or among the Democrats who have been voting for Clinton in the primaries, race could be a significant impediment to an Obama victory.

? **Are Dixie GOP Attacks on Obama Racist or Fair?** Tar Heel Republicans ran a TV spot that attacked the Democratic gubernatorial candidates, **Richard Moore** and **Beverly Perdue**, for endorsing Obama. The ad called the Illinois senator "too extreme" for North Carolina, and features video of Obama's former pastor, Rev. **Jeremiah Wright**, damning America. McCain condemned the ad, but the state GOP declined to pull it. (Perdue responded with a feel-good spot featuring her endorsement by **Andy Griffith**, TV's Mayberry [NC] sheriff.) And in Louisiana's 6<sup>th</sup> District, and Mississippi's 1<sup>st</sup> District, the National Republican Congressional Committee aired TV spots linking the Democratic nominees to Obama and House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi**. Obama's politics, and -- arguably -- his pastor, are fair game, but race being the factor that it is, these ads, and probably a lot more like them before the November election is over, are sure to raise questions about race-baiting. Maybe the right question is not whether such attacks are racist -- each party always attacks the other -- but whether they are relevant. Obama's voting record in the US Senate is relevant. Rev. Wright's sermons are much less so; everything about the way Obama has conducted his campaign suggests he does not share Wright's objectionable views.