

Campaign Contributions to the "Mount Vernon Forward" Slate of City Council Members, from contributors with an interest in land development in Mount Vernon

How much of the money received by the Mount Vernon City Council Members listed below, to finance their political campaigns, came from contributors with an explicit interest in land development in Mount Vernon? For example, how much comes from housing developers, land buyers/sellers, real estate managers, lawyers who advocate for housing developers, businesses/business owners who stand to gain contracts from housing developers, etc.? To answer this question, I turned to the data candidates are required to submit to the NYS Board of Elections (<https://publicreporting.elections.ny.gov/>).

Methods

I downloaded the most recently available data for each CC Member listed (as of December 11, 2023) and sorted it by contributor name. My goal was to be conservative, and to avoid “false positives”, because I think it’s better to under report something like this. Therefore, I excluded contributors from the list when I could not verify a probable interest in land development. It is possible, but I think less likely, that there are contributors listed below who do not have an interest in land development in Mount Vernon. I’m open to that possibility and open to revising this list. However, if there are any “false positives”, I’m confident that the general conclusion will remain intact.

And what is that general conclusion? That a significant percentage of the campaign contributions received by the City Council Members listed below came from contributors with an explicit interest in land development in Mount Vernon.

Does it matter? Unquestionably, yes. There is no shortage of research that supports the conclusion that campaign contributions influence the behavior of politicians. I think this quote from the League of Women’s Voters sums it up well: *“When politicians receive large financial contributions from organizations, corporations, campaigns, or individuals, they are inclined to be more responsive to their needs. This puts the voices of everyday Americans at a disadvantage.”* <https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights/money-politics>

Mount Vernon City Council Member	Amount from Contributors Listed Below	Total Contributions (less contributions made to self)	Percent of Contributions Received from Contributors Listed Below
Danielle Browne	\$16,160	\$54,239	30%
Cathlin Gleason	\$15,655	\$40,465	39%
Ed Poteat	\$13,836	\$24,381	57%
Sum Total:	\$45,651	\$119,085	38%

Recipient	Amount	Contributor
Friends of Danielle Browne	\$8,450	Michael Anthony Holdings, Inc. & Paolericio Family members
Cathlin 4 Council	\$7,500	Michael Anthony Holdings, Inc. & Paolericio Family members
The Committee to Elect Ed Poteat	\$7,251	Michael Anthony Holdings, Inc. & Paolericio Family members

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Recipient	Amount	Contributor
Friends of Danielle Browne	\$1,555	Community Housing Management Corp
Cathlin 4 Council	\$1,555	Community Housing Management Corp.
The Committee to Elect Ed Poteat	\$1,555	Community Housing Management Corp.
Friends of Danielle Browne	\$1,550	Petro Real Estate Development Corp
The Committee to Elect Ed Poteat	\$1,550	Petro Real Estate Development Corp
Cathlin 4 Council	\$1,500	ROB DEBENEDICTIS MANAGEMENT CORP
Friends of Danielle Browne	\$1,000	Fieldstone GC LLC
Cathlin 4 Council	\$1,000	Fieldstone GC, LLC
The Committee to Elect Ed Poteat	\$1,000	Fieldstone GC, LLC
Cathlin 4 Council	\$1,000	Christopher Williams
Friends of Danielle Browne	\$1,000	Christopher Williams
The Committee to Elect Ed Poteat	\$1,000	Christopher Williams
Friends of Danielle Browne	\$1,000	F & M Properties Llc
The Committee to Elect Ed Poteat	\$1,000	F&M Properties, LLC
Cathlin 4 Council	\$1,000	Fleetwood Pharmacy
Cathlin 4 Council	\$750	Design Builder Group, Inc
Friends of Danielle Browne	\$750	Grandview Consulting Group Inc.
Cathlin 4 Council	\$500	Fleetwood Realty
Cathlin 4 Council	\$500	Mad Real Properties LLC
Friends of Danielle Browne	\$250	Comrie Enterprises, Llc
The Committee to Elect Ed Poteat	\$250	Diana Williams
Friends of Danielle Browne	\$250	Diana Williams
Cathlin 4 Council	\$200	Anthony DeBenedictis
Cathlin 4 Council	\$150	DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wie
Friends of Danielle Browne	\$150	Delbello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & wie
The Committee to Elect Ed Poteat	\$150	Delbello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & wie
Friends of Danielle Browne	\$125	Heritage Real Estate Services Inc.
Friends of Danielle Browne	\$80	Sentinel Construction Inc
The Committee to Elect Ed Poteat	\$80	Sentinel Construction, Inc.

\$45,651