

Who makes whom?

The key funders, endorsers and backers of the Toronto mayoral candidates. BY GEORDIE DENT



JOE PANTALONE

Pantalone, the current Deputy Mayor, gets the bulk of his political support from councillors who supported current Mayor David Miller including Howard Moscoe and Gord Perks. A number of Miller-supporting councillors, however, including Adam Vaughan and Joe Mihevc, have abandoned Pantalone's campaign in recent weeks, going instead to George Smitherman. While Pantalone has few major backers in terms of business or high-profile political leaders, he is getting a high degree of backing from unions, media makers, agencies, and artists.

KEY BACKERS: David Miller, Jack Layton, Michele Landsberg, Sam the Record Man, Sarah Polley, Toronto and York Region Labour Council, Canadian Auto Workers, Peter Tabuns

NOTABLE 2006 DONORS: Leslie Yager from Plazacorp (condo builder)

KEY FUNDERS: Jack Layton and Olivia Chow, *NOW* magazine, head of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council, head of the TTC workers' union, Alan Menkes (a major developer), Sam the Record Man, Paul Sutherland (lobbyist), Paul Christie (lobbyist), lobbyists from Sussex Strategy Group.

Note: Pantalone is the only candidate to have released his funder list before we went to print. The law only requires that a list be released after the election.



ROB FORD

Ford has angered many on council for his focus on city spending. David Soknacki, the City's former Budget Chief, argued in a *Toronto Star* editorial that Ford tried to cut 'waste' at City Hall throughout his tenure as a councillor. His failure is attributed to his bypassing attempts to gain support from councillors, going straight to council instead. His inability to build support on council as well as his decision to post councillor expenses publicly made him a pariah, but the side effect was that Ford, unable to work in City Hall, sunk almost all his time doing constituency work instead. He's allegedly a fixer with immigration cases, is very constituent focused and has major backing in the Italian and Portuguese communities.

Ford's right-wing political leanings and conservative economic policies have made him an attractive candidate for business and right-wing politicians on council and in the provincial and federal governments.

KEY BACKERS: Jim Flaherty (Conservative Finance Minister), Cllr. Mike Del Grande, Cllr. Frances Nunziata, the *Toronto Sun*, (anti-Pride Parade) Pastor Wendell Brereton, Merit OpenShop Contractors Association.

NOTABLE 2006 DONORS: Greater Toronto Apartment Association (landlords).

Ford released his funder list as we were going to print. The list can be found at www.xtra.ca.



GEORGE SMITHERMAN

George Smitherman was the original mayoral front-runner and has tremendous political backing and an immense political machine. Three former cabinet ministers under Harris have endorsed Smitherman along with many other political stalwarts: Justin Trudeau (Liberal MP), John Sewell and Art Eggleton (former mayors). Several backers of former right-wing candidate Rocco Rossi have defected to the Smitherman campaign. Ditto for former candidate Sarah Thomson. Smitherman has also seen key progressive unions back him (instead of Pantalone) in the mayoral race including the Central Ontario Building Trades.

Many see Smitherman as being a municipal extension of the current provincial Liberal government, as he was a minister in Dalton McGuinty's cabinet. Smitherman has additionally made no commitment to Mayor Miller's Transit city. Richard Joy, the current Vice President of the Toronto Board of Trade, worked for Smitherman while he was in the provincial government. The Board of Trade is officially non-partisan.

KEY BACKERS: The *Toronto Star*, the *Globe and Mail*, George Tory (son of former progressive conservative leader John Tory), 38 prominent provincial Conservatives, the Liberal premier and several prominent Toronto Liberal MPPs, Local 793 of the International Union of Operating Engineers.

BUYING INFLUENCE

BY TIM GROVES



Toronto Media Co-op has conducted part of an investigation into lobbyists who try to buy influence by donating to Toronto city councillor's election campaigns. Candidates in the current municipal election are not required to disclose their financial backers until March 2011, so the first part of the investigation looks at the current councillors and lobbyists who donated to them in the 2006 election. In April 2011, the second part of our investigation will be released.

Our investigation matched the names or people or corporations in the City of Toronto Lobbyist Registry to the names of contributors to candidates in the 2006 Toronto municipal elections. Under legislation no person or corporation can donate more than \$750 to any candidate for city council. To the right is a list of the lobbyists who donated \$3000 or more to candidates in the municipal elections. Although the amounts of money given are small enough to question if much influence is being secured by the donations, the systematic approach that some corporations have taken to donating to candidates regardless of their politics may suggest they are attempting to buy influence.

It must be noted that the 10 candidates in the last municipal elections did not accept donations from any corporations or unions, and others accepted limited donations. Corporate and union donations are banned in the 2010 election.

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CORPORATIONS IN THE LOBBYIST REGISTRY DONATING AT LEAST \$3000 IN THE 2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION:

PATTISON OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

Total contribution: \$6125
Councillors contributed to: 18
Issues lobbied: The rewriting of the Sign By-law, which regulates billboards, and outdoor sign approval.

CLEAR CHANNEL OUTDOOR

Total contribution: \$5600
Councillors contributed to: 12
Issues lobbied: The rewriting of the Sign By-law, which regulates billboards, outdoor sign approval, street furniture, and authority to enter agreement with Astral Media Outdoor.

GREATER TORONTO APARTMENT ASSOCIATION

Total contribution: \$5350
Councillors contributed to: 11
Issues lobbied: policies regarding residential landlords, and the possibility of Toronto licensing apartments.

TELUS

Total contribution: \$7500
Councillors contributed to: 10
Issues lobbied: City of Toronto Wireless Telecommunications Protocol.

SUSSEX STRATEGY GROUP INC

Total contribution: \$4000
Councillors contributed to: 9
Issues lobbied: This lobbying firm had 72 different entries in the Lobbying Registry and worked on a variety of issues for many clients.

TDL GROUP CORP. TIM HORTONS

Total contribution: \$7925
Councillors contributed to: 11
Issues lobbied: In-store packaging report to reduce waste from stores, and Drive-Thru Zoning Bylaws.

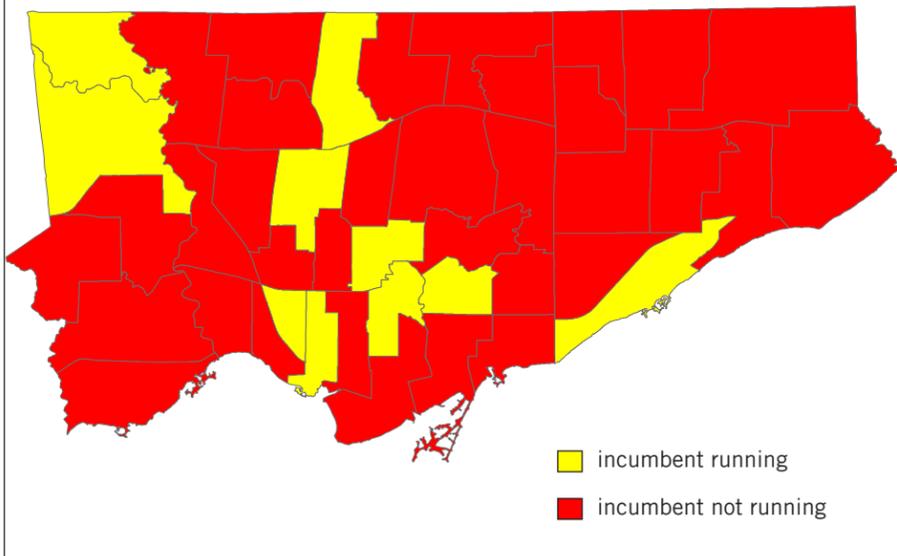
TRIBUTE COMMUNITIES (YORK) INC.

Total contribution: \$3000
Councillors contributed to: 5
Issues lobbied: Planning at 2130 Bayview Ave. and 426 University Ave.

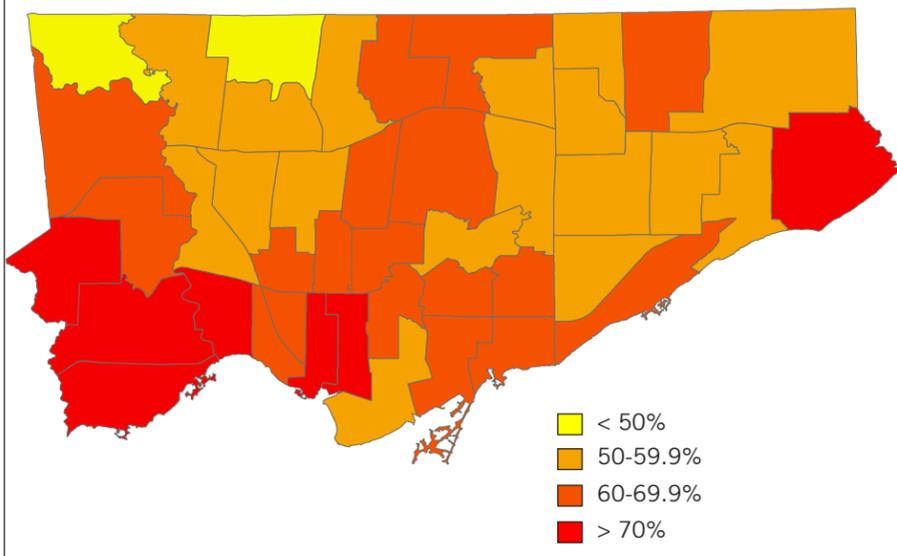
DUNPAR DEVELOPMENTS INC.

Total contribution: \$3000
Councillors contributed to: 4
Issues lobbied: Planning at 1145 Ossington Ave. and 51 Lakeshore Blvd., and OMB hearing on 4187 Dundas St. W. and 569-571 Prince Edward Dr.

INCUMBENT STATUS



% OF POPULATION REGISTERED TO VOTE



A letter writing campaign has been launched to persuade the Toronto City Summit Alliance (TCSA) to ask their chair, John Tory, to step down, after he endorsed two candidates in the municipal election. The letter says that TCSA's former chair David Pecaut "would have never endorsed a candidate and his sterling reputation was built by being able to work with everyone." TCSA is a coalition of civic leaders who are trying to address the challenges Toronto is faced with.

Radical Youth Engage in Municipal Politics

BY MEGAN COTTON-KINCH

Friday night on the Esplanade—15 youth workers, high school students and university students (most from the local area), are out on the streets and in apartment buildings, knocking on doors and handing out flyers. Although they identify as radical left, they are campaigning in the municipal election for Pantalone and Toronto Public school board trustee candidate Chris Moise.

They are not happy with Pantalone's flyer: "This pamphlet is for old people who live in the suburbs," one of them says, pointing at the photo of a grey-haired white couple. "This doesn't engage with people here." Instead, they go door-to-door talking to people about issues affecting the community: public transit, privatization of public services, and public housing. Most people are receptive, although some can't vote because they aren't citizens, while others aren't sure about where the candidates stand on the issues.

What makes radical youth engage in municipal politics? I spoke to Farshad Azadian, a leader in the Esplanade Community Group, who explained the decision of his group to get involved in campaigning for Pantalone despite the serious disagreements he has with the candidate's politics: "Typically, when going door to door, it wasn't uncommon for us to tell fellow residents that Joe Pantalone wasn't the greatest candidate, but he is the only working class candidate and we should always vote labour. In the process, we get to talk about real politics, talk about issues in our community, it allows young activists to get a more grounded view of the confusions working class people have."

Azadian explains his participation by suggesting, "the most advanced layers of workers and youth, us activists, have an obligation to explain to workers what is happening in the current elections and to explain the need for building the class struggle. Activists who boycott the elections for a lack of a genuine revolutionary candidate are living in the clouds. The working class is confused, scattered and atomised. Every occasion to infuse a

At least 10 new faces on city council

System set to keep incumbents in office

BY TIM GROVES

Forty-four council seats are up for grabs in Monday's election, however most of the faces on council are likely to stay the same. Thirty-four councillors are running for re-election. Only ten councillors are giving up their seats.

Incumbents usually win in election races. In the last Toronto election, in 2006, 37 incumbents ran for re-election and only one was defeated. Similarly, in the 2003 municipal election, one incumbent lost their seat on council.

Once councillors are elected they usually stay in office for multiple terms, and some have been on council for decades. Outgoing city councillor Howard Moscoe first joined North York's city council in 1978.

With no term limits and the winning candidate needing only the most votes rather than a majority of votes, the current system helps keep incumbents in office.

"Some [incumbents] are incredibly popular, but many others are not," said voting reform advocate Desmond Cole. "Winning with 25% is not what we think of in a democracy, it makes people angry."

Cole works with Ranked Ballot Initiative Toronto (RaBIT), a group that wants voters to mark their top three choices on the ballot in order of preference. They believe this would reduce strategic voting and allow voters to vote for what they believe in, not against the worst candidate.

Cole believes that term limits need not be imposed, so long as the people elected are popular, instead of winning by splitting the vote. He said that in the current system "the more people who run against an incumbent the better they will do."

On Monday's election 77% of wards will have incumbent councillors running in them.

WARDS TO WATCH ON MONDAY:

On election day, be sure to watch the wards with no incumbent running, as they will probably best show how council will be changing. Those wards are: 1, 2, 10, 15, 18, 19, 22, 27, 29, & 36.

NOVEMBER IS TORONTO MEDIA CO-OP'S MEMBERSHIP MONTH!

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Become a sustainer!

toronto.mediacoop.ca

Know where to vote on Election Day?
Find out at toronto.ca/elections.