

Free Search Tools for Federal Campaign Contribution Data

Feature & Description	Federal Election Commission	MapLight	Open Secrets	National Institute on Money in State Politics
Links to Resources	Website Search Tool	Website Search Tool	Website Search Tool	Website Search Tool
Includes searches by contributor, recipient and election cycle	✓	✓	✓	✓
Data coded by industry			✓ ¹	✓
Allows user to combine multiple contributors and/or recipients in one search	✓	✓		✓
Search results available for download	✓	✓		✓ (with free sign-up)
Search tool includes name standardization		✓ ²		✓ ³
Search tool includes API (Application Programming Interface)	✓ (Link)	✓ (Link)	4	✓ (Link)
Data available on outside spending (Political spending independent of candidate committees)	✓ (Link)		✓ (Link)	✓ (Link)
Update frequency	Daily	Weekly	Varies	Quarterly
Earliest available data	1997	2008	1989	2010

1) Industry coding is not displayed in Open Secrets' [Donor Lookup](#) search results.

2) Contributions from political action committees are grouped with their associated company or organization. Employer names are standardized based on MapLight's research.

3) Contributions from political action committees are grouped with their associated company or organization. Individuals are standardized to their own names with as many parts of the individual's name as possible, such as middle name or initial, nickname, etc.

4) Open Secrets does not have an API for the Donor Lookup tool, but has additional APIs [available here](#).

[Propublica](#) also has a federal campaign contribution API available for web developers.