



X. Campaign finance

- A. Baker and the Republican State Committee (RSC) – which he effectively controls – share a **joint fundraising operation**, the MA Victory Committee, with the Republican National Committee (RNC). It **allows wealthy donors to contribute \$43,800 per year, an end run around the state’s \$1,000 per year contribution limit**. About 60% of the money goes to the RSC, which for all intents and purposes is Baker’s campaign organization. Moreover, at least some of the remaining money, which initially goes to the RNC, is contributed by the RNC to the RSC. This, although technically legal, is, in effect, money laundering. Using this scheme, Baker has raised about \$5 million in the last 3 years. (Capital Source, 12/8/17, The Boston Globe)
- B. Governor Baker **supported 2016 ballot question #2 to expand charter schools in MA, increasing the privatization of public education. The Chair of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, appointed by Baker in 2015, contributed \$600,000 to the effort, most of it through an out-of-state, secret money organization that spent \$30 million in MA in support of Baker’s policy.** (Berkshire Eagle, 11/20/17). The organization, Families for Excellent Schools, was fined \$426,000 for failing to disclose its donors. Almost all the donors, some giving over \$1 million, were from MA. Although Baker says he was unaware of the activities of the organization, **Baker’s two top political advisors ran the effort to get the ballot item approved.** They were paid over \$275,000 primarily for this work. (F. Phillips, 1/3/18, “Ballot group fined, must name donors,” The Boston Globe.)
- C. A group called **Strong Economy for Growth** is aligned with Governor Baker and spent \$1.2 million supporting Baker’s positions on two ballot initiatives in 2016. The state’s **Office of Campaign and Political Finance has fined the group \$31,000** for violating state campaign finance laws by failing to disclose its contributors. It also barred the group from participating in state politics in 2018. Although Baker says he was unaware of the activities of the group, **two individuals who work for Baker’s campaign (not the two political advisors who worked on Question 2 mentioned above) were paid over \$200,000 for their work for the group.** (F. Phillips, 1/3/18, “Ballot group fined, must name donors,” The Boston Globe.)
- D. Shortly after winning a license to build a casino in Everett in Sept. 2014, **Wynn Resorts made a \$2 million donation to the Republican Governors Association (RGA). The RGA, within**

ten days of receiving that donation, gave just over \$2 million to Baker's campaign for Governor, which he won in November 2014, only 7 weeks later. Wynn Resorts was banned from making contributions as an applicant for a casino license, but once the license was granted, it became legal for it to make campaign donations. (Lemoult, C., 2/22/18, "Gaming Commission says Wynn donation that supported Baker campaign was not illegal," WGBH)