

STATE and NATIONAL

Fund-raising goals becoming central to political campaigns

By DACIA TOLL
Staff Writer

As fund-raising efforts become increasingly central to major political races, many politicians and analysts worry that money may control campaigns.

Candidates spend an increasing portion of their time trying to raise money, and less on the issues and details of their campaigns, said Thad Beyle, UNC political science professor.

The time has come for finance reform in political campaigns, said Craig Shirley, a Washington, D.C., political consultant.

"If finance reform is not enacted and enforced in the immediate future, we may as well turn over politics to the private businessman," Shirley said. "Dollars deliver."

Many experts point to "the extremely crucial impact of finances on who is victorious in an election," Shirley said. "Who controls the purse in the election will probably someday control the national purse strings."

Greg Hager, a political science graduate student, said, "Virtually the only way for a challenger to get their name known is to spend a lot of money."

Incumbent candidate U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., raised more than \$10 million for his 1990 campaign as of June 30. His opponent, Harvey Gantt, raised \$700,000 before the June 30 cutoff date, according to Federal Election Commission (FEC) statistics. This financial gap has been partially closed since the last report, although new figures are not available.

On average, each competitor for a U.S. House of Representatives or U.S. Senate seat spent \$266,523 in their individual races during 1988, totaling close to \$500 million for the 1,792 candidates, according to FEC statistics.

Political candidates receive these vast sums from a wide variety of sources and through a great diversity of fund-raising techniques, each one drawing from their individual areas of strength.

"Sources of funds are as varied as the candidates themselves," Shirley said. "You can observe one extreme and then examine his competitor and find the other."

In the 1988 House and Senate elections, 55 percent of the total revenue of

candidates came from the donations by individuals who are limited to \$1,000 per primary by FEC law. The second major source of campaign cash came from political action committees (PACs), which donated 30 percent of the total funds to candidates in chunks of \$5,000 or less, according to the FEC.

Other finance sources included relatively small amounts in the form of individual candidates' personal savings, bank loans and support from the political parties.

The FEC has the "responsibility to monitor and enforce" campaign fund-raising regulations as they police the political arena, said Fred Diland, spokesman for the FEC.

Aside from obeying the monetary limits on individual contributions, candidates are forbidden by law to accept corporate or foreign money. However, corporations are allowed to underwrite the overhead expenses of PACs as long as the actual contributions come from the voluntary donations of employees.

Candidates are given great latitude for how they spend their funds provided they disclose all expenditures. If the expense exceeds \$200, it must be individually itemized in a full report given to the FEC every three and a half months.

If a candidate is found to have abused an FEC regulation, they can be fined up to \$10,000 or 200 percent of the amount of the violation.

"Besides the monetary aspect of the punishment, great political repercussions will be felt among the voters if a candidate cheats the FEC," Shirley said.

Candidates rely on a wide variety of means to convince voters to contribute to their campaign. The most popular method — mailings — combine both campaigning and fund raising in one, giving the politician "a better bang for their buck," Shirley said.

Politicians frequently use celebrities to endorse or attend their fund-raising events, drawing on the devotion of fans for revenue. In addition, a new proposal would allow candidates to use 900 phone numbers to raise funds by having a charge appear on the caller's phone bill.

Campaign fund-raising reform demands increasing attention in today's financially-dominated political arena, Diland said. In several crucial races

across the country, the politician's stance on reform has served as a divisive issue.

"There is too much overall spending," said Dave Holm, John Carrington's press secretary. "We need to level out the playing field."

Carrington is challenging U.S. Rep. David Price, D-4th, in the November election.

Rachel Perry, Price's press secretary, said, "Campaigns have become far too expensive with too much emphasis on money."

Carrington has accepted a self-imposed spending ceiling of \$450,000 for the time between Aug. 1 and election day. He prides himself on being a vocal supporter of campaign finance reform, Holm said.

"Carrington is a Johnny-come-lately to the issue of campaign reform," Perry said. "Let the facts present themselves — Price put forth stricter spending limits and restrictions which Carrington rejected."

North Carolina, especially the fourth congressional district, is notoriously competitive and expensive. In 1988, North Carolina hosted three of the 20 most expensive races in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The role and influence of PACs have been the focus of great political debate. "PACs have a very corrupting influence on a campaign," Holm said, noting that Carrington will not be accepting any PAC or foreign money.

Carrington's campaign has criticized Price for courting PACs and accepting more than \$1 million from special interests in his four-year career. Perry denied the accusations, saying, "Carrington speaks in innuendoes, distortions and half-truths."

Holm said the savings and loan industry is a shocking example of the power of PAC money. Failing S&L PACs gave \$11 million to political campaigns in the years preceding the scandal to keep the industry afloat, Holm said.

"PACs give a lot of money because frequently incumbents pressure them to do so," Hager said. "It's expected."

In a time of influential television commercials bought at high prices, "money can control the airwaves," said David Wofford, assistant press secretary to the Gantt campaign.

Gasoline prices continue to soar; consumption expected to decline

By JENNIFER DAVIS
Staff Writer

As gas prices continue to climb in North Carolina and in the United States, some analysts anticipate a decline in gasoline consumption.

According to a survey conducted by the American Automobile Association Carolina Motor Club, as of Oct. 2, North Carolinians paid an average of \$1.35 per gallon for gasoline — a 26-cent per gallon increase from the day before Iraq invaded Kuwait, Aug. 1.

The increase in price has had little effect on consumption of gasoline in North Carolina so far, said Larry Goode, director of programs, policy and budget for the state Department of Transportation.

"We had no decline in consumption for August," Goode said. "In fact, we show a 2 percent increase from last year's consumption for the month of August."

But if gas prices continue to rise, a decline in consumption is likely to occur, he added.

The average price of gasoline at the pump in South Carolina as of Oct. 2 was \$1.286 a gallon, according to the survey, which polled 81 service

stations in 10 N.C. and S.C. cities.

Officials attribute the 7-cent difference between gasoline prices in North Carolina and South Carolina to the difference in the two states' gasoline tax. In North Carolina, the state tax on gasoline is 22 cents per gallon, while in South Carolina the state tax is 16 cents.

The national average price for gasoline, as of Oct. 2, was \$1.346 a gallon — four-tenths of a cent lower than the average in North Carolina.

The AAA survey was the first case in which the national average was lower than the North Carolina average since the invasion of Kuwait. The survey also found that motorists in Raleigh were paying the most for their gas, while motorists in Spartanburg were paying the least.

It is not likely fuel prices will decline in the near future, said Quentin Anderson, a spokesman for the AAA.

"I do not see the possibility of the OPEC nations lowering the price per barrel, nor the possibility that American drilling operations will resume to any great extent," Anderson said. "It is not practical for American oil companies to pick up drilling, because it is not yet profitable, even at these higher prices."

Goode said, "We anticipate that for

every 10 percent increase in price, we will see a 1 percent decline in consumption."

The federal deficit-reducing budget, which was voted down Friday night by Congress, would have increased the tax on oil by 12 cents. Ten cents of the tax would have been paid at the pumps, while the other two cents would have affected processed petroleum normally used in home heating. The proposed two-cent tax on home heating oil caused a great deal of uproar in the northern states.

"If any deficit-reducing user taxes on gases are approved by Congress, the gas consumer will be hurt even more," Goode said.

Chapel Hill Transit has not yet felt the monetary effects of the increase in fuel prices.

"We're paying more for fuel just like everyone else," said Scott McClellan, a spokesman for the system. "We will not know the long-term effects for some time."

"However, in times when there is an instability of gas prices, curtailing services should not be one of our options. The public will be looking more at public transportation as a replacement for the car carrying one person."

Regional centers concern public schools

By KAREN DIETRICH
Staff Writer

Some N.C. public school administrators said they are worried that reducing the number of regional education centers across the state would damage the quality of assistance available to smaller school systems.

In the 1970s, the Department of Public Instruction established eight regional education centers to provide consultation services to public schools. The centers provide help in areas such as staff development, child nutrition, curriculum, media technology, testing, vocational education and education of exceptional children.

State Superintendent of Schools Bob Etheridge's 20-Point Plan for Education, announced Sept. 17, includes a proposal to consolidate the existing eight centers of this regional delivery system into four technical assistance centers.

"The (new) centers will better meet the needs of local school systems," said DPI Media Consultant Kay Williams.

"All resources will go into four centers instead of eight."

Some public school administrators say they are hesitant to support the plan.

The change will affect primarily "the smaller school systems which do not have the resources the larger systems have," said Palmer Friend, associate superintendent for Forsyth County General Administration. "They are the ones who have really made use of the program."

Millicent Rainey, active superintendent of Orange County schools, said, "It will probably have more negative impact on (school systems) further removed from Raleigh and the centers."

Administrators of the smaller eastern state school systems are especially worried about the impending change.

"Reducing the number of centers makes it hard for people in our area to receive assistance when needed," said F. Boyd Bailey, superintendent of Martin County schools.

Ethel Matthews, superintendent of

Beaufort County schools, voiced similar concerns. Matthews said the existing system had worked extremely well in Beaufort County, and she does not support a change.

"The regional educational center ... has been very convenient," Matthews said. "We can get to it quickly and our requests have never been turned down. By consolidating eight centers into four, it is obvious they could not be as close to school systems as they presently are."

The plan, scheduled to take effect in 1992, would redivide the state's school systems into four areas. Vanessa Jeter, media consultant for the DPI, said the change would be more of a bureaucratic nature than anything else. She also said the existing system was somewhat outdated.

"A lot has changed since the regions were established in 1955," Jeter said. "At that time there were 172 school systems — now there are 134. It is not economically feasible to have eight centers."

Layoffs

memberships and associations in the central administration, and reduced budgets for roofs and maintenance, he said.

The University may have to reallocate funds to make up for the \$400,000 to \$500,000 deficit because Hardin said he would not consider layoffs as a way to slash department budgets.

"We can't violate the law, we can't violate the strict restrictions on funds, but we may have funds that we can shift

into functions that were state-appropriated," he said.

Some of the University's professional schools and sciences, especially health professions, receive more research funds and industry donations than humanities departments, Hardin said.

"I think it's fair to say that the units that are less adversely affected by the state cuts than the others will be willing, where there are no legal restrictions, to

help out in the crisis," he said.

Garland Hershey, vice chancellor of health affairs, said his department was suffering severely from the cuts, but every part of the campus has to help resolve the budget situation.

"Generally, all of our people are doing more and more with less and less," he said.

Hardin said future reductions were unlikely. "I'm encouraged that the offices of state budget and management, with the governor's encouragement, has worked with us to try to give us some predictability about the rest of this year."

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Campus Calendar

- TUESDAY**
- 10 a.m.: UNITAS will have a table in the Pit until 2 p.m. UNITAS applications for the 1991-92 academic year go out this week. Come and fight apathy on campus!
 - 11 a.m.: Human Rights Week will sell raffle tickets in the Pit until 2 p.m. Win one of 15 prizes for just \$1! The grand prizes are a VCR and a CD player.
 - 12:30 p.m.: The Institute for Research in Social Science presents "Carolina Polls," an IRSS Short Course, in 2 Manning until 2 p.m.
 - Student Psychological Services of Student Health announces a group to talk about coping with an alcoholic parent. Come to the first meeting at the Student Psychological Services in the Student Health Building. Call 966-3658 for more info.
 - 3 p.m.: Study Abroad announces that a Latin American Information Session will be held for students interested in studying in Mexico or Argentina at Study Abroad Office in Caldwell Hall.
 - 3:30 p.m.: The Entrepreneurs Club will meet until 4:30 p.m. in 211 Union. All students interested in owning a business now or in the future are encouraged to attend. For more info, please call our office at 962-1512.
 - Career Planning and Placement Services will hold Job Hunt 101: Basic information on how to use the UCPPS office for seniors and graduate students in 210 Hanes.
 - 4 p.m.: UCPPS will hold a Career Planning Workshop for freshmen through juniors in 209 Hanes.
 - 4:45 p.m.: Public Policy Analysis Majors Union will sponsor an open house for PUPA majors and any interested students in 102 New East.
 - 5 p.m.: The Juggling Club will meet in front of Wilson Library.
 - 6 p.m.: Students for the Advancement of Race Relations (SARR) will meet in 224 Union to discuss and plan upcoming events. All are welcome!
 - 6:30 p.m.: The Senior Class reminds freshmen and seniors that the first Senior Buddy Activity is today. Please contact the Senior Office at 962-1991 or stop by for more info. All seniors and freshmen are welcome.
 - UCPPS announces a presentation by the Peace Corps in 209 Hanes.
 - 7 p.m.: Carolina Fever will meet in 100 Hamilton. We will be discussing Homecoming Week, so be there!
 - 7:30 p.m.: The College Republicans will meet in 104 Howell. The guest speaker will be John Carrington, Dist. 4 candidate for U.S. Congress. All interested are welcome.
 - The Student Government Tutoring Program will have free tutoring in ECON 10, STAT 11 and 23, Math 22, 30 and 31, Spanish 1-4 and French 1-4. Come to third floor Greenlaw anytime until 9:30 p.m.
 - 8 p.m.: The Young Democrats will meet in 211 Union. All are welcome!
- ITEMS OF INTEREST**
- The Tar Heel Recycling Program announces Pre-cycling Week! Stop by the Pit to learn more about what you can do to reduce waste and where you can recycle on campus.
 - The UNC Student Agencies will be having a raffle to give away five free movie rentals through its movie courier service. All students, staff and faculty are encouraged to fill out a free raffle ticket. Tickets can be picked up in the UNC Student Agencies office or in the Pit all this week.
 - The Elections Board announces that candidate petitions are due today.
 - UCPPS announces on-campus testing for Seniors interested in careers with the Federal Government. Test dates are Nov. 10 and Nov. 17. Registration forms and information are available in 211 Hanes. Registration deadline is Oct. 31 by 3 p.m.
 - The University Counseling Center announces that an Interracial Relationships Support Group will be offered beginning in October. The group will offer a supportive, confidential and nonjudgmental environment to explore unique issues encountered in interracial relationships (e.g. societal disapproval, cultural differences and similarities, conflicting feelings, etc.). For more information, call 962-2175.
 - The Carolina Union Activities Board announces that tickets for Nikki Meets the Hibachi are on sale at the Union desk for \$2. They will play Saturday, Oct. 13 at 9 p.m. in the Cabaret.
 - PlayMakers Repertory Company will present the Southeastern premiere of "Nothing Sacred," by Canadian playwright George F. Walker, Oct. 24-Nov. 11 at the Paul Green Theatre. For more information, call 962-PLAY.
 - The Carolina Union Gallery Committee presents Europe 1989-90: A Collage, the color photographs of UNC Senior Stephen Culp, who spent last year in Eastern and Western Europe and Morocco.
- Senior Class 1991**
- The Senior Class Service Committee is collecting towels for the IFC Homeless Shelter Oct. 8-12. Drop your clean, whole, used towels in the collection boxes in the BCC, the Campus Y office, the Senior Class Office and residence hall area offices. Call Christy (933-6795) or Chris (933-4301) for more info.

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