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## Both sides

### Some political contributors like to cover all the bases

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Call it the "golden straddle."

Yes, you can be in two political places at once and all it takes is the wherewithal - or maybe that's wherewithal and gall.

On behalf of [Stateline.org](http://Stateline.org), enterprising Virginia Commonwealth University journalism student Maggie Souza pulled out some numbers from the Virginia Public Access Project database, and guess what?

"In all, 338 contributors gave to both major-party gubernatorial contestants," writes Souza, a senior at VCU. "[Republican Jerry] Kilgore got almost \$2.6 million from these dual-donors; [Democrat Tim] Kaine, who eventually won the Nov. 8 election, received nearly \$1.9 million."

The Virginia Automobile Dealers Association, for instance, apparently wants no unhappy customers and split nearly \$200,000 between the Republican and the Democrat, with \$101,711 going to Kilgore and \$96,900 for Kaine.

The Altria Group, which owns Philip Morris, leaned a little toward Kilgore as well, giving him \$97,708, while Kaine got \$80,000. Norfolk Southern Corp. leaned the other way, with \$20,000 going to Kaine and \$13,500 to Kilgore.

Then you have the Bank of America, which may have leaned too far in the wrong direction, handing a miserly \$3,000 to the winning campaign (Kaine's) and \$25,000 to the guy who lost big, Kilgore.

On other hand, Overnite Transportation Co. gave \$27,500 to Kaine and \$19,000 to Kilgore.

That settles it: Truckers are smarter than bankers.

All these figures, by the way, cover the period from Jan. 1, 2002, through Dec. 1, 2005.

"The 2005 campaign was the most expensive gubernatorial race in Virginia history," Souza correctly points out. "Kaine raised \$20.1 million, Kilgore \$24.5 million and [state Sen. Russell] Potts \$1.3 million - for a total of \$46 million."

That's a lot of moola and don't think the candidates don't remember who gave what. Like the old joke goes: "For \$10,000 you get access; for \$25,000 you get a lot of access; for \$100 you get good government."

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