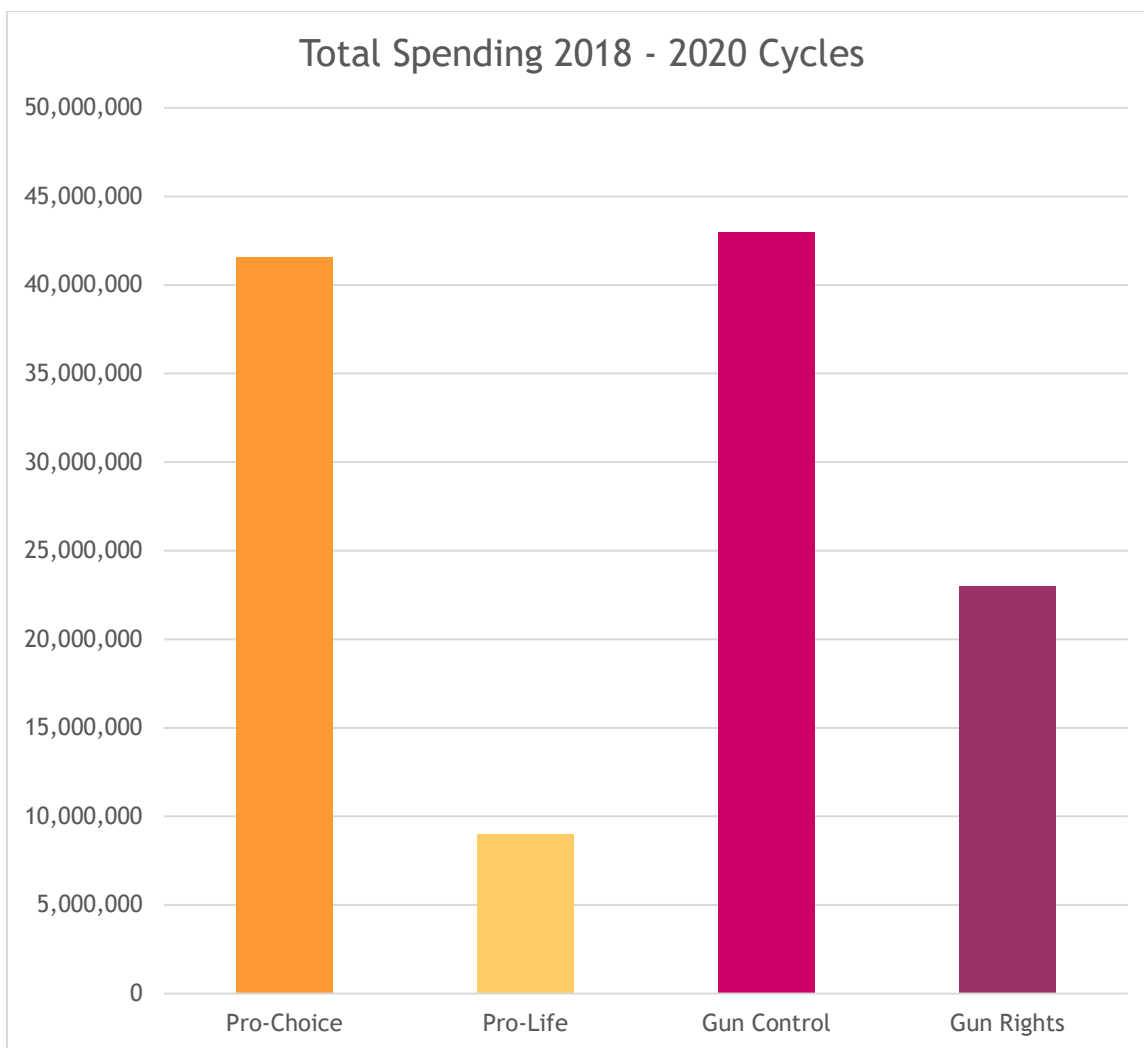


Abortion + Guns:

Ideology/Single-Interest Campaign Contributions

2018 - 2020 Election Cycles



	Pro-Choice¹	Pro-Life²	Gun Control	Gun Rights
2017 - 2018	\$16,315,181	\$2,604,853	\$5,442,703 ³	\$4,603,606 ⁴
2019 - 2020	\$24,260,269	\$6,407,722	\$37,529,915 ⁵	\$18,389,111 ⁶
Total	\$41,575,450	\$9,012,575	\$42,972,618	\$22,992,717

¹ Data pulled, sourced, and compiled later in this report

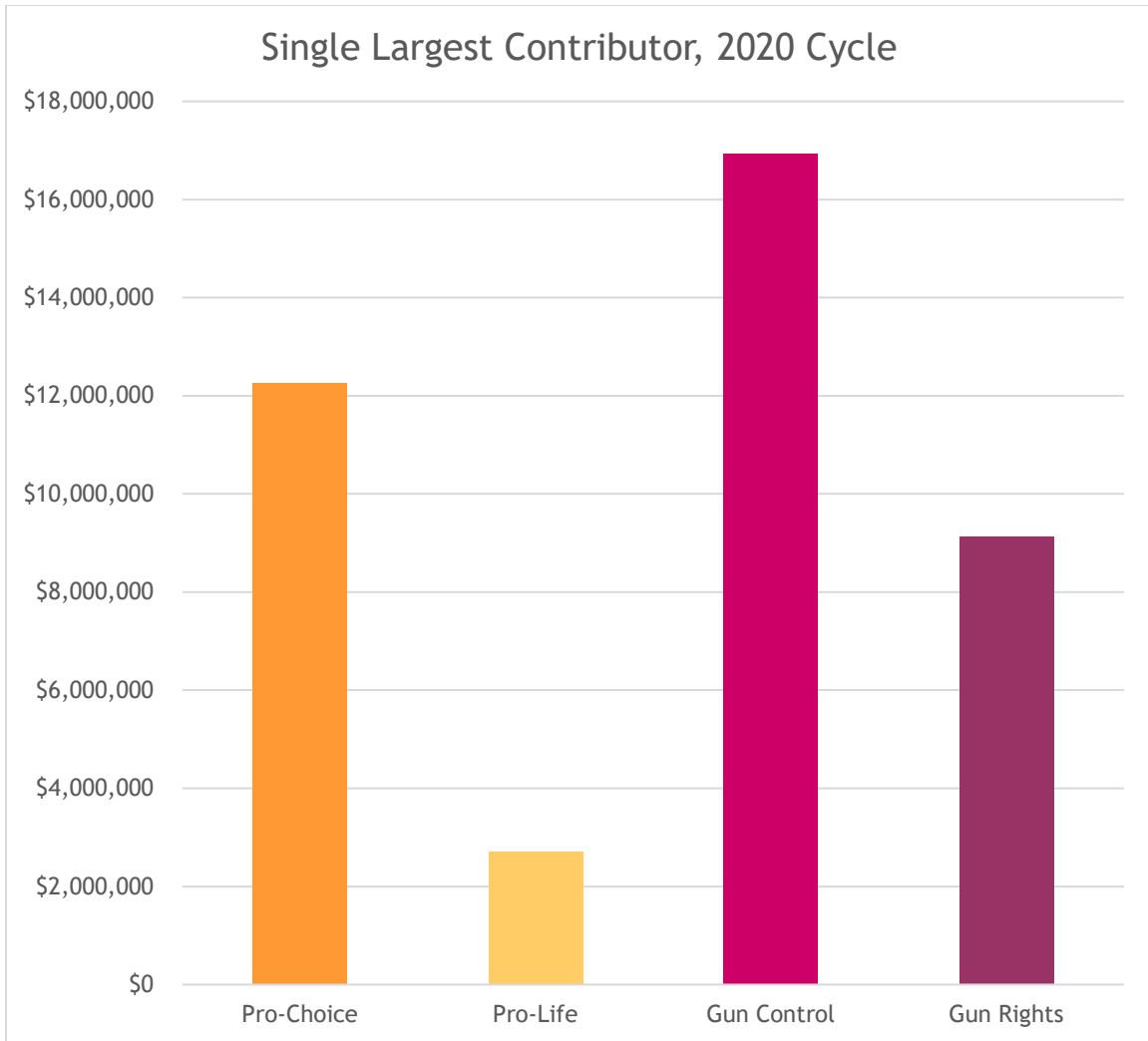
² Data pulled, sourced, and compiled later in this report

³ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/contrib.php?ind=Q12&Bkdn=DemRep&cycle=2018>

⁴ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/contrib.php?ind=Q13&Bkdn=DemRep&cycle=2018>

⁵ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/contrib.php?ind=Q12&Bkdn=DemRep&cycle=2020>

⁶ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/contrib.php?ind=Q13&Bkdn=DemRep&cycle=2020>



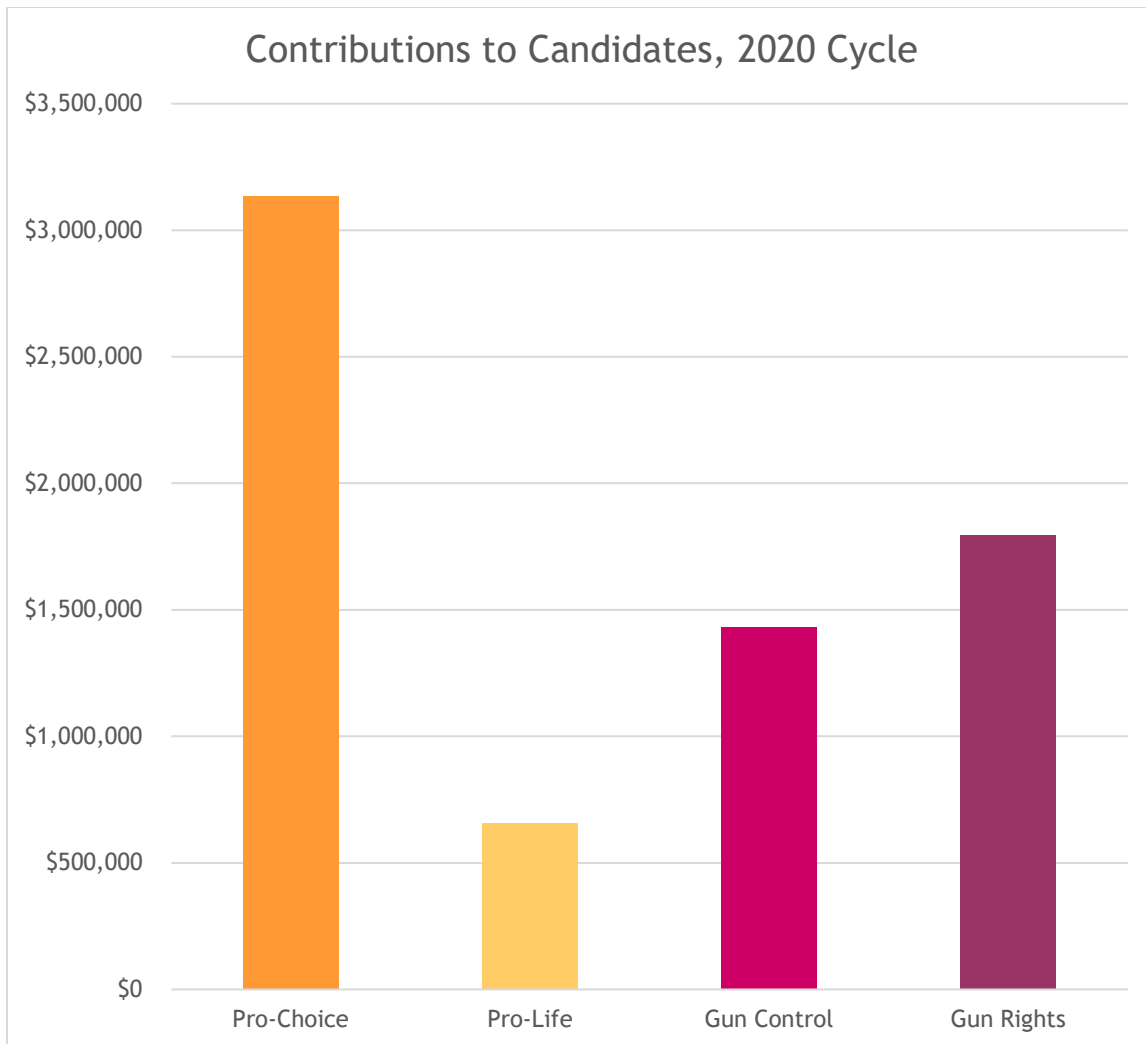
	Pro-Choice	Pro-Life	Gun Control	Gun Rights
Name	EMILY's List ⁷	Susan B. Anthony List ⁸	Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund ⁹	National Rifle Association ¹⁰
Total	\$12,250,629	\$2,709,187	\$16,926,048	\$9,126,706

⁷ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/indus.php?ind=Q15&cycle=2020>

⁸ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/indus.php?ind=Q14&cycle=2020>

⁹ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/indus.php?ind=Q12&cycle=2020>

¹⁰ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/indus.php?ind=Q13&cycle=2020>



	Pro-Choice¹¹	Pro-Life¹²	Gun Control¹³	Gun Rights¹⁴
Total	\$3,135,509	\$659,086	\$1,431,154	\$1,796,920

¹¹ NOTE: This total includes Pro-Abortion Rights contributions AND contributions from EMILY's List, Women's Political Committee, Tri-State Maxed Out Women, National Organization for Women, and Feminist Majority Foundation, which are listed under "Women's Issues" but include abortion in their mission or vision, or as an endorsement requirement. More information below in this report. <https://www.opensecrets.org/political-action-committees-pacs/industry-detail/Q15/2020> <https://www.opensecrets.org/political-action-committees-pacs/industry-detail/Q08/2020>

¹² <https://www.opensecrets.org/political-action-committees-pacs/industry-detail/Q14/2020>

¹³ NOTE: We did not research other categories to see whether they explicitly included gun control or gun rights. These numbers may be lower than accurate. <https://www.opensecrets.org/political-action-committees-pacs/industry-detail/Q12/2020>

¹⁴ <https://www.opensecrets.org/political-action-committees-pacs/industry-detail/Q13/2020>

Purpose & Background

Through *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, the court determined that independent expenditures for election communications were protected by the First Amendment. The 2010 election saw a surge of spending in congressional elections, particularly from outside spenders (i.e., groups other than the Republican and Democratic parties or candidates themselves).¹⁵

In the summer of 2013, Feminists Choosing Life of New York conducted research on pro-life and pro-choice contributions to the 2010 and 2012 elections. The final report demonstrated a stark disparity: pro-choice interest groups out-spent pro-life interest groups more than *twenty-five times* over.

In early January of 2017, EMILY's List, one of the most significant pro-choice funders, announced that they had raised a record \$90 million during the 2016 election cycle¹⁶, a demonstrable increase from the \$51.2 million raised in 2012¹⁷. FCLNY ACTION commissioned an updated report was conducted in order to explore the extent of this funding. Pro-choice groups spent \$40 million, compared to about \$800,000 spent by Pro-life organizations

The hotly contested 2020 election saw campaign contributions skyrocket yet again. Ideology and single-issue spending – the third highest category, after “Other” and “Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate” – totaled \$1.8 billion, of which about \$1.1 billion went directly to parties and candidates, mostly Democrats.¹⁸ This report attempts to provide a basic overview of a highly complex web of money.

Pro-Life Contributions

	2017 – 2018 ¹⁹	2019 - 2020 ²⁰
Susan B. Anthony List	\$1,278,703	\$2,709,187
National Right to Life	\$480,878	\$1,610,927
Pro-Life America, General Purpose Committee	\$0	\$730,763
National Pro-Life Alliance	\$159,500	\$307,000
Heroes for Babies – Right to Life Action	\$28,075	\$0
Protect Our Future	\$28,000	\$0
Voter Education PAC	\$25,500	\$0
Oes for Babies Right to Life	\$25,337	\$0
Florida Right to Life Education Fund		\$8,000
Republican National Coalition for Life	\$5,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$2,604,853	\$6,407,722

¹⁵ <https://www.opensecrets.org/news/2018/02/how-citizens-united-changed-campaign-finance/>

¹⁶ <https://emilyslist.org/news/entry/emilys-list-raises-record-90-million>

¹⁷ <https://www.emilyslist.org/pages/entry/our-history>

¹⁸ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/index.php?ind=A&cycle=2020>

¹⁹ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/contrib.php?ind=Q14&Bkdn=Source&cycle=2018>

²⁰ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/contrib.php?ind=Q14&Bkdn=DemRep&cycle=2020>

Pro-Choice Contributions

	2017 – 2018 ²¹	2019 - 2020 ²²
Planned Parenthood	\$5,989,122	\$6,348,023
Upstream USA	\$0	\$761,527
NARAL Pro-Choice America	\$1,153,518	\$676,805
Population Connection	\$140,855	\$149,198
Washington Women for Choice	\$35,000	\$143,000
Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte	\$0	\$62,235
Center for Reproductive Rights	\$14,629	\$56,872
Pathfinder International		\$56,142
Boulder Abortion Clinic	\$12,500	\$51,555
New York Choice PAC	\$19,950	\$51,500
Planned Parenthood Federation Board	\$0	\$43,742
Guttmacher Institute	\$7,268	\$30,476
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California	\$0	\$16,134
Planned Parenthood Advocates Pasadena & San Gabriel	\$7,993	\$6,500
Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas Bo	\$17,077	\$6,340
Arizona List	\$0	\$6,325
Planned Parenthood CA Central Coast	\$0	\$6,292
Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund	\$0	\$5,911
Planned Parenthood SW Ohio Region	\$0	\$5,900
Former President – Planned Parenthood	\$31,515	\$0
Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio	\$6,795	\$0
Vote Pro Choice	\$5,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$8,154,566	\$11,029,209

Some donors listed under “Women’s Issues” directly reference a pro-choice stance in their mission, vision, or endorsement/funding requirements. They are included here.²³

	2017 – 2018 ²⁴	2019 - 2020 ²⁵
EMILY’s List ²⁶	\$7,128,779	\$12,250,629
National Organization for Women ²⁷	\$130,253	\$636,572
Women’s Political Committee ²⁸	\$323,375	\$606,516
Tri-State Maxed Out Women ²⁹	\$249,123	\$405,751
Feminist Majority ³⁰	\$301,231	\$331,592
Annie’s List ³¹	\$27,854	\$0

²¹ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/contrib.php?ind=Q15&Bkd=DemRep&cycle=2018>

²² <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/contrib.php?ind=Q15&Bkd=DemRep&cycle=2020>

²³ None of the Women’s Issue groups directly referenced a pro-life stance.

²⁴ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/contrib.php?ind=Q08&Bkd=DemRep&cycle=2018>

²⁵ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/contrib.php?ind=Q08&Bkd=DemRep&cycle=2020>

²⁶ “Our focus is on putting the right Democratic pro-choice women into office.” <https://www.emilyslist.org/pages/entry/our-mission>

²⁷ “These issues include, but are not limited to: Reproductive rights and justice” <https://www.nowpac.org/process>

²⁹ “Founded in 2011, the Tri-State Maxed-Out Womens PAC is a female-led, grassroots organization that supports pro-choice, viable, Democratic women running for U.S. Congress.” <https://www.tristatemaxedoutwomenspac.org/>

³⁰ “The purpose of Feminist Majority is to promote equality for women and men, non-violence, reproductive health, peace, social justice and economic development and to enhance feminist participation in public policy.” <https://feministmajority.org/about/>

³¹ “We have raised \$20 Million to support progressive, pro-choice women...” <https://annieslist.com/>

TOTAL	\$8,160,615	\$14,231,060
--------------	--------------------	---------------------

Discussion

How do campaign contributions affect election results?

Endorsements may have a significant influence on a candidate’s ability to raise funds and gain support from individuals and other organizations. EMILY’s List in particular is considered a gatekeeper:

“For Democratic women, no endorsement is as sought after or as powerful as one conferred by Emily’s List, which functions as the political equivalent of the old-fashioned ‘Good Housekeeping’ seal of approval for voters and potential donors.”³²

The power of this organization could bear significant weight on the votes of elected officials, who rely on these endorsements. Organizations often spend more money on direct contributions and outside election spending than they do directly on lobbying, though the impact is the same.

However, the impact of abortion-related campaign contributions is difficult to measure, given the varying results and the complexity of the system.

How do campaign contributions affect public views?

According to Gallup Polls conducted annually, public opinion on abortion has been nearly evenly divided for decades.³³ Notably, however, a significantly higher percent identified as pro-choice in May 2022. This is the first time there was more than a 10% difference since 1996. It is not clear at this time whether this is temporary or permanent, or what caused the shift. Pro-choice campaign contributions were higher in 2020 than they had ever been, and the polling took place *immediately* following the leaked draft majority opinion from the Supreme Court, which indicated that *Roe v. Wade* would be overturned, which resulted in significant political and media response.

	Pro-choice	Pro-life
2018	48%	48%
2019	46%	49%
2020	48%	46%
2021	49%	47%
2022	55%	39%

How do special interest groups obscure campaign funding?

A single organization may have several political advocacy affiliates. Special interest groups may choose to split funding into several designations in order to maximize tax exemptions and minimize awareness of the extent of their funding. Alternatively, they may shuffle money to an outside organization with a broader mission to obscure the extent of special interest funding.

What can we expect moving forward?

This is the third report about abortion campaign finance completed by Feminists Choosing Life of New York. Spending has increased each time.

³² <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/04/us/politics/emilys-list-midterm-elections.html>

³³ <https://news.gallup.com/poll/1576/abortion.aspx>

	Pro-choice	Pro-life
2010-2012 Cycles	\$25,256,126	\$943,204
2014-2016 Cycles	\$40,072,991	\$828,278
2018-2020 Cycles	\$41,575,450	\$9,012,575

In light of the recent leaked Supreme Court draft, both pro-choice and pro-life organizations have already increased state-specific spending or have plans to do so.³⁴ It seems very likely that spending will continue to increase dramatically as the issue surges to the forefront as a policy concern, provided the draft ruling is accurate.

Methods

This report pulls data primarily from OpenSecrets.org, a site of political money run by the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan, independent, and nonprofit organization with a vision of empowering Americans through “access to clear and unbiased information about money’s role in politics and policy³⁵.”

This report looks at data specifically around federal campaign contributions. It does not explore lobbying³⁶ or general media campaigns, which are also used to impact elections and policies. As an example, Open Secrets reports that Gun Rights organizations spent \$190.4 million on lobbying in a 24-year span, compared to \$69.3 million in campaign contributions in 32 years.³⁷ This report also does not include state or local contributions. Some states do not require lobbyists to disclose payments.³⁸ In other words, the extent of political impact is obscured by looking at only a fragment of the data available.

Throughout this report, the terms “Pro-Choice” and “Pro-Life” have been used for consistency. Different sources used different terms, including “Anti-Abortion”, “Pro-Abortion-Rights”, “Anti-Choice” and “Reproductive Rights.”

Groups were included if they were listed directly under the categories or terms listed above, or if their mission, vision, or endorsement/funding requirements directly referenced abortion. Groups that endorsed pro-life or pro-choice candidates, but for a different or broader purpose were not included. As an example, The Fund for Policy Reform is the top Ideology/Single-Issue contributor in the 2021-2022 cycle, at \$25 million.³⁹ The second highest contributor is the Congressional Leadership Fund at \$18 million. The Fund for Policy Reform provides grants to a range of left-of-center policy organizations, addressing drug policy, criminal justice, and voter mobilization. In 2017, they gave a \$10 million grant to the Planned Parenthood Action Fund.⁴⁰ Regardless of their contributions, they did not focus on abortion and were not included in this report.

Feminists Choosing Life of New York ACTION gathered this information as carefully and objectively as possible. Any miscalculation amounts to human error and the complexity of the current system. This report is by no means comprehensive. Data was collected in May 2022.

³⁴ <https://www.opensecrets.org/news/2022/05/abortion-fight-breeds-ahead-of-2022-midterms-as-supreme-court-expected-to-overturn-roe-v-wade/>

³⁵ <https://www.opensecrets.org/about/>

³⁶ <https://www.opensecrets.org/federal-lobbying/issues/summary?cycle=2020&id=FAM>

³⁷ <https://www.opensecrets.org/news/issues/guns/>

³⁸ <https://www.opensecrets.org/news/2022/05/abortion-fight-breeds-ahead-of-2022-midterms-as-supreme-court-expected-to-overturn-roe-v-wade/>

³⁹ <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/indus.php?Ind=Q>

⁴⁰ <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/fund-for-policy-reform/>