

Loren Parks

Oregon's \$11 Million Man

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Accessible politics, accountable government

Democracy Reform Oregon is a non-partisan, not-for-profit group working to increase accountability and opportunities for participation in politics and governmental decision-making. Democracy Reform Oregon has been working on democracy reform issues since 1999 and was formerly the Money in Politics Research Action Project.

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Introduction

Can One Person Make a Difference In Politics? Yes, Especially With \$11 Million

In our one-person-one-vote system the importance of public participation in politics is stressed by groups of all political persuasions. Yet the role of major campaign contributors to candidates turns this slogan on its head.

This is a summary of **Loren Parks: Oregon's \$11 Million Man**, a report that documents the extent that one donor, Loren Parks, has influenced Oregon politics through the \$10,705,254 in cash and in-kind contributions as well as loans he has made to political committees since 1992 through the 2008 petition circulation season. Most of this, \$10,658,512 has come directly from Parks or from his Conservative PAC. The additional \$46,742 has come from Parks Foundation, Parks Medical, Parks-Abel Metal Products, or Parks Medical Electronics. As of mid-September he has contributed an additional \$675,000 to support Measures 61 and 62 and to oppose Measure 57, bringing his total campaign contributions by the end of the 2008 general election to at least \$11,380,254. While everyone can make a difference in politics and government with their vote, it sure helps to have \$11 million to contribute to Oregon candidates and ballot measures.

Parks' presence in Oregon politics has manifested itself in a number of ways:

Opposition Fundraising

An estimated \$34,500,000 has been raised by political committees opposing measures supported by Loren Parks since 1992 and fundraising by opponents of Kevin Mannix statewide candidate campaigns that have received significant support from Parks. The sources of these funds range from insurance companies contributing to defeat Bill Sizemore's Measure 42 to the unions representing 318,000 Oregon workers, particularly in the public sector, that have opposed Kevin Mannix measures and candidate campaigns that have received significant support from Loren Parks.

Conservative Activist Funding

Kevin Mannix, Bill Sizemore, Don McIntire and Russ Walker have been the major recipients of Loren Parks' contributions. Their financial support from Parks total \$7,167,024, either in direct contributions or support through long time ally Gregg Clapper's committees. Parks' newest beneficiary is Rob Kremer, founder of the Conservative Majority Project PAC for supporting conservative candidates. Kremer received \$20,000 from Parks thus far.

Parks – Working With Others (Or Not) and Public Perception

Loren Parks entered the political arena after the 1990 passage of Don McIntire's property tax Measure 5 and soon came to be called a new financial angel of Oregon's political right. Characterized as reclusive and independent-minded, Parks has occasionally responded to email questions from reporters but has rarely talked with reporters.

Loren Parks formed Conservative PAC and was its major donor to the tune of \$1,410,000 in 1994 and 1996. Reports are that he approached campaigning like a business sending handwritten

faxes from vacation trips with instructions like “keep on Sizemore’s back for signature and keep a tally.”¹ Lawsuits may have contributed to his dissolution of Conservative PAC. Since then, he primarily leaves it up to others to handle day-to-day campaign operations.

More recently Loren Parks has contributed to signature gathering efforts by making in-kind contributions to a petition circulation company. This gives Parks some level of control over signature gathering. With regards to Bill Sizemore initiatives, however, this is also a contribution pattern reported to be a way to navigate around the court injunction imposed on Sizemore. This injunction bars Sizemore from spending from political committee until a racketeering judgment has been paid. This judgment has grown to \$3.5 million in the wake of a 2002 civil trial.²

Loren Parks was briefly a member of the Oregon Round Table formed by Mark Hemstreet in 1995. Hemstreet recruited Parks to join this small group of pro-business with the goal of creating a \$1.2 million war chest. Parks didn’t last long as group member, though his contributions outstripped this goal. Clapper said, “Loren wanted to do it his own way.”³

After some early contributions from Conservative PAC to traditional Republican Party committees, Parks has typically rebuffed money requests from Republican leaders. Conservative PAC-funded Gregg Clapper ads criticizing rural Republicans, including then-Senate President Gordon Smith, in 1995 for supporting light rail prompted the latter’s spokesperson to call the ad “despicable” and that Clapper and Parks violated the principle of loyalty.⁴

Frugality is another reported Parks’ characteristic. In May 2000 Parks reportedly agreed with claims of Measure 81 supporters but did not contribute because he thought the campaign was wasting too much money on polling and consultants. On a personal level there are stories of Loren Parks complaining about the cost of a hamburger and mowing his own lawn. Yet he has been a generous donor to non-political interests ranging from fish habitat improvement to breast cancer research.⁵

An interest in hypnosis, including treatment of sexual problems that has included Loren Parks’ personal involvement with patients has raised questions about his political partnership with social conservative Kevin Mannix. Gregg Clapper defends Parks in regard to his interest in sex therapy saying, “it is a small part of his life.” Kevin Mannix said, “I’m not going there.”⁶

Don McIntire said, “He’s not a nut” when asked about Parks’ eccentricities.⁷ “I don’t necessarily agree with all of Loren’s political choices, but I do admire him for stepping up to the plate. It’s clear, obviously, that he’s not in the game for personal gain.”⁸

It has been reported that some in the conservative movement have made off-the-record comments that initiative political players like Kevin Mannix and Bill Sizemore are playing Parks “for a sucker” and count on him to write another check after being primed with emotional anti-

¹ “Politics one of tycoon’s obsessions,” *Oregonian*, October 8, 2000

² “Petitioner sloppiness spurs calls for reform,” *Salem Statesman Journal*, July 31, 2006

³ “Politics one of tycoon’s obsessions,” *Oregonian*, October 8, 2000

⁴ “Ads rile Republican leaders,” *Oregonian*, July 28, 1995

⁵ “The man behind Mannix,” *Willamette Week*, April 19, 2006

⁶ “Mannix, contributor seem an unlikely pair,” *Oregonian*, April 13, 2006

⁷ “Politics one of tycoon’s obsessions,” *Oregonian*, October 8, 2000

⁸ “The man behind Mannix,” *Willamette Week*, April 19, 2006

government rhetoric. Others find this amusing, “Those people don’t know Loren. This is not someone who can be manipulated,” said a long-time fishing partner of Loren Parks.⁹

The Man

Personal and Business

Loren Parks was born in 1926, and grew up in Wichita, KA. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946—as an aviation electronics technician’s mate, and then in the Shore Patrol. He holds a B.A. in psychology.

In 1961, coming “from abject poverty,” Parks started his business in Aloha called Parks Medical Electronics, of which he is the sole stockholder. This medical device company reportedly sells a few dozen different products and grossed \$8 million of revenue in 2005.¹⁰

Parks is also the registered agent for Parks Metal Products formed in 1995. In 2005, in response to a lawsuit Parks paid an employee he had terminated without cause a settlement of \$208,738 for breach of the company shareholder agreement.¹¹

Parks Elementary School

In 1995 Loren Parks paid \$1 million for the former Mt. Hood Christian School in Gresham and formed his own elementary school. According to his spokesman, Gregg Clapper, the school “would put the fear of God in public education officials” and that a nonreligious curriculum focused on the basics was planned. However, low enrollments – 70 students in a facility for 600 – and other issues including not sticking with educational basics frustrated Parks. Parks sold the building in 1997 while classes were still being held and advised the new owners to call the police and evict parents after the latter complained of construction taking place before the school year ended prompting Parks to abruptly close the school early.^{12,13}

Hypnosis Therapy

In his non-professional life Parks offers free psychological therapy in the form of exposition and recordings on the Internet at www.psychresearch.com. This website discusses Parks’ extensive experience using hypnosis to treat a wide range of physical and emotional ailments, including sexual complaints of both men and women as well as including stories of Parks personal involvement in mixing sexual activity and hypnosis that move beyond theory. At the bottom of each website page is this caveat: “The author of this page is not a state or medically-licensed professional.” The past president of the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis, Melvin Gravitz, said it would be “reprehensible” for a nonprofessional psychologist to attempt such a treatment.¹⁴

Two Settlements in Lawsuits Related to Parks’ Sexual Activity

Loren Parks has settled two separate lawsuits pertaining to his sexual activity.^{15,16}

⁹ “The man behind Mannix,” *Willamette Week*, April 19, 2006

¹⁰ “The man behind Mannix,” *Willamette Week*, April 19, 2006

¹¹ Satisfaction of Judgment, Circuit Court of Oregon, Washington County, Case No. C05882CV, filed July 25, 2006

¹² “School face a wealthy challenger,” *Oregonian*, January 11, 1995

¹³ “Millionaire closes his back-to-basics school,” *Oregonian*, June 5, 1997

¹⁴ “Parks dabbles in hypnotic healing,” *Oregonian*, October 8, 2000

¹⁵ “Dirty old [money] man,” *Willamette Week*, May 15, 2002

¹⁶ “Mannix, contributor seem an unlikely pair,” *Oregonian*, April 12, 2006

- In a 1983 court filing, a woman, described in the filings as “somewhat retarded,” said Parks had sex with her when he was approached for hypnotic therapy. Parks settled the lawsuit in 1986 with an acknowledgement that they’d had a sexual relationship.
- Parks Medical Electronics employee Maria Guerin filed a Bureau of Labor and Industry complaint in November 2001 against Loren Parks claiming sexual harassment created a hostile work environment. The state complaint was withdrawn and a federal lawsuit filed in 2002 charging Guerin was pressured to have sex with Parks during an overseas business trip, that Parks frequently sent her and fellow employees emails with sexually explicit graphics, statements, and joke, and that false documents were placed in her personnel file including a release of liability. The case was settled in 2004.

The Money – Charitable Giving

Grants to National Political Foundations as well as Sizemore and Mannix Foundations

Parks has a long track record of donating to charities through private foundations. The Psychological Research Foundation was established in 1977 and, though still listed on Loren Parks’ website, www.psychresearch.com, is no longer active. The Parks Foundation is a family foundation formed in 1979. This dissolved in 2003 after Loren Parks moved to Nevada. A new Parks Foundation and the Parks Educational Foundation were established in Nevada in 2004 and are still active.

Since 2000, the top recipients of support from either the Oregon or Nevada Parks Foundations and the Parks Educational Foundation have been \$704,900 to Americans for Tax Reform and \$342,980 to FreedomWorks Foundation or its predecessor Citizens for a Sound Economy Foundation.

FreedomWorks Foundation tax records indicate payments of \$553,739 with \$200,089 to the Mannix law firm for fundraising consulting in 2005 as well as \$268,650 and \$85,000 for legal services reported in both 2006 and 2007.

Mannix had been paying old loans and consolidating debt so it was owed to just his law firm as he prepared to run for the May 2008 Republican nomination in the 5th Congressional District. His campaign manager said none of the money came from Loren Parks.¹⁷

An *Oregonian* editorial raised questions about Mannix’s mix of business and political fundraising. Though legal, the editorial characterizes his money shifts as “neither aboveboard nor wise.” The *Oregonian* article and subsequent editorial did not include information on \$312,980 in Parks foundation support for FreedomWorks Foundation reported on 2004, 2005, and 2006 tax forms filed by the Parks Foundation and Parks Educational Foundation. If this information had been reported, it may well have increased the *Oregonian*’s editorial concerns about “campaign contributions masquerading as attorney fees.”¹⁸

Other groups receiving funding from Parks foundations include:

- Kevin Mannix’s Criminal Justice Foundation and Civil Justice Foundation received \$267,900 and \$93,900 respectively from Parks foundations for work from 1998 through

¹⁷ “Mannix pays old debt as he preps for the new race,” *Oregonian*, March 18, 2008

¹⁸ “With Mannix, it’s hard to follow the money,” *Oregonian*, March 23, 2008

2001 for a total of \$361,800. As described in *A Political History of Kevin Mannix*, activities of these Mannix foundations including payments to Mannix's law firms for a variety of activities.

- Bill Sizemore's Oregon Taxpayers United Foundation received grants totaling \$323,500 between 1993 and 2004.
- The American Constitutional Law Foundation and the Pacific Legal Foundation received \$65,000 and \$48,000 respectively between 1994 and 1997.
- Oregonians in Action received \$5,000 in 2001.
- The Cascade Policy Institute received \$25,000 in three grants between 1992 and 1995.

Heath Care and Fish Habitat Support Grants

Foundations controlled by Loren Parks have also made major contributions regarding health care and other community concerns. The Center for Natural Oncology in California has received \$326,327 for work from 2005 through 2007. In 1997 St. Vincent Medical Foundation received \$250,000 for breast cancer research. The Parks Elementary School received \$120,000 from 1995 through 1997. In 2007 the Henderson Community Foundation in Nevada received \$100,000.

An avid fisherman who reportedly once owned 18 fishing boats, Parks gave \$242,284 to Tillamook Anglers for fish habitat improvement and purchasing land for public boat launches on the Trask River.

Defamation Lawsuit

Ruth Bendl formed the signature gathering company Canvasser Services Inc. in 1994 and operated through 1996 receiving \$60,150 from Loren Parks' Conservative PAC. Parks fired Bendl in August 1996.

Bendl filed a defamation lawsuit with a request for \$350,000 in damages against Parks, alleging he accused her of fraud and dishonesty during petition circulation on six initiatives in 1996. Parks testified Bendl was fired because signature gathering had ended. A jury found in her favor and awarded her \$135,000.¹⁹

Parks countersued alleging that Bendl had diverted \$141,000 of his money into three other initiatives sponsored by Gordon Miller, also using Canvasser Services, Inc. He also alleged defamation, claiming Bendl had told officials of a possible money-laundering scheme.²⁰

Misuse of Nonprofit Foundation for Political Purposes – Case Settled for \$50,000

In the course of her defamation lawsuit against Loren Parks, Bendl raised questions with state elections officials and Multnomah County's district attorney's office. Two reviews were triggered by these conversations.

The state Elections Division explored whether or not a Parks Medical Electronics contribution to Washington, D.C.-based National Taxpayers Union in late 1993 ended up back in Oregon to

¹⁹ "Appeals court reinstates jury verdict," *Oregonian*, January 6, 2000

²⁰ "Millionaire defined employee, jury finds," *Oregonian*, May 9, 1998

assist Bill Sizemore's Oregon Taxpayers United in signature gathering. After Parks and the National Taxpayers Union indicated that the contribution had not been earmarked, the review of possible violation of campaign reporting laws ended.

In August 2000, the Department of Justice filed a lawsuit alleging 17 incidents where the Parks Foundation violated IRS and Oregon state law restrictions on the political activities of a family foundation. At least \$533,835 was alleged to have been illegally funneled through the Parks Foundation, which obtains its support from Parks or his company, and used to support ballot measure campaigns. Gregg Clapper's agency was alleged to have received about half of the money that may have been inappropriately transferred.²¹

In March 2001 Loren Parks agreed to pay \$50,000 to cover legal fees related to the Department of Justice investigation. The stipulated agreement barred the Parks Foundation from contributing to political committees and from paying for the production, publishing, or broadcasting political advertisements or other political materials.²²

The Money – Political Contributions

\$10,705,254– Loren Parks' Political Contributions 1992 through August 2008

Loren Parks is best known, however, for his involvement in Oregon politics as the state's largest individual contributor. Parks has given \$10,705,254 to candidates, petition circulation, and ballot measure campaigns beginning in 1992 and as reported the 2008 petition circulation season. This figure includes cash and in-kind contributions as well as loans and ensures that contributions towards signature gathering efforts on measures that will appear on the November 2008 ballot are included.

Kevin Mannix has formed Oregon Anti-Crime Alliance PAC to support Measure 61 and 62 and oppose Measure 47 on the November 2008 ballot. Loren Parks has contributed \$600,000 as reported through September and another \$75,000 was donated by Parks Medical Electronics. More support from Parks may be contributed to this Mannix committee before November. But adding this \$675,000 to contributions from Parks brings his total to \$11,380,254

Parks and Conservative PAC

Most of Parks' political activities in 1994 and 1996 related to ballot measures and were carried out through his Conservative PAC to which he gave \$1,410,000 for the committee's activities. These donations were loans but records don't indicate that they were paid off.

Especially during petition circulation season leading up to the 1994 elections, Parks seems to have been quite involved in signature gathering efforts since much of the Conservative PAC's spending was on that. He paid \$17,000 to Kimball Management, a California based signature gathering firm, and \$10,150 to Canvasser Services, the signature gathering company formed by Ruth Bendl. Conservative PAC also spent \$77,863 on temporary employment agencies that was reported to be for signature gathering workers.²³

²¹ "Nonprofit accused of promoting ballot issues," *Oregonian*, August 26, 2000

²² "Parks' Foundation settles suit," *Oregonian*, March 2, 2001

²³ "Parks' politics," *Oregonian*, June 20, 1994

After 1994 and 1996 the level of hands-on involvement by Loren Parks in forming PACs and managing signature gathering declined. On Initiative 60 in 2002, however, Loren Parks returned to play the role of PAC director and, for the first and only time, was a chief petitioner for that campaign's unsuccessful petition circulation. After this initiative effort Loren Parks continued to make campaign contributions and left it up to others to be chief petitioners and form political committees.

Loren Parks Key Donor in Launch of Bill Sizemore and Oregon Taxpayers United

Many inaccurately credit Bill Sizemore with 1990's Measure 5 when Sizemore's entry into Oregon politics followed that measure and earlier anti-tax work by Frank Eisenzimmer and Don McIntire. Support from Loren Parks, though, was a key element in making Bill Sizemore the political player he is in our state. Parks later meet with McIntire, Frank Eisenzimmer and Robert Randall to plan conservative causes and candidates to support during the 1990s.

Eisenzimmer formed Oregon Taxpayers United in the summer of 1993 and hired Bill Sizemore as executive director. "Loren was one of the two primary donors – Robert Randall was the other – who helped us launch Oregon Taxpayers United back in 1993," said Sizemore.²⁴

Support for Don McIntire Proposals

Between 1993 and 2002, Loren Parks contributed \$1,007,237 to initiative petition and ballot measure campaigns in which Don McIntire was involved:

- **1993:** Parks reportedly backed McIntire by contributing to a committee that ran ads opposing Measure 1, an exemption for urban-renewal bonds under then-current tax limits on a June special election ballot. Contribution records are no longer available on this election, so no dollar figure is available. Voters defeated the Measure 3 to 1. In November, Parks also contributed \$3,806 for newspaper ads to defeat another Measure 1, a sales tax referral that was emphatically rejected by voters.
- **1996:** Parks contributed \$29,782 to Initiative 55, limiting the ability of the legislature to change citizen initiatives and referendum measures, but it failed to qualify for the ballot.
- **1997:** Don McIntire and Ruth Bendl were PAC directors in a campaign that unsuccessfully opposed a legislative referral pertaining to property taxes. Voters enacted Measure 50 in a 1997 special election, though Loren Parks gave \$5,000 to the No on Shifty Fifty PAC. Measure 50 was a legislative fix for Bill Sizemore's property tax Measure 47 passed in 1996.
- **2000:** Although Parks did not contribute to McIntire's Yes on Measure 8 PAC, he did give Greg Clapper's committee \$488,089 to work on McIntire's cap on state appropriations as well as Sizemore's Measure 91 to make federal taxes fully deductible on state forms. In this analysis this figure is split between support for McIntire and Sizemore from Loren Parks. Both measures failed.
- **2002:** Gregg Clapper and Don McIntire were chief petitioners on Measure 21, revising procedures for filling judicial vacancies. Parks contributed \$124,605 during the signature-

²⁴ "The man behind Mannix," *Willamette Week*, April 19, 2006

gathering phase, but did not contribute during the general election. Parks did contribute \$600,000 to the Vote Yes on 21 & 22, Stop the Judges From (Bleep) You Pac formed by Gregg Clapper. Both measures were defeated.

Support for Bill Sizemore Proposals and Oregon Taxpayers United

Loren Parks has contributed \$1,882,435 to Bill Sizemore, Sizemore's Oregon Taxpayers United PAC and Sizemore allies, including Oregon Taxpayers United founder Frank Eisenzimmer, Jeanette Basl, and Russ Walker. Parks' support started in 1992 with a \$1,100 contribution to Oregon Taxpayers United and has continued through to the present where Parks is the major donor to Sizemore petitions, four of which have qualified for the November 2008 ballot. Parks' support to Sizemore, Oregon Taxpayers United and his allies between those years includes:

- **1994:** Parks gave \$182,202 to support Measure 5, limiting property taxes, and Measure 8, requiring public employees to pay for part of pension. While both passed, the latter was overturned as unconstitutional.
- **1996:** Parks contributed \$150,000 to Greg Clapper's PAC supporting Measure 32, a repeal of a bill authorizing bonds for light rail and other transportation projects that Sizemore also supported.
- **2000:** Loren Parks gave \$488,089 to Gregg Clapper's Paying a Tax on a Tax Just Isn't Fair PAC that supported Don McIntire's Measure 8 and Bill Sizemore's Measure 91 to allow full deductibility of federal taxes on state forms. This figure is divided between McIntire and Sizemore calculations of support from Parks. Also in 2000, Parks gave \$488,089 to Clapper's Let's Put the Children First PAC in support of Measure 95, a constitutional amendment requiring student learning to determine teacher pay and retention. Measure 95 failed.
- **2006:** Parks gave \$100,000 to qualify Sizemore's Measure 42 to prohibit insurance companies from using credit scores in calculating rates. Measure 42 failed.
- **2008:** Parks contributed \$491,500 for signature gathering on four Sizemore Measures. Measure 58 would prohibit teaching in languages other than English for more than two years, Measure 59 would create unlimited deduction for federal income taxes on Oregon tax returns, Measure 60 would create "classroom performance" as determinant for teacher pay and retention, and Measure 64, that would require penalties for use of public funds for political purposes.

After the 2000 election season Loren Parks backed away from support of Bill Sizemore until 2006, perhaps because of bad publicity linked to Sizemore's being found guilty of racketeering in connection to signature gathering fraud and violations of campaign finance laws. (For more information see: *A Political History of Bill Sizemore: Profit vs. Policy Motives, Supporters and Opponents, Fair Fights or Fraudulent Tactics*, available at www.democracyreform.org)

Term Limits – Only Early Support from Loren Parks

The idea of limiting the term of office for elected officials enjoyed popularity during the 1990s. Loren Parks was an early supporter, giving \$40,000 to Eisenzimmer's term-limits proposal, Measure 3, in 1992. Passed by voters, Measure 3 was eventually found unconstitutional. Parks

contributed \$50,000 to 2002's Initiative Petition 168 to restore term-limits but is did not qualify. Parks did not contribute to 2004's Measure 45 that was defeated.

Loren Parks and Gregg Clapper

Gregg Clapper is a radio station owner and political consultant. He is best known for his frequently negative radio campaigns and colorful political committee names such as the "Don't Let the Whackos Get Away with the Lies This Time" committee.

His growing involvement in Oregon politics is largely a result of the friendship he formed with Loren Parks in 1993. Over the following 15 years, Parks has personally or through his Conservative PAC contributed \$3,420,133 to Clapper PACs supporting or opposing ballot measures or conducting independent expenditure campaigns opposing candidates. Ways in which Parks' support has influenced Clapper's political activities include:

- **Involvement in a wide range of conservative issues:** Clapper has received funding for work on a wide range of issues including public employee compensation, voter approval of tax increases, light rail funding opposition, merit pay for teachers, mandatory minimum sentences and repeal of ban on hunting bears and cougars.
- **Working with a broad network of conservative Oregon activists:** Parks' contributions has allowed Clapper to support most of the key conservative activists in the state, including: Measure 5 proponents Don McIntire and Frank Eisenzimmer, Bill Sizemore, Kevin Mannix, Senator Ted Ferrioli, Mark Hemstreet, Wes LeMatta, and Crime Victims United's Steve Doell.
- **Influencing statewide candidate politics.** Clapper's involvement in candidate campaigns has focused on efforts to influence – sometimes in unintended ways – Republican primaries through negative ad campaigns, including the 1994 Denny Smith-Craig Berkman contest for Republican gubernatorial candidate, and Ron Saxton's 2002 and 2006 runs to be the Republican gubernatorial candidate.
- **Use of negative campaign advertising.** Clapper's first radio ads accused the state of observing the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday in order to pay back state employees who contributed to Barbara Robert's gubernatorial campaign.²⁵ Clapper produced ads run by Kevin Mannix's 2000 attorney general campaign featuring convicted murderer Kip Kinkel suggesting Hardy Myers was soft on crime.²⁶ Mannix lost that race.
- **Independent expenditures.** Parks has a history of contributing to Gregg Clapper PACs that produce independent expenditures attacking candidates. In 1994, \$12,655 went for ads from the "Let's Shine a Little Light on 'Em and See if They Scamper committee that criticized Craig Berkman during his race against Denny Smith for the Republican gubernatorial nomination. In the 2002 primary, \$25,536 went for ads against Ron Saxton in the Republican gubernatorial primary that also included Kevin Mannix and Jack Roberts. The ads were reported to be intended to assist Roberts, but Mannix won that contest. In 2006, \$175,000 went to the Neil Goldschmidt's Real Good Friend Ron Saxton PAC for ads linking Saxton to Goldschmidt was disgraced after his sexual abuse of a girl.

²⁵ "In radio ads, Gresham man says state lies about budget," *Oregonian*, January 26, 1993

²⁶ "Political ads use Kinkel case," *Oregonian*, October 18, 2000

Parks' support has not always been completely in line with traditional "right wing" causes. In 1997 special election, Parks contributed \$150,000 to Oregon to Die PAC, the only donor to Clapper's Don't Let Them Shove Their Religion Down Your Throat committee. The committee opposed Measure 51, an effort by the Catholic Church and others to repeal Measure 16, Death with Dignity that had been adopted in 1994. The Measure 51 repeal attempt failed.

Clapper's relationship with Parks also played a role in his involvement with Jack Roberts' run for Republican candidate for governor in 2002. His duties in the campaign were unclear, however, there were reports that its ultimate purpose was keeping Parks from supporting Mannix in the primary fight with Roberts and Ron Saxton.²⁷ Parks did refrain from contributing in the primary but did donate to Mannix his unsuccessful general election campaign.

Loren Parks and Kevin Mannix

Loren Parks was reportedly introduced to Kevin Mannix in the fall of 1993 through Bob Tiernan, a Republican legislator from Lake Oswego who joined Mannix as a chief petitioner on Parks-supported Measures 10, 11, and 17. Mannix said "Loren wanted to support anti-crime efforts," and reflected about Parks that "He's one of the folks who says, 'You can't take it with you, so why don't you do something good with it while you're here?'"²⁸ Over the next 14 years, Loren Parks, personally or through his Conservative PAC, would contribute \$3,384,518 in support of Kevin Mannix's candidate and ballot measure campaigns.

Loren Parks has contributed \$1,733,145 directly to five Mannix candidate campaigns:

- **1996:** Mannix unsuccessfully ran for Oregon attorney general against Hardy Myers in the Democratic primary. Parks contributed \$500.
- **1998:** Mannix returned to his seat in the state legislature as a Republican with the help of \$8,645 from Parks.
- **2000:** Parks contributed \$210,000 to Mannix in his unsuccessful run as a Republican against Hardy Myers for attorney general. During this campaign Mannix ran a controversial attack ad against Myers featuring Kip Kinkel that were produced by Gregg Clapper. In 2001 Parks gave Mannix another \$115,000.
- **2002:** Declining to support any of the Republican primary candidates for governor in the three-way Jack Roberts-Ron Saxton-Kevin Mannix race, Parks contributes \$25,000 to Mannix after he wins the primary followed by a \$250,000 contribution – reportedly the largest one-time contribution by an individual to an Oregon campaign – and another \$25,000 contribution in the general election. Total contributions from Parks to Kevin Mannix came to \$300,000 but Mannix lost to Democrat Ted Kulongoski.
- **2006:** Parks contributed \$766,000 to Kevin Mannix for Governor. Mannix lost the Republican primary to Ron Saxton.

²⁷ "Roberts' campaign gains voice of far right," *Oregonian*, October 10, 2001

²⁸ "Aloha manufacturer gives conservatives a big boost," *Oregonian*, June 20, 1994

- **Post 2006 primary:** Parks has contributed another \$333,000 after Mannix's 2006 primary contest through summer of 2008.

Mannix also received indirect support totaling \$288,961 from Parks for his candidate races:

- **2000:** In the attorney general race, Parks contributed \$41,200 to Mannix's Justice for All II PAC, which in turn contributed money to Mannix's candidate campaign. Another top donor to the Mannix campaign giving a \$62,761 in-kind contribution was a committee formed by Gregg Clapper to oppose Measure 94 that received all of its funding from Loren Parks. Measure 94 was an unsuccessful attempt to repeal Mannix's Measure 11.
- **2002:** Parks contributed \$125,000 to the Oregon Republican Party – a check hand-delivered by Mannix – who wrote a check to Mannix's candidate campaign the same day.

Loren Parks has contributed \$1,422,412 on 15 Mannix initiative petition and ballot measure campaigns between 1994 and 2008. Throughout the course of those 14 years, Parks has focused his support on “tough on crime” measures:

- **1994:** Parks Conservative PAC contributed \$154,405 to Measures 10 and 11 restricting ability of legislature to reduce voter-approved sentences, and Measure 17 creating mandatory sentencing. Nearly half, \$78,655, went to Greg Clapper's pro-10, 11 and 17 PAC. All of these measures passed.
- **1996:** Parks contributed \$33,641 to Initiative 63, another minimum sentencing proposal that didn't qualify. He also contributed \$270,162 to Mannix's Justice for All II PAC for Measure 40, a constitutional amendment expanding admissible evidence and establishing crime victims' rights. Parks also gave \$200,000 to Clapper's committee supporting Measure 40. The measure passed but was subsequently overturned by the Oregon Supreme Court in the case of *Armatta v. Kitzhaber* due to Measure 40 including more than one amendment to the state constitution.
- **1998:** Kevin Mannix and Crime Victims United's Steve Doell received \$85,000 to gather signatures for what would become Measure 61, a follow up to Measure 11 setting minimum sentences for a new set of crimes related to property offenses. A legal challenge to certification of the measure led to the Oregon Supreme Court ruling it had not qualified but the court did not remove it from the November 1998 ballot. Secretary of State Phil Keisling resolution of the issue was to not count votes cast for the measure.
- **1999:** The Parks Foundation contributed \$14,101 to Mannix's Justice for All II PAC to pass Measures 69 through 78, seven referrals Mannix helped get passed through the legislature that were a breakdown of Measure 40 to avoid *Armatta* violations. Parks also gave \$181,837 to Clapper's PAC in support of these referrals. Four of the seven “sons of 40” measures passed, suggesting voters wanted to balance crime-victims' rights with fairness in the criminal justice system.
- **2004:** Parks only contributed \$6,600 to Mannix's Justice for All II PAC that year, part of a two-year drop in contributions by Parks following his move to Henderson, Nevada.

- **2008:** Mannix's Measure 61, expanding minimum sentencing, and Measure 62, allocating 15 percent of lottery funds to crime prevention, have received \$301,666 from Parks to qualify for the ballot. Parks contributed another \$175,000 to Initiative Petition 132, modifying criminal sanction laws, however, the petition was withdrawn.

Loren Parks has also contributed \$600,000 to Mannix's Oregon Anti-Crime Alliance Pact supporting Measures 61 and 62 as well as opposing Measure 57, the less costly alternative to Measure 61 placed on the ballot by the legislature. Parks Medical Electronics has also made a \$75,000 to this general election effort. It isn't known, however, if more donations will be received from Parks before the November 2008 election.

Loren Parks and Russ Walker

Russ Walker formed Oregon Citizens for a Sound Economy political committee in September of 2000. Citizens for a Sound Economy, now known as FreedomWorks, is a national group headed by Dick Armey that focuses on lower tax and less government.

Parks' support began for Russ Walker in 2006 and totals \$892,834:

- He contributed \$357,500 directly to a chief petitioner committee and to two ally PACs for signature gathering on Walker's Measure 40, an effort to change judicial elections and Measure 41, a repeat attempt for full exemption of federal deductions on state forms. One of these groups also qualified Measure 39 to the ballot regarding condemnation procedures. Measure 39 passed. Parks contributed an additional \$200,000 to Oregon Family Farm Association PAC that gave financial support to the Our Courts committee run by Walker in support of Measure 40. Measures 40 and 41 failed.
- Parks was top donor to Walker's Initiative 51 limiting attorneys' contingency fees and Initiative 53, requiring sanctions for frivolous lawsuits. Parks gave \$167,667 to each campaign. Neither campaign collected enough valid signatures to qualify for the ballot.

Russ Walker works with both Bill Sizemore and Kevin Mannix. Walker is chief petitioner with Sizemore on Measure 60. Walker's chief petitioner PACs working on Initiatives 51 and 53 made contributions to Mannix's signature gathering efforts on Measures 61 and 62.

Loren Parks Contributions to Candidates

Mannix's election contests have received far more money from Parks than any other candidate. Other candidates have received contributions at a much lower level, including:

- Bob Tiernan received from Parks \$86,050 for his legislative races and unsuccessful 1998 run for the Oregon Supreme Court.
- Jack Roberts got \$75,000 for his unsuccessful Supreme Court race in 2006.
- Parks gave Greg Byrne \$50,000 for his unsuccessful 2000 Supreme Court contest.

Parks contributing to judicial candidates may have been prompted by the *Armatta* case. Except for Mannix's 1996 run for attorney general as a Democrat, Republicans have been the only recipients of Parks' candidate campaign contributions.