



THE CENTER FOR  
PUBLIC INTEGRITY

*Investigative Journalism in the Public Interest*



**Federal Trade Commission Workshop**

Dec. 1-2, 2009

# **How Will Journalism Survive the Internet Age?**

**Bill Buzenberg**  
Center for Public Integrity



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# Who's Behind the Financial Meltdown?

## THE TOP 25 SUBPRIME LENDERS AND THEIR WALL STREET BACKERS

# THE SUBPRIME 25

These top 25 lenders were responsible for nearly \$1 trillion of subprime loans, according to a [Center for Public Integrity analysis](#) of 7.2 million "high interest" loans made from 2005 through 2007. Together, the companies account for about 72 percent of high-priced loans reported to the government at the peak of the subprime market. Securities created from subprime loans have been blamed for the economic collapse from which the world's economies have yet to recover.

Countrywide Financial Corp. #01			
Ameriquest Mortgage Co./ACC Capital Holdings Corp. #02			
Option One Mortgage Corp./H&R Block Inc. #06			
WFC Mortgage Corp./General Electric Co. #10			
IndyMac Bancorp, Inc. #14			
American General Finance Inc./American International Group Inc. #18			
	New Century Financial Corp. #03	First Franklin Corp./National City Corp./Merrill Lynch & Co. #04	Long Beach Mortgage Co./Washington Mutual #05
	Fremont Investment & Loan/Fremont General Corp. #07	Wells Fargo Financial/Wells Fargo & Co. #08	HSBC Finance Corp./HSBC Holdings plc #09
	BNC Mortgage Inc./Lehman Brothers #11	Chase Home Finance/JPMorgan Chase & Co. #12	Accredited Home Lenders Inc./Lone Star Funds V #13
	CitiFinancial / Citigroup Inc. #15	EquiFirst Corp./Regions Financial Corp./Barclays Bank plc #16	Encore Credit Corp./ ECC Capital Corp./Bear Stearns Cos. Inc. #17
	Wachovia Corp. #19	GMAC LLC/Cerberus Capital Management #20	NovaStar Financial Inc. #21

# STATES OF DISCLOSURE

## The Center's 50-State Ranking of Standards for Legislators

[Home](#) [Article](#) [Rankings](#) [Survey](#) [About](#) [Archive](#)

### Louisiana, Mississippi Movin' Up; 20 States Still Flunk

BY CAITLIN OINLEY | JUNE 24, 2009

Two southern states — Louisiana and Mississippi — made the biggest strides in the Center for Public Integrity's latest financial disclosure rankings for state legislators, but 20 out of the 50 states still received a failing grade and three of those states have no disclosure requirements at all.

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Fourteen states in all have improved their disclosure laws since the Center's last survey in 2006. In addition to Louisiana and Mississippi, Oregon, and Connecticut moved up in the rankings, while Massachusetts suffered the biggest drop.

Among the states that received failing grades are Illinois, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota. The number of F's represents an improvement, though minor, over the 24 states that failed in both 2006 and 1999. Idaho, Michigan, and Vermont continue to tie for last place, as no personal financial disclosure laws exist, or have ever existed, in those states.

"Citizens have a right to expect a certain amount of basic and personal information about their elected officials," said Mary Boyle, vice president for communications for Common Cause. Disclosure laws allow the public "to make a judgment about whether there are conflicts of interest," Boyle said. When states have weak or nonexistent disclosure laws, she added, "the public knows less about an elected official."

The Center has been reporting on disclosure requirements in state legislatures since 1999, and bases its rankings on a 43-question survey that measures public access to information on legislators' employment, investments, personal finances, property holdings, or other activities outside the legislature. Center researchers obtain answers to the survey questions by examining state statutes and disclosure forms, and interviewing state ethics officers. Survey answers are assigned a numerical value adding up to a possible 100 points; the highest scores reflect the highest degree of disclosure. The Center defines a failing grade as a score of less than 80 points on the survey.

[Read more](#)

**INTERACTIVE MAP**  
LAUNCH >>

**Disclosure Rankings**  
Find out where your state ranks in our nationwide comparison of legislative financial disclosure requirements using this interactive map.

**SURVEY RESULTS**

What questions did we ask the states and how did your state answer?  
[See the survey results >>](#)

**Listen to the Podcast**

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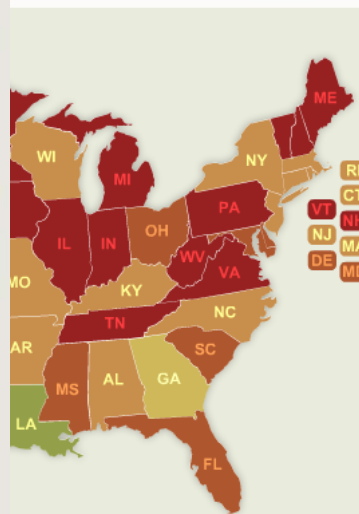
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## Center's 50-State Ranking of Standards for Legislators

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Select a state to view its report card

grade colors: [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [F](#)

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# THE TRANSPORTATION LOBBY

Nearly 1,800 Interest Groups  
Want *Something* From A New Transport Bill



ARTICLES ▾ MAP ABOUT THIS PROJECT

TRACK THIS INVESTIGATION  

## Introduction

America's transportation policy is dysfunctional. It's also nearly bankrupt. Now, as debate reaches a crescendo over a new \$500 billion transportation bill, can the national interest trump hundreds of special interests?

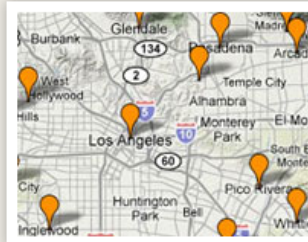
Don't bet on it.

[Read More](#) | [About This Project](#)

## LOBBYING

### A Lobbying Free-for-All

Almost 1,800 special interests spent at least \$45 million over the first six months of this year to "help" Congress draft a new transportation bill. Who are they? Check out our story and the accompanying interactive map. [Read More](#)



Who's lobbying on transportation in your area? Check out the interactive map.

## TranspoBlog

Nov. 05, 2009, 3:32 pm

### Buffett's New Company Sure Knows How to Lobby

Oct. 26, 2009, 9:27 am

### While Federal Action Stalls, a Battle Rages in Virginia



Oct. 02, 2009, 6:00 am

### Congress hits snooze button on transportation bill

## Twitter Feed

Greenwire looks at where US Chamber gets \$\$  
<http://bit.ly/7II4C7> Worth noting it spent a record \$39.69 mill on fed lobbying last quarter  
Nov. 23, 2009, 3:01 pm

RT @infrastructure2 Just

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# THE CLIMATE CHANGE LOBBY

The number of lobbyists on global warming has mushroomed.

SEE THE CHART

2008

2003

## ARTICLES

### NEW [The Climate Lobby's Nonstop Growth](#)

Makers of sneakers, blue jeans, and computer network servers joined forces late last fall and vowed a bigger push in Congress on climate change. Meanwhile, consumer-owned utilities — relatively quiet in the global warming debate compared to the big investor-owned power companies — decided they needed to weigh in once a new president took office. Food producers felt they, too, needed to watch the global warming issue more closely to protect their interests. And promoters of electric vehicles saw their long-awaited chance for a boost from Uncle Sam if their needs were addressed in a climate bill.

[Read more >](#)


#### [Climate Change Lobbying Dominated by Ten Firms](#)

Hundreds of lobbyists are cramming into Room 2123 of the Rayburn House Office Building this week for the House Energy and Commerce Committee's mark-up of landmark legislation to curb global warming through a complex cap-and-trade system. But some of those lobbyists will carry a bit more weight — or at least a heftier client list — than others. [Read more >](#)

## The 'Clean Coal' Lobbying Blitz

### WHO'S LOBBYING?

Type in the name of a special interest in the global warming debate to see who is making its case on Capitol Hill. You can also search by lobbyist, sector, time frame, or money. Typing in a dollar amount will show lobbying expenses at that amount or higher. In most cases, the amount displayed is for lobbying on all issues, not just climate.

COMPANY OR ORGANIZATION 



LOBBYING REPRESENTATIVE 

EXPENSE

LOBBYIST 

QUARTER

SECTOR

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# THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE LOBBY

Inside the Battle to Influence the Most Important Environmental Treaty of Our Time

HOME ARTICLES ▾ MAP ABOUT THIS PROJECT

SEARCH

Track this Investigation  

Click for an interactive map and explore how countries differ on emissions.



STEPHEN ROYNTREE

## OVERVIEW

### Stalemate in Copenhagen

Global attempts to craft a pivotal new climate treaty in Copenhagen this December are being stymied by a far-reaching, multinational backlash led by fossil fuel industries and other heavy carbon emitters, according to an eight-country report by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. [Read More](#)

Also: [View the Project's Key Findings](#)



BRAZIL

KEY FACTS ▾

### Caught Between Competing Interests in Brazil

**Brasília** — Even though Brazil's carbon emissions are low compared to those of the United States or China, the country plays a key role in global warming as home to the largest expanse of Amazon rain forest: About 55 percent of the country's emissions are now due to deforestation. Agribusinesses and their political allies have balked at proposed environmental controls, and argue that Brazil should not rush to act on global warming until wealthier countries offer their plans.



CHINA

KEY FACTS ≡

### A Climate Dilemma for China

**Beijing** — Although China is now the world's top greenhouse gas producer, it leaders insist that Western countries, which contributed the bulk of carbon emissions, bear primary responsibility for a solution. Even within China's one-party system, businesses vie for influence on climate policy. And the battle now being played out will have profound consequences for the effort to address global warming.



UNITED STATES

KEY FACTS ▾

### A Case of Lowered Expectations

**Washington** — Other nations complain that the United States, despite President Obama's pledge of leadership, has not made the commitment to address climate change that is needed from the country that over time has contributed the most to the greenhouse gas burden now in the atmosphere. His international negotiators have worked to lower expectations for what the world can expect from a nation where coal-fired, energy-gobbling industries dominate the political scene and there are five climate lobbyists for every member of Congress.

## TWITTER FEED

Brazilian Senate's Infrastructure Committee approves climate change bills <http://bit.ly/22T7qB>  
They still have to pass by other 2 committees

Nov. 19, 2009, 11:59 am

Industry, enviros react to lower expectations at #COP15.  
[#Climate](http://bit.ly/1BHG0P)

Nov. 18, 2009, 5:38 pm

Rockefeller: "They don't have a deal until they get the coal-state senators, and they are a long way from doing it."  
<http://bit.ly/13KUMI>

Nov. 17, 2009, 8:48 am

## LATEST STORIES

November 18, 2009, 3:58 pm  
**India Struggles To Confront Climate Change**

November 16, 2009, 12:06 am

**Brasília — Caught Between Competing Interests in Brazil**

November 12, 2009, 6:00 am

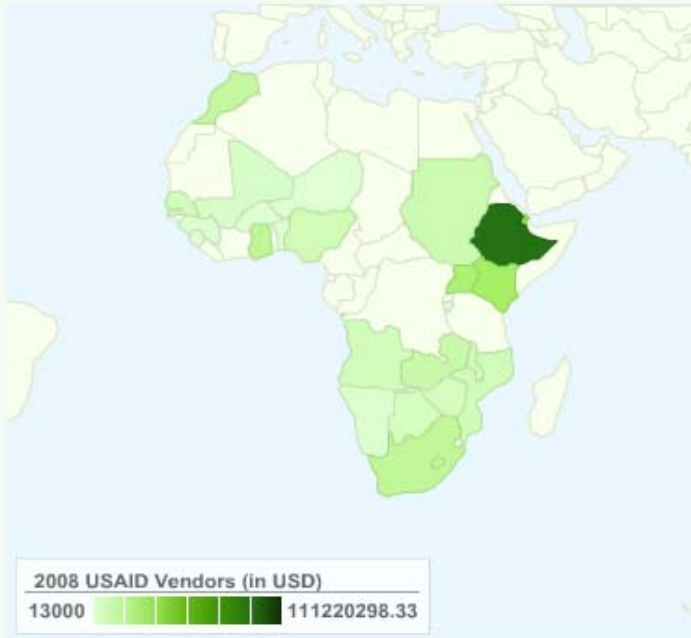
**Beijing — A Climate Dilemma for China**

November 09, 2009, 12:01 am

**Washington — A Case of Lowered Expectations**

November 05, 2009, 6:00 am

**The Ujima Project brings transparency to the workings and spending of governments, non-governmental organizations and businesses operating in African countries.**



Lobbying	+
Global Fund	+
USAID	+
Weapons Sales	+
Documents	+

The heatmap that you see is a map of the amounts of money dispersed from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) for contracts/tenders in each of the highlighted nations.

[Read more data](#)

The nonprofit [Great Lakes Media Institute](#) and [Investigative Reporters and Editors](#) (IRE) joined forces to collect information about African countries from a variety of sources for journalists and others to explain the spending of their governments, non-governmental organizations and donors.

Interested? Read our [FAQ](#), and our [blog](#).

## Latest Blog Post

[UK AID database posted soon](#)

2009 September 08

[Investigative Reporting for Africa](#)



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**Thank You**

