

Betsy for Salem: Bankrolled by One PAC, Run by One Vendor

Campaign finance vulnerabilities from public ORESTAR filings · Filer ID 24472 · Sep 2025 – Jun 2026 · 73 transactions

BOTTOM LINE

This isn't a grassroots campaign — it's a **single-donor operation**. Three out of every four dollars come from one political committee, nearly all the spending flows to one consultant, and **exactly two local residents** gave enough to be named. Take away Marion Polk First PAC and there is almost no campaign left.

74%

of ALL support comes from **one PAC** — Marion Polk First (\$32,824)

95%

of cash spending goes to **one vendor** — Draper Digital (\$19,205)

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individual residents gave **itemizable amounts** — the entire "grassroots"

\$5,801

in **unpaid bills**, one open since Oct. 2025 — running on credit

The 74% Problem

Marion Polk First PAC (#21094) doesn't just write the biggest checks — **it runs the campaign**. Of its **\$32,824** in support, \$24,014 is in-kind: the PAC is directly buying the ads, paying the staff, and producing the mail, then reporting it as a donation. On top of that: \$8,810 in cash, including a single **\$6,250 transfer**.

Where the money really comes from:

SOURCE	AMOUNT	SHARE
Marion Polk First PAC	\$32,824	74.3%
All other PACs	\$2,900	6.6%
Corporations	\$5,200	11.8%
Labor unions	\$1,000	2.3%
Actual individuals	\$700	1.6%
Sub-\$100 donors	\$1,536	3.5%

95% institutional money

\$41,924 of the \$44,160 total comes from PACs, corporations, and unions. This campaign is powered by organized interests — not the voters of Salem.

No Grassroots to Speak Of

Strip out the committees and the corporate checks and what's left is thin: **two identifiable local residents** — Eileen Altschul (\$450) and Laura Dorn (\$250) — plus a scattering of small anonymous cash totaling \$1,536. That's the entire base of real, individual human support this campaign has disclosed.

One Vendor, Nearly All the Money

Draper Digital Communications has collected **\$25,006** across 9 payments — **95% of every cash dollar** this campaign has spent. Everything else is rounding error: \$753 to a bookkeeper, \$169 in miscellany.



Running on Credit

The committee is carrying **\$5,801 in unpaid bills** — all owed to Draper. One of those invoices, for \$1,420, has sat open since **October 2025**. Cash in and cash out are running dead even (\$20,146 vs. \$20,127), which means there's no reserve to cover it.

OUTSTANDING TO DRAPER DIGITAL	AMOUNT	OPEN SINCE
Print & postage	\$4,381	May 2026
Ads, print, mgmt	\$1,420	Oct 2025

The Money Showed Up Late

For most of the cycle, this campaign raised almost nothing. **Two-thirds of its cash arrived in a single month** — April 2026 — right before the election. A late, top-down cash dump, not a season of steady community support.



Lines of Attack

- "Who is Betsy actually accountable to — Salem voters, or the PAC that pays for three-quarters of her campaign?"
- "\$25,000 to a single political consultant. Where's the local investment?"
- "A campaign that can't pay its own bills on time asks to manage the city's budget."