

# The Santorum/Wal-Mart Connection



## How much does Wal-Mart give to Santorum?

In March, Santorum flew from fundraiser to fundraiser in Florida on a Wal-Mart jet. Estimated benefit to Santorum **\$18,000**. Wal-Mart's jet helped Santorum raise **\$250,000** on that Florida trip.

Wal-Mart's PAC gave Santorum the maximum **\$10,000** allowed this cycle.

Lobbyists who work for the firms hired by Wal-Mart to represent its sweeping political interests -- including Patton Boggs, Cassidy and Associates and Ernst & Young, have given at least **\$21,793**, most of that to Santorum's America's Foundation.

Wal-Mart has given at least \$1 million to the Chamber of Commerce, whose PAC gave **\$9,500** to help Santorum get re-elected in 2000.

## What does Wal-Mart want to get from Santorum?

- **Changes in Overtime Law:** Wal-Mart has faced dozens of lawsuits over not paying its workers for overtime. Under Santorum's proposed "flex time" rules, millions of workers lose overtime pay their first ten hours of overtime pay, if they didn't work 40 hours the following week.
- **Tort reform: Wal-Mart is facing the largest class-action suit in history, a gender-discrimination case involving 1.5 million female employees.** Santorum is a major supporter of new proposals to limit lawsuits, including one that would move most suits against large companies from state courts, which have a track record of siding with plaintiffs to federal courts, which haven't heard these cases in the past.
- **Estate taxes:** As the world's wealthiest family, the Waltons also are eager to see the estate tax repealed. And so is Rick Santorum.

[based on an article by John Baer & blog by Will Bunch, *Philadelphia Daily News*, 4/25/05 & 4/14/05]

*For more information about Santorum, go to [santorumwatch.org](http://santorumwatch.org)*