

# 3M Political Spending Fact Sheet

## What We **Do** Know...

- From 2002 to 2011 3M spent roughly **\$1.5 million** in corporate funds on direct political activities<sup>1</sup>.
- 3M paid the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) up to **\$25,000**. ALEC pushes state-level legislation, including the controversial “Stand Your Ground” laws.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2010 3M gave **\$100,000** to Minnesota Forward, a group that supported extreme right-wing candidate Tom Emmer for governor.
- In 2012 the 3M PAC contributed a combined **\$30,000** to the National Republican Congressional and Senate Committees.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2011 3M spent more than **\$4.5 million** on lobbying expenditures; more than double the amount it spent in 2010 or any preceding year.
  - **17 out of 24** of the lobbyists hired by 3M in 2011 previously held positions in state/federal government, and **1** previously held a seat in the U.S. Senate.<sup>4</sup>
- Jeffrey K. Rabeth, 3M’s Vice President of Global Business Strategy serves on the Board of Directors for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber spent **\$31,207,114** in the 2010 elections, more than any other outside group, without disclosing its funders.<sup>5</sup>

## What We **Don’t** Know Due to Inadequate Disclosure...

- 3M allows funds from its corporate treasury to be used for political activity. Due to the nature of this giving, there is virtually no way to trace how much money they may have given to faux-nonprofits like Crossroads GPS which does not disclose its donors.<sup>6</sup>
- 3M does not publish a list of recipients of its political contributions nor does it have a complete list of its memberships in trade organizations.<sup>7</sup>
- 3M does not disclose contributions/dues paid to trade associations or other tax-exempt groups that may be used for political purposes.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Center for Political Accountability, 3M Political Transparency and Accountability Profile (2011), <http://bit.ly/f0sBgA>. This estimate excludes payments made to trade associations or other tax-exempt organizations to the best of its ability

<sup>2</sup> Common Blog, *What Does 3M, UnitedHealth Group and Comcast Have To Do with Trayvon Martin?*, <http://bit.ly/HiTRbM>

<sup>3</sup> Center for Responsive Politics, 3M Co. Expenditures, <http://bit.ly/IM84gM>

<sup>4</sup> Center for Responsive Politics, 3M Co. Lobbying, <http://bit.ly/Jnl3ol>

<sup>5</sup> Public Citizen, *12 Months After*, <http://bit.ly/flj7c9>

<sup>6</sup> Center for Political Accountability, 3M Political Transparency and Accountability Profile (2011), <http://bit.ly/f0sBgA>

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.