**UNCOVERING MYSTERY MONEY**

*Issue One’s tips for the best questions to ask when LLCs make super PAC contributions*

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### 1. Examine the company’s online presence

- Does an online search of the LLC’s name yield any meaningful information or news stories?
- Does the LLC have a website?
- Does the LLC have a social media presence?
- What results does a Twitter search of the company’s name yield?
- What results does a Google x-ray search of .gov websites plus the company’s name yield? How about a Google x-ray search of .xls files and .pdf files?

### 2. Examine the LLC’s business records

- Is the LLC registered in the state of its address listed in FEC filings?
  - If not, does the company’s name yield any positive hits on OpenCorporates?
  - Is the company registered in Delaware?
- What, if anything, do the business records say about the primary purpose of the LLC?
- Whose names are listed on the articles of incorporation or any other business records?
  - Is the only name listed a lawyer or employee at a firm that specializes in incorporation services?
  - Do the filings list the LLC’s actual members or owners?
- Investigate the people whose names are listed
  - What results do Google searches yield about these people?
  - How about Google x-ray searches of .gov websites?
  - Use FEC.gov, OpenSecrets.org, and FollowTheMoney.org to determine if they have made political contributions in their own name in the past.
- When was the LLC donor incorporated? How much time elapsed between the date of its incorporation and the date of its donation?

### 3. Examine the LLC’s address

- Is the LLC’s address a P.O. Box? A space in an industrial office park? Someone’s home?
- What results do online searches of the LLC’s address — including Google x-ray searches of .gov websites — yield?
- Are other companies associated with this address?
- What do property records show about who owns the land associated with the address of the LLC?
- Use FEC.gov, OpenSecrets.org, and FollowTheMoney.org to learn if its address has ever appeared in federal or state campaign finance data or if the name of the LLC has appeared as an individual donor’s employer.

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