

SWING VOTE SAM EXPLAINS

Money Finds the Winner

SAM SAYS

"Money doesn't buy the seat. It finds whoever was already going to win."

In 2022 the top spender won about 94 percent of House races, according to OpenSecrets.

Before anyone panics: that doesn't prove money buys seats. In a district drawn safe, the favorite was winning anyway, and the money follows the favorite. It's a loop, and loops are harder to break than bribes.

Competitive districts and open primaries make money chase voters instead. Show up in the races that are still open.

The facts

1. In 2022, the top-spending candidate won 93.65 percent of U.S. House races, and in 2024, 93.92 percent (OpenSecrets).[1]
2. FairVote projected 81 percent of House seats safe for one party in 2026, which is why the favorite and the biggest spender are so often the same candidate.[2]

What you can do

1. Look up who is funding the candidates on your ballot. The Federal Election Commission publishes it. **fec.gov/data**
2. Vote in your primary, before the money has picked a favorite.
3. Show up.

Scan to watch Sam explain it

swingvotesam.com/issues/money-in-politics

Sources

1. OpenSecrets, "Winning vs. Spending: percent of races won by top spending candidate (archived copy)", archived November 22, 2025. https://web.archive.org/web/20251122200817/https://www.opensecrets.org/elections-overview/winning-vs-spending
2. FairVote, "18 Months from Election Day 2026, 81% of House seats are already decided", April 28, 2025. https://fairvote.org/press/house-elections-broken-release-2025/

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