

UNCOVERING MYSTERY MONEY

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

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.