

# Katz to help raise funds for Specter

The Pennsylvania senator is exploring a bid for the presidency.

By Vanessa Williams  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Sen. Arlen Specter, a maverick in national Republican politics, has enlisted Sam Katz, a maverick in local GOP politics, to help him raise money for a potential presidential campaign next year.

Specter welcomed Katz to his exploratory team at a news conference in the courtyard of the federal building at Sixth and Market Streets in Philadelphia yesterday. The three-term Pennsylvania senator has filed papers with the Federal Election Commission, but has yet to formally announce his bid for the 1996 GOP presidential nomination.

Katz, 45, a public finance expert, will serve as national finance committee coordinator, helping to develop a strategy to raise the \$30 million Specter has estimated he will need to wage a credible campaign as a pro-abortion-rights Republican.

"Sam Katz's expertise, influence and leadership will take us a long way toward raising the fund we'll need to run a winning campaign," Specter said.

Katz, co-founder of The Stafford Group, an investment and merchant banking firm in Bala Cynwyd, waged a surprisingly strong bid for the GOP nomination in the 1991 Philadelphia mayor's race. Last year he ran in the party's gubernatorial primary, coming in third in fund-raising and votes.

Like Specter, Katz is a moderate, and said he thought the senator's position in favor of a woman's right to choose on abortion and his criticism of the religious right's influence in government would find support within the GOP.

"I'm enthusiastic about Arlen's candidacy and I told him I would



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**Sen. Arlen Specter** named Sam Katz (left) as his national finance committee coordinator. Specter estimates he will need \$30 million.

help him raise money, something I'm good at doing both in professional and political activities in the past," Katz said.

Katz raised about \$3 million in last year's five way gubernatorial primary. By contrast, Gov. Ridge raised roughly \$5 million in the primary. In the mayoral campaign four years ago, Katz's first bid for public office, he raised more than \$1 million.

Specter himself is a proven fund-raiser. He raised \$11.3 million for his re-election campaign in 1992. But he spent most of it. Recent finance reports showed a balance of only \$125,000, of which \$8,000 was transferred to his newly formed presidential committee, Arlen Specter '96.

By contrast, Texas Sen. Phil Gramm, who is seeking the GOP nomination, transferred nearly \$4.8 million from his senatorial campaign account last year.

The daunting challenge of raising money already has caused former Vice President Dan Quayle, former Housing Secretary Jack Kemp and former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney to back away from next year's race.

Larry J. Sabato, a professor of presidential politics and government at the University of Virginia, said Specter's fund-raising potential outside

Pennsylvania was "thin.

"Specter's a moderate-to-liberal Republican," Sabato said. "Most Republicans aren't buying what he's selling outside the Northeast."

Katz dismissed that assessment.

"I've spent 18 years traveling around the United States working on my business. I know people in virtually every state of the country and so does Arlen," said Katz, a former co-owner of Public Financial Management, a municipal finance firm. "... I have a good network and he has an even better network."

Inquirer staff writer Robert Zausner contributed to this article.