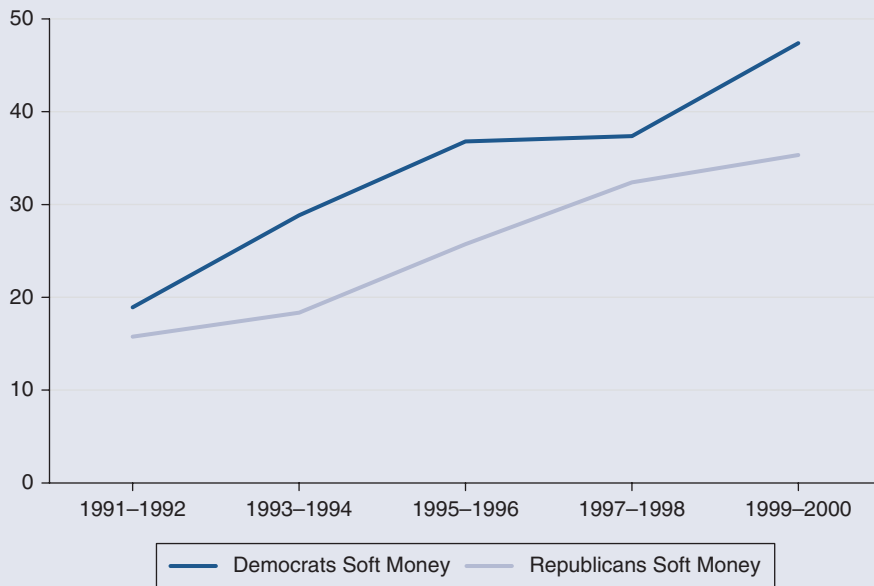


Figure 15-2 Soft Money as a Percentage of Total Contributions



Note: These figures reflect soft-money contributions as a percentage of hard money and soft money combined. Although hard-money contributions given directly to candidates provided the bulk of money spent on political campaigns, soft-money donations to political party committees grew significantly in the years immediately preceding passage of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002.

Sources: Federal Election Commission; “Debating McCain-Feingold,” *CQ Weekly*, March 10, 2001, 524-526.