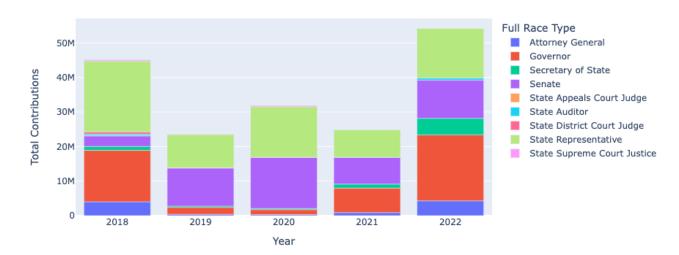Local politics play a crucial role in shaping climate legislation, yet information on local and state political campaigns remains relatively overlooked. Climate Cabinet, which supports clients seeking to advance climate-conscious legislation and talking points, seeks to address this information gap by acting like a climate staffer at scale. To achieve this, the ultimate aim of this project was to create a pipeline from which campaign finance information from all states could be added, identifying donors from both fossil fuel and clean energy companies. Climate Cabinet's overarching goal consisted of investigating state and local races in select states for evidence of a disparity between campaign contributions from fossil fuel and clean energy companies.

The team began by building our database of campaign finance in our selected states: Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania. This data includes information on campaign donors, recipients, and each individual transaction. This early stage produced exploratory analysis and visualizations that showed high-level trends in campaign finance across the four states. The figures below demonstrate examinations of donor type and recipient type from Minnesota.

Afterward, the team began cleaning, processing, and standardizing of the data sources into a succinct format. Thus, allowing users to run each state's entire pipeline, from pre- processing to cleaning to standardization, with a single function. The final outputs comprise the finance data for each state within our time frame from 2018-2023. The team's final goal is to develop a graph of campaign finance networks, classify graph nodes as 'Clean energy', 'Fossil fuel', or 'Other', and use this to analyze funding disparities.

Donations by Candidate Recipient Race From 2018 To 2022