

Financial information in politic

<http://www.opensecrets.org/elections/>

Politicians & Elections

Politicians need votes, certainly, to win election and re-election, but they also need money. So where is all this money coming from? Who's giving it? Who's getting it?

527s: Advocacy Group Spending

These groups, formed under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code, primarily were involved in issue advocacy and weren't permitted to tell the public explicitly to elect or defeat a particular candidate – until the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision in 2010. Now, they may engage in the full range of political activity, including asking the public to vote for or against a would-be officeholder. In addition, some large, national party-connected groups are formed as 527s, such as the Republican State Leadership Committee and the Democratic Governors Association.

527 committees are tax-exempt groups established to raise unlimited money for general political activities, such as voter mobilization efforts and issue ads. They are prohibited from directly supporting or opposing a specific candidate, and their donors are disclosed on the IRS' website.

<https://influence.kuow.org/>

KUOW's *Field Guide to Influence* lets you see the money flowing into every campaign in the state. Enter your address, or pick a spot on the map, and we'll show you how much money has been raised and from whom for each race on your ballot. Is out-of-state money playing a big role? Big business? Unions? Click on "explore this race" and we'll show you the money in as much detail as you want. The *Field Guide to Influence* updates daily, and we'll be adding our reports and analysis as the Nov. 8 election draws closer, so you can stay informed. And please tell us what you find, too.

What dark \$\$\$ is

We consulted the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan campaign finance research group that runs a website called OpenSecrets.org.

(Two other groups involved in campaign finance -- the Sunlight Foundation and the Campaign Finance Institute -- also referred us to the center.)

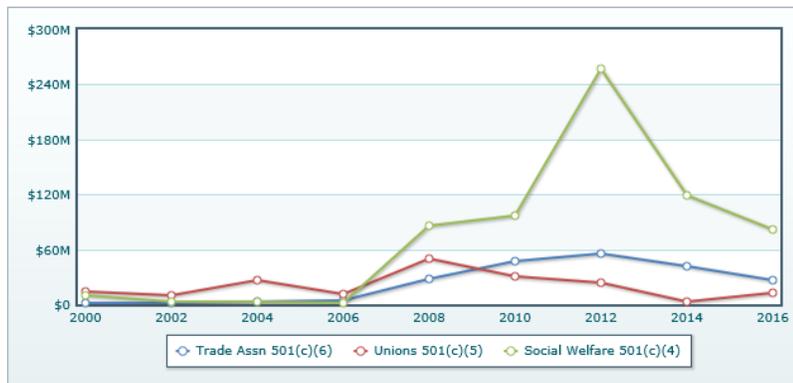
Using data from the Federal Election Commission, the Center for Responsive Politics tracks so-called dark-money spending - Those groups can receive unlimited corporate, individual, or union contributions. They can use the money for various election activities, including buying ads that advocate for or against a candidate, running phone banks and making contributions to super PACs. But they can't coordinate with or donate money to candidates.

<http://www.politifact.com/wisconsin/statements/2015/nov/05/tammy-baldwin/ten-times-more-dark-money-has-been-spent-2016-elec/>

2016 cycle

As for the 2016 cycle, \$4.88 million in dark money expenditures have already been made, according to the center. That's more than 10 times the \$440,000 that was spent at this point during the 2012 cycle.

The \$4.88 million has been spent by six groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (\$3 million) and Americans for Prosperity (\$1.5 million). The only liberal group was Planned Parenthood, which spent just under \$75,000



Based on data released daily by the FEC. Last update on October 14, 2016.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Business/Saving-Money/2012/1111/The-election-is-over.-What-happens-to-all-that-campaign-cash>

after the elections where goes all that cash? article nov 2012

Just a couple of decades ago, former candidates *could* spend money on this stuff. [Factcheck.org](http://factcheck.org) says, “Retiring federal lawmakers used to be able to pocket extra cash and use it for cars, vacations, clothes, pet grooming, whatever – but that changed in 1989 with the passage of the Ethics Reform Act.”

Chapter 8 of the FEC campaign guide, Expenditures and Other Uses of Campaign Funds, says money can be donated to charities and state and local candidates. It also allows “unlimited transfers to any national, state or local party committee.” But for national candidates, there’s a limit of \$2,000. <http://www.fec.gov/info/articles/windingdown09.pdf>

WA CONGRESSIONAL RACES IN 2016

Select an election cycle:

Race	All Candidates	Amount Raised
Senate	Patty Murray (D)*	\$11,812,313
	Chris Vance (R)	\$310,976
District 01 Redmond, Mt Vernon to Cascade Crest	Suzan DelBene (D)*	\$1,555,753
	Robert Sutherland (R)	\$7,690
District 02	Rick Larsen (D)*	\$690,521
	Marc Hennemann (R)	\$0
District 03	Jaime Herrera Beutler (R)*	\$974,410
	Jim Moeller (D)	\$15,579
District 04	Daniel Milton Newhouse (R)*	\$858,622
	Clint Didier (R)	\$52,921
District 05 Spokane, Grand Coulee	Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R)*	\$2,458,065
	Joe Pakootas (D)	\$166,729
District 06	Derek Kilmer (D)*	\$1,626,553
	Todd Anthony Bloom (R)	\$2,667
District 07 W Seattle, Edmonds, Vashon	Pramila Jayapal (D)	\$1,277,702
	Joe McDermott (D)	\$468,435
District 08 Enumclaw, Eatonville Ellensburg	Dave Reichert (R)*	\$1,148,869
	Santiago Ramos (D)	\$31,422