

Table 3-14 Non-Party Independent Expenditures in House and Senate Elections, 1978-2016, Adjusted for inflation, 2016 Dollars

	For Democrats	Against Democrats	For Republicans	Against Republicans	Total
2016					
House	22,516,199	51,506,529	7,574,409	54,635,275	136,232,412
Senate	51,209,523	231,869,245	52,542,099	174,608,458	510,229,325
2014					
House	15,474,485	41,157,943	39,990,941	48,716,004	145,339,374
Senate	37,102,193	122,322,445	83,911,180	149,288,605	392,624,424
2012					
House	24,475,358	80,671,138	35,628,175	66,115,909	206,890,580
Senate	19,094,303	106,153,578	44,528,411	101,285,143	271,061,435
2010					
House	22,659,021	40,777,242	16,080,501	28,204,077	107,720,841
Senate	14,870,197	47,765,390	24,801,083	19,596,137	107,032,807
2008					
House	9,446,768	2,264,454	9,349,373	7,873,402	28,933,997
Senate	6,038,940	2,058,690	6,138,016	5,579,261	19,814,907
2006					
House	7,668,657	918,547	7,598,684	14,387,202	30,573,089
Senate	3,481,609	363,425	6,786,666	1,755,404	12,387,103
2004					
House	1,710,170	84,737	4,953,165	692,691	7,440,763
Senate	527,750	395,298	9,834,089	463,202	11,220,339
2002					
House	3,555,041	349,434	3,365,222	718,831	7,988,528
Senate	7,037,836	241,785	4,732,751	1,565,977	13,578,350
2000					
House	5,731,277	326,472	4,033,339	2,321,677	12,412,765
Senate	2,065,427	847,145	6,101,952	3,803,691	12,818,216
1998					
House	2,631,889	380,295	5,563,349	886,371	9,461,903
Senate	1,279,828	215,806	2,120,418	1,489,479	5,105,531
1996					
House	1,039,131	195,349	4,015,241	2,143,238	7,392,959
Senate	445,304	1,272,941	4,393,742	1,274,543	7,386,530
1994					
House	813,985	791,082	1,762,571	82,294	3,449,932
Senate	330,717	702,769	2,120,826	870,521	4,024,833
1992					
House	2,541,659	737,131	2,713,152	774,834	6,766,776
Senate	1,945,581	281,162	1,478,862	360,079	4,065,684
1990					
House	1,302,487	239,998	1,229,831	136,703	2,909,019
Senate	1,433,857	488,883	2,637,971	1,073,199	5,633,910
1988					
House	2,973,315	565,473	1,866,352	301,693	5,706,833
Senate	1,686,062	1,251,903	5,699,947	291,013	8,928,926
1986					
House	5,224,280	497,721	2,876,532	262,851	8,861,385
Senate	2,164,403	1,384,884	7,320,192	762,079	11,631,558
1984					
House	1,295,269	272,973	1,463,710	62,016	3,093,967
Senate	753,125	948,081	4,176,401	4,809,858	10,687,466
1982					
House	600,495	2,145,523	1,224,667	164,886	4,135,572
Senate	316,986	7,916,466	742,181	1,203,144	10,178,776
1980					
House	555,206	110,750	1,195,602	131,456	1,993,013
Senate	371,023	3,735,875	762,191	36,205	4,905,295
1978					
House	105,739	114,239	260,257	19,502	499,737
Senate	377,341	135,159	95,948	7,307	615,754

Note: An independent expenditure is defined by the FEC as an expenditure for a communication "expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate that is not made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a candidate's authorized committee, or their agents, or a political party or its agents." 11 CFR 100.16(a).

Source: Campaign Finance Institute analysis of Federal Election Commission data.