

House Campaign Expenditures: Major Party General Election Candidates, 1974-2016 (full cycle), Adjusted for inflation, 2016 Dollars

Table 3-2

	2016	2014	2012	2010	2008	2006	2004	2002
All Candidates								
Total expenditures	815,947,941	832,493,338	965,442,101	1,022,983,692	900,712,330	894,942,849	738,803,784 ^a	701,725,178 ^a
Mean expenditure	1,128,559 <i>(n=723)</i>	1,108,513 <i>(n=751)</i>	1,231,431 <i>(n=784)</i>	1,280,330 <i>(n=799)</i>	1,194,578 <i>(n=754)</i>	1,185,355 <i>(n=755)</i>	982,452 <i>(n=752)</i>	984,187 <i>(n=712)</i>
Mean, Democrats	979,324 <i>(n=367)</i>	1,002,234 <i>(n=377)</i>	1,077,861 <i>(n=390)</i>	1,383,880 <i>(n=388)</i>	1,194,334 <i>(n=410)</i>	1,012,656 <i>(n=414)</i>	883,943 <i>(n=380)</i>	977,181 <i>(n=353)</i>
Mean, Republicans	1,282,405 <i>(n=356)</i>	1,215,645 <i>(n=374)</i>	1,383,442 <i>(n=394)</i>	1,182,574 <i>(n=411)</i>	1,194,870 <i>(n=344)</i>	1,395,024 <i>(n=341)</i>	1,083,225 <i>(n=371)</i>	991,348 <i>(n=358)</i>
Incumbents								
Mean, all incumbents	1,679,092 <i>(n=387)</i>	1,466,230 <i>(n=386)</i>	1,731,375 <i>(n=378)</i>	1,709,220 <i>(n=393)</i>	1,486,220 <i>(n=399)</i>	1,501,900 <i>(n=402)</i>	1,304,334 ^a <i>(n=401)</i>	1,167,069 ^a <i>(n=387)</i>
Mean, Democrats	1,205,852 <i>(n=169)</i>	1,431,339 <i>(n=182)</i>	1,463,197 <i>(n=162)</i>	1,896,583 <i>(n=236)</i>	1,386,586 <i>(n=229)</i>	1,171,016 <i>(n=191)</i>	1,214,807 <i>(n=190)</i>	1,116,629 <i>(n=188)</i>
Mean, Republicans	1,737,944 <i>(n=218)</i>	1,497,357 <i>(n=204)</i>	1,932,509 <i>(n=216)</i>	1,427,577 <i>(n=157)</i>	1,620,435 <i>(n=170)</i>	1,801,419 <i>(n=211)</i>	1,386,644 <i>(n=210)</i>	1,216,385 <i>(n=198)</i>
Challengers								
Mean, all challengers	434,562 <i>(n=254)</i>	505,835 <i>(n=271)</i>	613,808 <i>(n=288)</i>	765,103 <i>(n=325)</i>	646,336 <i>(n=284)</i>	607,393 <i>(n=289)</i>	409,194 <i>(n=284)</i>	453,778 <i>(n=226)</i>
Mean, Democrats	562,628 <i>(n=156)</i>	443,352 <i>(n=149)</i>	666,839 <i>(n=170)</i>	408,437 <i>(n=111)</i>	743,841 <i>(n=146)</i>	703,065 <i>(n=190)</i>	397,843 <i>(n=158)</i>	552,809 <i>(n=115)</i>
Mean, Republicans	206,899 <i>(n=98)</i>	582,146 <i>(n=122)</i>	537,408 <i>(n=118)</i>	950,103 <i>(n=214)</i>	556,578 <i>(n=139)</i>	423,781 <i>(n=99)</i>	423,429 <i>(n=126)</i>	352,995 <i>(n=111)</i>
Open seats								
Mean, all open-seat candidates	1,594,721 <i>(n=82)</i>	1,377,100 <i>(n=94)</i>	1,137,335 <i>(n=118)</i>	1,266,689 <i>(n=81)</i>	1,748,609 <i>(n=71)</i>	1,806,915 <i>(n=64)</i>	1,485,891 <i>(n=67)</i>	1,502,855 <i>(n=99)</i>
Mean, Democrats	1,614,543 <i>(n=42)</i>	1,114,761 <i>(n=46)</i>	1,206,299 <i>(n=58)</i>	1,073,550 <i>(n=41)</i>	1,832,058 <i>(n=36)</i>	1,878,576 <i>(n=33)</i>	1,319,551 <i>(n=32)</i>	1,435,287 <i>(n=50)</i>
Mean, Republicans	1,434,706 <i>(n=40)</i>	1,628,509 <i>(n=48)</i>	1,070,669 <i>(n=60)</i>	1,464,656 <i>(n=40)</i>	1,662,776 <i>(n=35)</i>	1,730,630 <i>(n=31)</i>	1,637,974 <i>(n=35)</i>	1,573,298 <i>(n=49)</i>

2000	1998	1996	1994	1992	1990	1988	1986	1984	1982
717,503,155 ^a	584,883,629 ^a	646,538,116 ^a	560,646,773 ^a	564,195,569 ^a	431,774,874 ^a	456,711,978	476,429,152	408,595,976	435,051,472
969,599 (n=740)	813,468 (n=719)	790,389 (n=818)	712,385 (n=787)	693,967 (n=813)	590,663 (n=731)	615,516 (n=742)	647,323 (n=736)	557,428 (n=733)	567,212 (n=767)
934,111 (n=372)	744,304 (n=358)	722,251 (n=412)	785,410 (n=386)	783,477 (n=410)	643,726 (n=381)	639,881 (n=397)	661,235 (n=397)	549,156 (n=399)	530,674 (n=411)
1,007,489 (n=366)	882,229 (n=360)	858,096 (n=405)	641,231 (n=400)	601,951 (n=402)	531,431 (n=349)	587,230 (n=344)	635,256 (n=340)	567,310 (n=334)	609,394 (n=356)
1,155,618 ^a	963,175 ^a	1,033,309 ^a	905,074 ^a	1,009,988 ^a	765,141	792,869	792,949	644,586	659,089
(n=400)	(n=400)	(n=382)	(n=382)	(n=349)	(n=405)	(n=408)	(n=389)	(n=408)	(n=383)
1,052,868 (n=201)	870,114 (n=189)	897,931 (n=168)	1,003,088 (n=224)	1,053,636 (n=211)	770,184 (n=247)	759,994 (n=245)	766,266 (n=231)	644,954 (n=254)	615,744 (n=216)
1,265,725 (n=197)	1,047,804 (n=210)	1,138,170 (n=213)	764,717 (n=157)	942,942 (n=137)	757,256 (n=158)	842,281 (n=163)	831,959 (n=158)	643,979 (n=154)	715,154 (n=167)
525,916 (n=272)	488,984 (n=254)	443,666 (n=331)	388,688 (n=302)	284,666 (n=290)	246,829 ^a (n=270)	277,710 (n=283)	340,755 (n=262)	374,203 (n=273)	377,338 (n=270)
617,388 (n=136)	479,659 (n=136)	492,973 (n=191)	286,238 (n=110)	243,623 (n=111)	241,052 (n=104)	331,780 (n=126)	373,504 (n=123)	287,611 (n=119)	351,654 (n=137)
434,443 (n=136)	499,731 (n=118)	376,395 (n=140)	447,383 (n=192)	310,115 (n=179)	245,624 (n=165)	234,314 (n=157)	309,548 (n=139)	441,114 (n=154)	403,794 (n=133)
1,650,097 (n=68)	1,160,179 (n=65)	999,627 (n=105)	946,841 (n=103)	742,280 (n=174)	986,592 (n=56)	1,071,174 (n=51)	942,693 (n=86)	835,511 (n=52)	707,526 (n=114)
1,482,793 (n=35)	1,114,420 (n=33)	991,643 (n=53)	903,657 (n=52)	816,662 (n=88)	998,475 (n=30)	1,001,146 (n=26)	920,037 (n=43)	810,350 (n=26)	636,712 (n=58)
1,827,539 (n=33)	1,207,368 (n=32)	1,007,765 (n=52)	990,873 (n=51)	666,169 (n=86)	972,880 (n=26)	1,163,665 (n=24)	965,349 (n=43)	860,673 (n=26)	782,316 (n=56)

1980	1978	1976	1974
335,608,493	317,049,133	253,277,008	214,453,922
446,288 <i>(n=752)</i>	402,858 <i>(n=787)</i>	309,250 <i>(n=819)</i>	259,889 <i>(n=810)</i>
417,324 <i>(n=396)</i>	401,187 <i>(n=416)</i>	314,510 <i>(n=429)</i>	262,854 <i>(n=434)</i>
478,505 <i>(n=356)</i>	404,901 <i>(n=371)</i>	303,468 <i>(n=390)</i>	266,953 <i>(n=376)</i>
480,832 <i>(n=391)</i>	409,186 <i>(n=377)</i>	334,905 <i>(n=382)</i>	275,249 <i>(n=382)</i>
460,237 <i>(n=248)</i>	381,063 <i>(n=249)</i>	309,276 <i>(n=254)</i>	188,612 <i>(n=218)</i>
516,554 <i>(n=143)</i>	463,898 <i>(n=128)</i>	385,766 <i>(n=128)</i>	391,114 <i>(n=163)</i>
354,625 <i>(n=277)</i>	275,353 <i>(n=299)</i>	214,256 <i>(n=335)</i>	194,805 <i>(n=323)</i>
271,793 <i>(n=105)</i>	261,166 <i>(n=109)</i>	195,422 <i>(n=122)</i>	288,524 <i>(n=162)</i>
405,189 <i>(n=172)</i>	283,488 <i>(n=190)</i>	225,041 <i>(n=213)</i>	100,501 <i>(n=161)</i>
587,755 <i>(n=84)</i>	740,079 <i>(n=111)</i>	525,172 <i>(n=102)</i>	440,221 <i>(n=106)</i>
525,196 <i>(n=43)</i>	779,916 <i>(n=58)</i>	613,714 <i>(n=53)</i>	485,578 <i>(n=54)</i>
652,784 <i>(n=41)</i>	696,480 <i>(n=53)</i>	429,406 <i>(n=49)</i>	393,120 <i>(n=52)</i>

Note: The data include primary and general election expenditures for major party general-election candidates only.

a. Includes one or more Independents. Independents are included only if they are incumbents or winning non-incumbents.

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