

Table 3-8 Campaign Funding Sources: House and Senate Major Party General Election Candidates, 1984-2016

Party and Candidate Status	Number of candidates	Contributions plus party coordinated expenditures on behalf of candidates (\$ millions)	Percentage of funding from				
			Individuals	PAC's	Party (contributions plus coordinated expenditures)	Candidate to self (contributions plus loans)	Other
House, 2018							
All candidates	786	1,417.1	60%	27%	2%	6%	6%
All Democrats	430	835.5	66%	20%	1%	7%	5%
Incumbents	173	285.5	52%	45%	1%	0%	2%
Challengers	193	362.5	78%	7%	2%	7%	6%
Open Seats	64	187.6	65%	10%	2%	17%	6%
All Republicans	355	581.5	50%	36%	2%	5%	7%
Incumbents	196	457.7	48%	42%	2%	1%	7%
Challengers	95	25.1	63%	5%	4%	27%	2%
Open Seats	64	98.8	59%	16%	3%	16%	6%
Senate, 2018							
All candidates	69	953.3	64%	8%	6%	15%	6%
All Democrats	34	562.2	76%	9%	5%	3%	7%
Incumbents	24	383.7	74%	11%	3%	3%	9%
Challengers	7	130.4	88%	2%	9%	0%	2%
Open Seats	3	48.1	62%	7%	10%	16%	5%
All Republicans	33	375.6	46%	7%	8%	34%	6%
Incumbents	6	88.2	56%	14%	21%	0%	7%
Challengers	34	242.8	37%	4%	3%	52%	4%
Open Seats	3	44.5	72%	9%	6%	0%	14%
House, 2016							
All candidates	726	900.1	52%	39%	1%	5%	4%
All Democrats	370	413.9	56%	35%	1%	6%	2%
Incumbents	169	248.9	49%	48%	0%	1%	2%
Challengers	158	92.1	74%	16%	3%	7%	1%
Open Seats	43	72.2	60%	16%	2%	22%	0%
All Republicans	356	486.1	47%	41%	1%	4%	6%
Incumbents	218	403.9	46%	47%	1%	0%	7%
Challengers	98	20.9	59%	10%	2%	27%	2%
Open Seats	40	60.9	55%	17%	2%	25%	1%
Senate, 2016							
All candidates	67	551.4	68%	16%	5%	2%	10%
All Democrats	34	297.2	76%	10%	3%	3%	8%
Incumbents	7	67.3	69%	24%	0%	0%	6%
Challengers	21	164.9	78%	6%	3%	5%	8%
Open Seats	6	65.1	76%	7%	4%	2%	11%
All Republicans	33	254.2	59%	22%	7%	0%	12%
Incumbents	22	215.2	57%	24%	7%	0%	12%

Challengers	7	6.1	90%	3%	1%	3%	3%
Open Seats	4	32.9	66%	17%	6%	0%	11%

House, 2014

All candidates	756	901.8	53	37	1	5	3
All Democrats	379	400.4	56	37	1	3	2
Incumbents	182	281.6	50	46	1	1	2
Challengers	151	65.5	73	12	2	12	1
Open Seats	46	53.3	67	24	3	6	1
All Republicans	377	501.4	50	37	1	7	5
Incumbents	204	347.1	47	47	0	0	6
Challengers	125	73.9	58	12	3	24	3
Open Seats	48	80.4	58	17	1	21	2

Senate, 2014

All candidates	70	399.8	71	13	4	6	6
All Democrats	34	289.9	73	15	3	4	6
Incumbents	16	204.2	75	17	2	0	6
Challengers	10	36.1	59	3	2	33	2
Open Seats	8	49.6	73	12	7	1	8
All Republicans	36	109.9	66	10	7	9	8
Incumbents	12	87.5	56	31	2	2	8
Challengers	16	98.0	72	11	2	5	10
Open Seats	8	73.3	63	16	5	11	4

House, 2012

All candidates	784	970.9	56	35	1	5	3
All Democrats	390	414.4	57	35	1	5	2
Incumbents	162	231.3	49	48	1	1	2
Challengers	170	112.9	67	17	3	12	2
Open Seats	58	70.3	64	23	1	10	1
All Republicans	394	556.5	56	34	1	4	4
Incumbents	216	428.8	54	39	1	1	5
Challengers	118	62.9	63	12	3	21	1
Open Seats	60	64.9	62	22	2	11	3

Senate, 2012

All candidates	61	491.8	67	13	3	13	4
All Democrats	28	287.1	77	14	3	2	4
Incumbents	15	153.1	71	18	3	3	5
Challengers	3	53.3	91	5	2	1	2
Open Seats	10	80.7	80	12	4	0	3
All Republicans	33	204.7	57	11	3	25	4
Incumbents	6	59.1	69	22	1	0	8
Challengers	16	62.8	63	6	4	21	6
Open Seats	11	82.8	47	9	3	38	2

House, 2010

All candidates	799	949.3	57	33	2	6	2
All Democrats	388	469.9	54	40	2	2	2
Incumbents	236	385.7	51	45	2	1	2

Challengers	111	42.3	71	11	1	12	5
Open Seats	41	41.8	69	22	2	7	1
All Republicans	411	479.4	60	27	2	9	3
Incumbents	157	228.1	55	40	1	1	4
Challengers	214	195.1	64	12	4	18	2
Open Seats	40	56.2	65	23	2	9	2
Senate, 2010							
All candidates	72	597.6	61	13	6	13	7
All Democrats	34	242.3	70	15	6	3	7
Incumbents	12	147.5	71	17	5	1	6
Challengers	8	14.1	67	12	7	12	2
Open Seats	14	80.7	68	12	7	4	9
All Republicans	38	355.3	55	12	5	21	8
Incumbents	11	74.0	52	27	1	0	20
Challengers	13	102.4	64	4	7	19	6
Open Seats	14	178.9	51	10	6	30	3
House, 2008							
All candidates	754	845.2	54	36	1	5	4
All Democrats	410	476.7	53	39	1	5	2
Incumbents	227	316.0	48	49	0	0	3
Challengers	146	98.8	67	17	1	14	1
Open Seats	38	62.0	56	27	1	15	2
All Republicans	344	370.6	55	32	2	8	3
Incumbents	170	243.8	52	41	1	1	5
Challengers	137	66.8	66	11	3	19	1
Open Seats	37	60.0	55	18	3	24	0
Senate, 2008							
All candidates	66	399.2	63	19	2	3	12
All Democrats	34	210.5	65	16	2	1	16
Incumbents	12	83.7	53	25	1	2	19
Challengers	17	90.7	71	8	3	1	17
Open Seats	5	36.2	77	17	1	1	5
All Republicans	32	188.6	60	23	3	5	9
Incumbents	18	154.0	59	25	3	4	9
Challengers	9	12.5	68	6	4	16	6
Open Seats	5	22.2	66	19	2	3	10
House, 2006							
All candidates	815	777.8	54	35	1	5	5
All Democrats	427	375.5	58	33	1	4	4
Incumbents	191	205.9	49	45	1	1	5
Challengers	203	115.3	70	16	2	9	3
Open Seats	33	54.3	66	20	1	8	5
All Republicans	388	402.3	51	38	1	5	5
Incumbents	211	318.4	50	43	1	1	5
Challengers	144	36.2	56	10	2	27	5
Open Seats	33	47.7	52	23	3	16	6
Senate, 2006							
All candidates	65	530.9	67	13	3	13	5

All Democrats	31	275.5	70	11	2	13	3
Incumbents	14	141.3	76	15	2	4	3
Challengers	14	101.7	59	6	3	29	3
Open Seats	3	32.5	82	11	1	0	6
All Republicans	32	230.2	60	16	4	15	6
Incumbents	14	125.4	65	23	4	1	7
Challengers	14	61.2	54	5	4	34	3
Open Seats	4	43.6	55	10	3	26	5
House, 2004							
All candidates	812	609.5	55	35	2	4	4
All Democrats	403	274.1	56	34	2	5	3
Incumbents	193	190.5	55	41	1	0	4
Challengers	177	50.4	69	15	2	20	4
Open Seats	33	33.2	63	26	4	7	0
All Republicans	409	335.4	54	36	2	4	4
Incumbents	210	246.5	53	42	1	1	4
Challengers	163	41.5	67	13	6	11	4
Open Seats	36	47.4	50	25	6	14	5
Senate, 2004							
All candidates	69	367.0	69	16	5	3	7
All Democrats	35	194.7	73	14	5	2	5
Incumbents	14	103.3	73	18	5	0	5
Challengers	12	18.6	77	10	4	4	5
Open Seats	9	72.8	73	9	7	6	6
All Republicans	34	172.3	64	18	6	4	9
Incumbents	12	65.6	63	29	3	0	5
Challengers	14	45.3	69	7	5	14	5
Open Seats	8	61.4	61	14	8	2	14
House, 2002							
All candidates	807	556.7	49	36	2	9	4
All Democrats	400	273.2	46	36	2	12	5
Incumbents	193	170.1	48	45	1	0	5
Challengers	161	53.7	41	16	2	38	3
Open Seats	46	49.5	45	24	2	25	4
All Republicans	407	283.5	51	35	3	6	5
Incumbents	199	192.4	50	43	1	1	5
Challengers	162	33.1	58	12	7	20	3
Open Seats	46	58.1	49	25	5	17	4
Senate, 2002							
All candidates	69	300.5	63	19	5	8	6
All Democrats	33	139.9	68	17	2	8	6
Incumbents	12	72.8	71	22	1	< 1	6
Challengers	17	36.3	69	13	2	11	5
Open Seats	4	30.8	59	8	3	24	7
All Republicans	36	160.6	58	21	7	7	7
Incumbents	15	51.8	55	36	4	0	5
Challengers	17	68.5	55	13	8	15	9

Open Seats	4	40.3	68	14	10	3	6
House, 2000							
All candidates	820	550.0	51	34	2	7	5
All Democrats	416	271.6	50	36	2	8	6
Incumbents	206	170.5	48	45	1	< 1	7
Challengers	176	66.1	56	19	2	18	4
Open Seats	32	34.9	47	23	4	22	5
All Republicans	404	278.4	54	33	2	6	5
Incumbents	197	190.7	54	39	1	1	5
Challengers	175	45.9	58	15	5	18	4
Open Seats	32	76.9	49	29	4	14	3
Senate, 2000							
All candidates	70	387.3	53	13	4	24	6
All Democrats	34	210.2	40	9	3	43	6
Incumbents	11	46.5	56	20	6	12	5
Challengers	18	56.4	43	8	1	41	8
Open Seats	5	107.3	32	4	2	57	5
All Republicans	36	177.1	68	18	6	1	6
Incumbents	18	90.7	60	27	5	2	7
Challengers	13	20.9	70	9	8	3	10
Open Seats	5	65.5	79	10	8	0	3
House, 1998							
All candidates	782	436.1	51	35	3	6	4
All Democrats	390	199.6	49	38	3	6	4
Incumbents	194	130.6	47	46	2	0	5
Challengers	162	41.6	52	19	4	21	3
Open Seats	34	27.4	59	27	4	6	3
All Republicans	392	236.5	53	33	3	6	4
Incumbents	211	166.6	54	39	2	1	5
Challengers	149	42.3	54	15	8	17	5
Open Seats	32	27.6	45	28	5	18	3
Senate, 1998							
All candidates	70	265.9	58	18	7	11	7
All Democrats	35	126.1	58	16	8	9	9
Incumbents	15	71.9	65	22	7	0	6
Challengers	15	39.4	45	4	10	27	15
Open Seats	5	14.7	59	2	9	4	26
All Republicans	35	139.8	57	19	7	12	4
Incumbents	14	72.7	60	26	6	3	5
Challengers	16	52.7	52	9	8	29	3
Open Seats	5	14.3	59	25	8	0	8
House, 1996							
All candidates	873	460.8	53	33	4	6	4
All Democrats	435	211.6	48	35	4	9	4
Incumbents	171	108.8	47	46	2	1	5
Challengers	211	67.3	50	24	6	17	3
Open Seats	53	35.5	48	26	5	18	3

All Republicans	438	249.2	57	30	4	4	4
Incumbents	213	171.3	58	37	2	1	2
Challengers	174	40.0	64	11	9	13	3
Open Seats	51	35.0	53	23	8	12	3
Senate, 1996							
All candidates	68	242.1	58	17	9	12	4
All Democrats	34	116.2	59	13	8	16	4
Incumbents	7	36.4	74	13	4	5	4
Challengers	14	36.5	50	6	8	34	2
Open Seats	13	43.3	55	18	11	9	7
All Republicans	34	125.9	57	21	9	8	4
Incumbents	13	50.0	57	29	9	2	4
Challengers	8	25.6	70	14	10	3	3
Open Seats	13	50.3	50	18	9	18	5
House, 1994							
All candidates	824	371.3	49	34	5	8	4
All Democrats	403	196.7	43	43	5	5	4
Incumbents	226	142.4	34	50	3	1	12
Challengers	130	23.6	45	23	11	17	4
Open Seats	47	30.7	47	27	8	15	3
All Republicans	421	174.6	56	24	6	11	3
Incumbents	157	82.9	58	36	2	1	3
Challengers	217	58.6	56	10	10	20	4
Open Seats	47	33.1	50	19	8	19	4
Senate, 1994							
All candidates	70	291.7	54	15	8	19	4
All Democrats	35	124.9	55	18	10	12	5
Incumbents	16	86.4	54	18	8	14	6
Challengers	10	11.7	46	16	13	21	4
Open Seats	9	26.9	60	16	14	3	7
All Republicans	35	166.7	53	13	6	24	4
Incumbents	10	35.4	60	30	6	<1	4
Challengers	16	96.1	47	3	5	41	4
Open Seats	9	35.2	61	21	11	1	6
House, 1992							
All candidates	851	331.5	47	36	5	9	3
All Democrats	427	184.7	43	43	4	6	4
Incumbents	213	122.1	40	50	2	1	7
Challengers	140	25.1	48	26	10	13	3
Open Seats	74	37.5	49	30	4	17	<1
All Republicans	424	146.9	51	26	6	13	4
Incumbents	138	74.8	52	39	3	1	5
Challengers	216	44.5	47	9	10	22	12
Open Seats	70	27.5	57	21	7	14	1
Senate, 1992							
All candidates	71	214.2	58	21	13	5	3
All Democrats	35	108.5	60	23	11	2	4

Incumbents	15	43.9	52	35	6	2	5
Challengers	13	43.1	68	12	14	3	3
Open Seats	7	21.5	61	19	13	3	4
All Republicans	36	106.9	55	19	15	7	4
Incumbents	12	59.4	58	25	13	<1	4
Challengers	17	24.0	55	9	20	14	2
Open Seats	7	23.5	48	16	16	18	2
House, 1990							
All candidates	807	257.5	44	40	3	6	7
All Democrats	413	146.5	39	47	3	5	6
Incumbents	249	113.2	37	52	1	2	8
Challengers	132	16.0	44	27	9	16	4
Open Seats	32	17.3	42	33	4	17	4
All Republicans	394	108.8	51	32	4	7	6
Incumbents	159	70.7	50	41	2	1	6
Challengers	206	23.9	54	10	7	24	5
Open Seats	29	14.1	50	24	10	12	4
Senate, 1990							
All candidates	67	191.0	61	21	7	5	6
All Democrats	34	90.8	63	22	6	4	5
Incumbents	17	66.7	65	25	5	0	5
Challengers	14	21.0	58	12	9	15	6
Open Seats	3	3.1	50	18	11	21	<1
All Republicans	33	100.2	59	21	9	5	6
Incumbents	15	58.9	65	22	7	0	6
Challengers	15	33.4	51	16	12	15	6
Open Seats	3	7.9	43	36	7	0	14
House, 1988							
All candidates	813	249.0	46	40	4	5	5
All Democrats	429	140.0	40	47	3	5	5
Incumbents	238	103.8	39	51	2	1	7
Challengers	154	23.5	46	31	7	13	3
Open Seats	27	12.7	39	36	7	14	4
All Republicans	384	109.0	52	31	6	6	5
Incumbents	164	73.7	51	39	3	1	6
Challengers	194	21.6	55	10	13	19	3
Open Seats	26	13.7	54	21	13	12	<1
Senate, 1988							
All candidates	66	199.4	59	22	9	5	5
All Democrats	33	103.0	58	23	7	8	4
Incumbents	15	53.0	61	29	4	1	5
Challengers	12	29.1	66	16	11	3	4
Open Seats	6	20.9	37	16	8	35	4
All Republicans	33	96.3	61	22	11	2	4
Incumbents	12	50.8	62	26	8	<1	4
Challengers	15	27.7	63	11	18	6	2
Open Seats	6	17.8	54	26	13	1	6

House, 1986							
All candidates	810	234.2	48	36	4	6	6
All Democrats	427	125.7	44	42	2	6	6
Incumbents	235	84.1	42	49	1	2	6
Challengers	147	22.1	49	29	6	13	3
Open Seats	45	19.5	47	31	3	15	4
All Republicans	383	108.5	53	29	6	7	5
Incumbents	160	67.3	53	37	4	1	5
Challengers	182	21.4	54	11	10	22	3
Open Seats	41	19.8	53	24	10	10	3
Senate, 1986							
All candidates	68	208.6	60	21	9	6	4
All Democrats	34	90.2	56	22	8	9	5
Incumbents	9	28.2	62	26	7	2	3
Challengers	18	40.3	51	19	9	16	5
Open Seats	7	21.7	60	22	8	5	5
All Republicans	34	118.5	63	21	9	2	5
Incumbents	18	68.9	63	24	8	<1	5
Challengers	9	20.4	64	9	18	6	3
Open Seats	7	29.1	61	22	6	2	9
House, 1984							
All candidates	816	203.8	47	36	7	6	5
All Democrats	434	107.2	44	41	3	6	6
Incumbents	258	81.8	39	46	2	2	11
Challengers	152	16.3	43	29	6	18	5
Open Seats	24	9.1	45	22	6	24	3
All Republicans	382	96.6	49	30	11	6	5
Incumbents	154	52.1	51	37	6	1	5
Challengers	204	33.8	48	18	17	13	4
Open Seats	24	10.7	47	31	13	7	2
Senate, 1984							
All candidates	68	157.7	61	18	6	10	4
All Democrats	33	73.1	56	18	6	16	4
Incumbents	12	22.8	61	28	3	<1	8
Challengers	17	25.5	69	17	9	2	3
Open Seats	4	24.8	39	9	6	44	2
All Republicans	35	84.6	65	18	6	5	4
Incumbents	17	55.7	68	21	6	1	5
Challengers	13	10.0	55	15	20	8	2
Open Seats	5	19.0	60	10	9	17	8

a. In 2000, without Jon Corzine (D-NJ), the self-funding percentage for open seat Democrats would be only 2%, for all Democrats it would be 20%, and for all candidates it would be 10%.

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