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PRESS RELEASE

Statistical Summary of 18-Month Campaign Activity of the 2025-2026 Election Cycle

October 1, 2026

Congressional candidates collected $2.8 billion and disbursed $2 billion, political parties received $1.4 billion and spent $1 billion, and political action committees (PACs) raised $6.3 billion and spent $4.5 billion, according to campaign finance reports filed with the Federal Election Commission that cover activity from January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Disbursements for independent expenditures reported to the FEC totaled $443.4 million. Communication costs reported to the Commission totaled $2.1 million and electioneering communications filings totaled $537,693 during this period.

Activity from Jan. 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

(figures in millions)

Filers	Receipts	Disbursements
2026 Congressional Candidates	$2,795	$2,018.2
Party Committees	$1,376.4	$1,018.1
PACs	$6,307.4	$4,548.2

Communications Filings	Total
Independent Expenditures	$443.4
Electioneering Communications	$0.5
Communication Costs	$2.1

Feedback

This summary campaign activity in the 2025-2026 election cycle provides a benchmark for comparison with the same reporting period in other cycles. Supporting data tables are linked at the end of each summary section below.

I. Congressional Candidates

United States House and Senate candidates running in the 2026 election cycle reported raising a total of $2.8 billion and spending $2 billion between January 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. Candidates for the two chambers reported combined total debts of $366.7 million and combined total cash-on-hand of $1.3 billion as of June 30, 2026.

The following table summarizes campaign finance activity of House and Senate candidates through June 30 of election years since the 2013-2014 election cycle.

18-Month Financial Activity of Congressional Candidates[a]

(dollar figures in millions)

Year	No. of Cand.	Receipts	Disbursements	Debts Owed	Cash on Hand
2026	2,742	$2,795.1	$2,018.2	$366.7	$1,331.2
2024	2,264	$2,463.3	$1,904.4	$444.9	$1,712.0
2022	2,581	$2,462.8	$1,756.2	$425.1	$1,408.0
2020	2,273	$1,908.3	$1,199.1	$442.8	$1,019.0
2018	2,415	$1,699.2	$1,132.2	$466.5	$666.7
2016	1,938	$1,290.1	$698.8	$411.0	$681.8
2014	1,857	$1,443.4	$786.7	$412.2	$1,163.6

[a]Includes activity from January 1 of the pre-election year through June 30 of the election year. Contribution limits are increased for inflation every cycle. The limit for the 2026 two-year period is 20% higher than the sum of the numbers in the two subsequent campaigns as the numbers have been rounded. The number of candidates reflects the number of candidates committees that filed reports with financial activity in a given election cycle.

The 2,427 candidates running for the House of Representatives reported combined total receipts of $1.9 billion, disbursements of $1.4 billion, debts of $326.1 million and combined cash-on-hand of $917.7 million in the 18-month period. In addition to the 26 primary and general elections, these numbers also reflect financial activity associated with the 2025 and 2026 special elections in Arizona's 7th Congressional District, California's 1st and 14th Congressional Districts, Florida's 1st and 6th Congressional Districts, Iowa's 1st and 14th Congressional Districts, New Jersey's 11th Congressional District, Tennessee's 7th Congressional District, Texas' 18th Congressional District, and Virginia's 11th Congressional District.

Data summary tables for reports submitted to the Commission through June 30, 2026 by 2025 and 2026 congressional candidate committees can be found here.

II. Political Party Committees

National, state, and local political party committees reported combined total receipts of $1.4 billion in federal funds, disbursements of $1 billion, debts of $21.7 million, and cash-on-hand of $489.9 million as of June 30, 2026. Of those totals, party committees other than the two major political parties reported receipts of $7.5 million, disbursements of $6.7 million, debts of $0.2 million and a combined cash-on-hand of $3.1 million as of June 30, 2026. (See the footnote in the following table for a list of these other party committees.)

The following table summarizes 2025-2026 campaign finance activity of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC), Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), Republican National Committee (RNC), National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC) and National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC), as well as each party's state and local committees and other party committees.

Political Party Activity from Jan. 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

(figures in millions)

Party Committees	Receipts	Disbursements	Debts Owed	Cash on Hand
DNC	$220.4	$215.2	$0.5	$15.2
DSCC	$140.0	$110.5	$0.0	$41.0
DCCC	$198.1	$143.3	$0.0	$76.0
State and Local Democratic Party Committees (Subtotal)[b]	$113.5	$11.6	$2.0	$45.3
Total*	$668.3	$544.1	$2.5	$180.8

Party Committees	Receipts	Disbursements	Debts Owed	Cash on Hand
RNC	$278.6	$186.1	$0.0	$136.5
NRSC	$154.7	$115.6	$0.0	$53.9
NRCC	$200.0	$118.3	$0.0	$92.7
State and Local Republican Party Committees (Subtotal)[b]	$84.7	$64.4	$1.0	$23.8
Total*	$718.3	$483.7	$1.0	$307.8

	Receipts	Disbursements	Debts Owed	Cash on Hand
Total Other Party**	$7.5	$6.9	$0.2	$3.1

	Receipts	Disbursements	Debts Owed	Cash on Hand
Total Party Activity*	$1,376.4	$1,018.1	$21.7	$489.9

*The totals in this line may not equal the sum of the numbers in the corresponding columns as the receipts and disbursements have been adjusted to account for transfers between party committees, and the numbers have been rounded.

**Other party committees include the Libertarian National Committee, Libertarian National Congressional Committee, Green Party of the United States, Green Party National Congressional Committee, Constitution Party National Committee, and the Reform Party of the United States of America.

Individuals, for whom contributions to national parties were limited to $44,300 per year during the 2026-2026 election cycle, were the largest source of federal funds that party committees' traditional accounts. Democratic and Republican party committees received $13.3 million and $34.7 million, respectively, from individuals. Democratic PACs and other political committees contributed $65 million to Democratic party committees and $58.3 million to Republican party committees as of June 30, 2026.

Democratic and Republican House candidate committees transferred $14.7 million and $26.9 million, respectively, from their campaign accounts to party committees. Democratic Senate candidate committees transferred $10,000 to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. Their Republican counterparts transferred $111,000 to the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

Provisions of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Pub. L. 113-235), signed into law in December 2014, enable national party committees to establish accounts to defray certain expenses incurred with respect to Presidential nominating conventions, national party headquarters buildings, and election recounts and contests and other legal proceedings (collectively, "segregated party accounts").

The segregated party accounts of national party committees reported receiving $256.3 million between January 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. Of that total, the Democratic national party committees' segregated party accounts received $87.9 million, while the corresponding Republican national party committee accounts received $168.4 million.

The recount and other legal proceedings accounts reported the highest receipt total across all the segregated party accounts: $168.4 million. Headquarters and convention accounts raised $111.4 million and $18.1 million, respectively, through June 30, 2026.

Data summary tables for reports submitted by political party committees to the Commission through June 30, 2026 can be found here.

III. Political Action Committees (PACs)

Based on reports filed with the Commission from January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, 9,176 federal PACs reported total receipts of $6.3 billion, disbursements of $4.5 billion, debts of $39.4 million and a cash-on-hand of $3.3 billion.

The following table summarizes campaign finance activity of PACs based on FEC type in this period. This table includes both separate segregated funds (SSFs), which have connected organizations such as corporations or labor organizations that establish, administer, or raise money on their behalf, and nonconnected committees.

PAC Activity from Jan. 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

(dollar figures in millions)

Committee Type	No. of PACs	Receipts	Disbursements	Debts Owed	Cash on Hand
Separate Segregated Fund					
Corporate	1,894	$351.4	$309.4	$0.1	$2,118.0
Labor	281	$108.8	$103.7	$1.7	$278.4
Trade	715	$116.2	$102.4	$0.0	$319.4
Membership	322	$116.1	$116.2	$0.0	$68.3
Corporate	52	$8.9	$8.1	$0.0	$9.6
Corporations without Stock	71	$8.4	$8.4	$0.0	$11.1

Committee Type	No. of PACs	Receipts	Disbursements	Debts Owed	Cash on Hand
Nonconnected PACs*					
Independent Expenditure-Only Political Committees	2,419	$2,458.2	$1,668.9	$15.6	$1,290.3
Committees w/ Non-Contribution Accounts	1,048	$4,229.2	$3,510.7	$8.7	$1,021.4
Leadership PACs	884	$103.2	$218.4	$4.5	$163.2
Other Nonconnected PACs	1,109	$362.0	$360.1	$8.7	$136.7

	No. of PACs	Receipts	Disbursements	Debts Owed	Cash on Hand
Total SSF and Nonconnected PACs**	9,176	$6,307.4	$6,048.2	$39.4	$3,307.9

*Nonconnected committees include Independent Expenditure-Only Political Committees, Committees with Non-Contribution Accounts, and Leadership PACs. Independent Expenditure-Only Political Committees are committees that may receive unlimited contributions from individuals, corporations, and labor organizations for the purpose of financing independent expenditures and other independent political activity. Committees with Non-Contribution Accounts solicit and accept unlimited contributions from individuals, corporations, labor organizations, and other political committees to a segregated bank account for the same purpose as Independent Expenditure-Only Political Committees, while maintaining a separate bank account — subject to limits and prohibitions on contributions and source prohibitions — that is permitted to make contributions to federal candidates. Leadership PACs are political committees that are sponsored by a federal officeholder. Non-Connected Leadership PACs are political committees that are not directly or indirectly established, financed, maintained, or controlled by a candidate or an individual holding federal office, but are neither authorized committees of the candidate or officeholder nor committees that support an authorized committee of a candidate or officeholder. Like other multicandidate PACs, a leadership PAC may contribute up to $5,000 per election to a federal candidate committee.

**The totals in this line may not equal the sum of the numbers in the corresponding columns as these numbers have been rounded. Instead, the bottom-line totals correspond to PAC Table 1.

Contributions by PACs to federal candidates seeking office in the 2025-2026 election cycle totaled approximately $356.2 million as of June 30, 2026. FEC contributions to Senate and House candidates totaled $56.4 million and $299.7 million, respectively. There were no reported contributions by PACs to 2026 presidential candidates as of June 30, 2026. Independent Expenditure-Only Political Committees are prohibited from making contributions to candidates.

Data summary tables for reports submitted by PACs to the Commission through June 30, 2026 can be found here.

IV. Independent Expenditures

Independent expenditures reported to the Commission through June 30, 2026 in connection with presidential and congressional elections in the 2025-2026 election cycle totaled $443.4 million.* Independent Expenditure-Only Political Committees accounted for $329.6 million of all independent expenditures disclosed to the Commission. Committees with Non-Contribution Accounts reported $97.1 million, and other PACs reported $13.6 million. Independent expenditures made by persons other than political committees totaled $4.8 million, and party committees reported independent expenditures totaling $133,461.

Data summary tables for independent expenditure filings submitted to the Commission through June 30, 2026 can be found here.

*A political committee must itemize its payments for independent expenditures once the calendar year total paid to a vendor or other person exceeds $200 with respect to a particular election. Any other person (e.g., individual, partnership, or group of individuals) must file a report with the Commission at the end of the first reporting period in which independent expenditures with respect to a given election aggregate more than $250 in a calendar year and in any succeeding period during the same year in which additional independent expenditures of any amount are made.

V. Electioneering Communications

Electioneering communication filings totaling $537,693 were reported to the Commission in connection with activity between January 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. An electioneering communication is a broadcast, cable, or satellite communication that refers to a clearly identified federal candidate and is distributed within 30 days prior to a primary election or within 60 days prior to a general election. This communication does not expressly advocate the election or defeat of a federal candidate.

Data summary tables for electioneering communications filings submitted to the Commission through June 30, 2026 can be found here.

VI. Communication Costs

A provision of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the Act), allows corporations and labor organizations to communicate to a "restricted class" of individuals on any subject, including express advocacy of the election or defeat of any federal candidate. Communication costs reported to the Commission when the cost exceeds $1,000 per election but are not considered independent expenditures. This provision of the Act predates the Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*, which struck down the ban on independent expenditures and electioneering communications financed by the general treasuries of corporations and labor unions.

The Commission received filings from 22 organizations during the reporting period, disclosing spending of $2.1 million in costs for communications to those organizations' restricted classes between January 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026.

The data summary table for communication cost filings submitted to the Commission through June 30, 2026 can be found here.

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