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Reporting

[July Reporting Reminder](#)

The following reports are due in July:

- All authorized committees of House and Senate candidates must file a quarterly report by July 15, 2016. The report covers financial activity from April 1 (or the day after the closing date of the last report) through June 30;
- Authorized committees of Presidential candidates must file a report by July 15, if they are quarterly filers (the report covers financial activity from April 1 through June 30), or by July 20, if they are monthly filers (the report covers activity for the month of June); and
- National party committees and state, district and local party committees that engage in reportable "federal election activity" (see the "State, District and Local Party Committees" section below) must file a monthly report by July 20. All other party committees and political action committees (PACs) that have chosen to file monthly also have a report due on July 20. This report covers activity for the month of June.
- PACs and party committees following a quarterly reporting schedule must file a quarterly report by July 15, covering activity from April 1 (or the day after the closing date of the last report) through June 30.

Quarterly filers that participate in primary elections or [special elections](#) may need to file pre- and post-election reports that are not accounted for above. The coverage periods and due dates for those reports are available on our [reporting dates web page](#). Remember, reporting periods always begin the day after the closing date of the last report filed.

The Commission will host [reporting and FECFile webinars](#) for candidates on June 22 and a FECFile webinar for PACs and party committees on June 29 to help filers prepare their reports.

Notification of Filing Deadlines

In addition to publishing this article and the online reporting tables, the Commission notifies committees of filing deadlines through reporting reminders called prior notices. Prior notices are distributed exclusively by electronic mail, so every committee should ensure that the email address on its [Statement of Organization \(FEC Form 1\)](#) is current. Each committee may list up to two email addresses. To amend Form 1, electronic filers must submit Form 1 filled out in its entirety. Paper filers should include only the committee's name, address, FEC identification number and the updated or changed portions of the form. Committees may also use our [online webform](#) to update their information.

Treasurer's Responsibilities

The Commission provides reminders of upcoming filing dates as a courtesy to help committees comply with the filing deadlines set forth in the Federal Election Campaign Act (the Act) and Commission regulations. Committee treasurers are responsible for filing committee reports on time. Not receiving a prior notice does not excuse committee treasurers for failing to comply with any filing deadline.

Filing Electronically

Under the Commission's mandatory electronic filing regulations, individuals and organizations required to file with the FEC that receive contributions or make expenditures, including independent expenditures, aggregating in excess of \$50,000 in a calendar year — or that have reason to expect to do so — must file all reports and statements electronically. [FN1] Reports filed electronically must be received and validated by the Commission by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the filing date. 11 CFR 100.19(c). Electronic filers who file on paper or submit an electronic report that does not pass the Commission's validation program by that time on the filing deadline will be considered nonfilers and may be subject to enforcement actions, including administrative fines. 11 CFR 104.18(a)(2) and (e).

Senate campaigns and other committees that file with the Secretary of the Senate must file their FEC reports on paper, but may file an additional unofficial electronic copy of their report with the Commission in order to enhance disclosure.

The Commission's electronic filing software, FECFile, is free and can be downloaded at <http://www.fec.gov/elecfil/updatelist.html>. All reports filed after February 8, 2016, must be filed in Format Version 8.1.0.4. Reports filed in previous formats will not be accepted. Filers may also use commercial or privately developed software as long as the software meets the Commission's format specifications, which are available on the Commission's website. Committees using commercial software should contact their vendors to ensure their software meets the latest specifications.

Timely Filing for Paper Filers

Registered and Certified Mail. Reports sent by registered or certified mail are considered to be filed on the date of their postmark. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(5) and 11 CFR 104.5(e). Accordingly, quarterly reports sent by registered or certified mail must be postmarked on or

¹The regulation covers individuals and organizations required to file reports of contributions and/or expenditures with the Commission, including any person making an independent expenditure. 11 CFR 104.18(a). Disbursements for "electioneering communications" are not considered "expenditures" and thus do not count toward the \$50,000 threshold for mandatory electronic filing. See 11 CFR 104.18(a).

before the filing deadline to be considered timely filed. 11 CFR 100.19(b)(1). A committee sending its reports by certified or registered mail should keep its mailing receipt with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) postmark as proof of mailing because the USPS does not keep complete records of items sent by certified or registered mail. 11 CFR 104.5(i).

Overnight Mail. Reports sent via overnight mail [FN2] will be considered timely filed if the report is postmarked on or before the filing deadline. A committee sending its reports by Priority Mail or Priority Express Mail, or by an overnight delivery service, should keep its proof of mailing or other means of transmittal of its reports. See 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a)(5) and 11 CFR 100.19(b)(1) and 104.5(e) and (i).

Other Means of Filing. Reports sent by other means — including first class mail and courier — must be received by the FEC (or the Secretary of the Senate) before close of business on the filing deadline. See 11 CFR 100.19(b)(2) and 104.5(e). (If the deadline falls on a weekend or federal holiday, such filers should plan accordingly and file reports by the close of business on the last business day before the filing deadline.)

Forms may be downloaded at <http://www.fec.gov/info/forms.shtml> and are available from FEC Faxline, the agency's automated fax system (202/501-3413).

State, District and Local Party Committees

As noted above, state, district and local party committees that engage in reportable "federal election activity" must file on a monthly schedule. See 11 CFR 300.36(b) and (c) (1). Committees that do not engage in reportable "federal election activity" may file on a quarterly basis in 2016. See 11 CFR 104.5(c)(1)(i).

National Party Committees

National committees of political parties must file on a monthly schedule. 52 U.S.C. § 30104 (a)(4)(B) and 11 CFR 104.5(c)(4).

Political Action Committees

PACs (separate segregated funds, committees with non-contribution accounts (Hybrid PACs), independent expenditure-only committees (Super PACs) and other nonconnected committees) that filed on a semi-annual basis in 2015 file on a quarterly basis in 2016. Monthly filers continue on a monthly schedule. PACs may change their filing schedule, but must first notify the Commission in writing. Electronic filers must file this request electronically. A committee may change its filing frequency only once a year. 11 CFR 104.5(c).

The committee will receive a letter from the Commission approving the frequency change.

Additional Information

For more information on 2016 reporting dates:

- Call and request the reporting tables from the FEC at 800/424-9530 or 202/694-1100;

² As used here, "overnight mail" includes Priority or Priority Express Mail having a delivery confirmation, or an overnight service with which the report is scheduled for next business day delivery and is recorded in the service's online tracking system. See 11 CFR 100.19(b)(1) and (b)(3)(i). Note that "Express Mail" as referred to in FEC regulations has been renamed "Priority Express Mail" by the USPS.

- Fax the reporting tables to yourself using the FEC's [Faxline](#) (202/501-3413, document 586);or
- Visit the FEC's web page at http://www.fec.gov/info/report_dates_2016.shtml to view the reporting tables online.

(Posted 06/21/2016; By: Katherine Carothers)

Resources:

- [2016 Reporting Dates](#)
- [Compliance Map](#)
- [FEC Electronic Filing](#)

Advisory Opinions

[AOR 2016-05: Huckabee for President](#)

On June 29, 2016, Huckabee for President withdrew its request for an advisory opinion regarding the use of a legal defense fund to pay a litigation settlement.

(Posted 06/30/2016; By: Dorothy Yeager)

Resources:

- [Withdrawal of Advisory Opinion Request 2016-05](#) [PDF]

[Pending Advisory Opinion Requests as of June 30, 2016](#)

Advisory Opinion Requests (AORs) pending before the Commission as of the end of the month are listed below. Procedures for commenting on pending AORs are [described here](#).

- [AOR 2016-06](#) [PDF] Trade association and SSF online fundraising events for candidates (Internet Association and Internet Association PAC received on May 25, 2016)
- [AOR 2016-07](#) [PDF] National party committee status (United National Committee received on June 3, 2016)

(Posted 06/30/2016; By: Dorothy Yeager)

Resources:

- [Advisory Opinion Search](#)

Regulations

[Commission Issues Interim Final Rules Adjusting Civil Penalties for Inflation](#)

On June 24, 2016, the Commission published a notice of Interim Final Rules to adjust for inflation the civil monetary penalties established under the federal campaign finance statutes administered by the Commission. The interim final rules, required in order to comply with a 2015 statute affecting federal government agencies, take effect on August 1, 2016.

Statutory Requirement

The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-74, sec. 701, 129 Stat. 584, 599 ("the 2015 Act") amended the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (the "Inflation Adjustment Act") concerning adjustment of civil penalties for inflation by federal agencies. As a result, federal agencies, including the Commission, must make a one-time "catch-up" adjustment to civil monetary penalties, effective no later than August 1, 2016, and must adjust those penalties annually thereafter using newly prescribed formulas. To calculate the catch-up adjustment for civil monetary penalties, federal agencies must first identify the "baseline" year, which is the later of: the year the penalty was first established, or the year it was last adjusted by law other than under the Inflation Adjustment Act. Agencies then must multiply the cost-of-living ("COLA") [FN1] ratio for the baseline year by the amount of each penalty in effect in the baseline year to determine the increased amount of the penalty; however, a penalty may not be increased by more than 150% of the amount in effect on November 2, 2015.

Adjustments Made

There are two types of civil monetary penalties that must be adjusted for inflation under the federal campaign finance laws administered by the Commission:

- Penalties that are either negotiated by the Commission or imposed by a court for violations of the federal laws administered by the Commission. See 11 CFR 111.24.
- Penalties set under the Administrative Fine Program for late filing or non-filing of certain reports required by the Federal Election Campaign Act. See 11 CFR 111.43 and 111.44.

To calculate the amount of each catch-up adjustment, the interim final rules multiply the civil monetary penalty amount in the baseline year by the COLA ratio, and where required, limit the increase to no more than 150% of the amount in effect on November 2, 2015. The [Federal Register notice \(81 Fed. Reg. 41196 \(June 24, 2016\)\)](#) details each revised penalty and the calculation of its catch-up adjustment.

¹ The COLA ratio is the percentage that the consumer price index ("CPI") for October 2015 exceeds the CPI for October of the baseline year.

Interim Final Rules

As required by the 2015 Act, the Commission is issuing these civil monetary penalty adjustments as interim final rules, with an accompanying explanation and justification (E&J). The interim final rules will take effect on August 1, 2016. [FN2] The Administrative Procedure Act's notice-and-comment requirement does not apply because Congress specifically directed agencies to make adjustments to civil monetary penalties through an interim final rule. Nonetheless, the public may comment on these interim final rules until July 25, 2016, and the Commission may address any comments received in a later rulemaking document. See the [Federal Register notice](#) at 81 Fed. Reg. 41196 (June 24, 2016) for information on the comment procedures.

(Posted 06/24/2016; By: Dorothy Yeager)

Resources:

- [Federal Register Notice](#) (June 24, 2016) [PDF]
- [Commission consideration of Interim Final Rules and E&J](#) 
- [Administrative Fine Program](#)
- [Enforcement Matters](#)

² The 2015 Act requires that agencies make their catch-up adjustments effective by August 1, 2016.

Public Funding

[Commission Certifies Additional Federal Matching Funds for Stein](#)

The Federal Election Commission has certified a payment of \$45,929.27 in federal matching funds to Jill Stein for President. The certified amount was in response to the second regular submission for matching funds made by Stein, the Green Party's presidential candidate for 2016.

To become eligible for matching funds, candidates must raise a threshold amount of \$100,000 by collecting \$5,000 in 20 different states in amounts no greater than \$250 from any individual. Other requirements to be declared eligible include agreeing to an overall spending limit, abiding by spending limits in each state, using public funds only for legitimate campaign-related expenses, keeping financial records and permitting an extensive campaign audit.

Based on Commission certification of Jill Stein for President's initial threshold submission for matching funds in March and the Committee's first regular submission last month, the United States Treasury made two payments totaling \$196,924.35 to the campaign. The Commission has requested that the U.S. Treasury make a third payment of \$45,929.27, bringing the total certified amount for Stein's committee to \$242,853.62.

Materials included with Jill Stein for President's submission may be viewed [here](#). Once declared eligible, campaigns may submit additional contributions for matching funds on

the first business day of every month. The maximum amount a primary candidate could receive is currently estimated to be about \$48.01 million.

(Posted 06/22/2016)

Resources:

- [FEC Press Release](#) (June 22, 2016)
- [Press Office Backgrounder on Presidential Election Campaign Fund](#)
- [2016 Presidential Matching Fund Submissions](#)

Litigation

[CREW v. FEC \(16-1088\) \(New\)](#)

On June 10, 2016, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington and its Executive Director, Noah Bookbinder, (collectively, "CREW") filed suit against the Commission in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. CREW alleges that the Commission's dismissal of its administrative complaint (Matter Under Review (MUR) 6661) against Robert E. Murray; Murray Energy Corporation; Murray Energy Corporation PAC and Michael G. Ruble, in his official capacity as treasurer, (collectively, "Respondents") was arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion and contrary to law.

Background

The Federal Election Campaign Act (the Act) and Commission regulations prohibit corporations from making direct contributions to federal candidates. 52 U.S.C. § 30118; 11 CFR 114.2. However, corporations may create separate segregated funds, i.e., corporate-sponsored political action committees (PACs), to fund activities using voluntary contributions raised from executives and stockholders in connection with a federal election, including making direct candidate contributions. 52 U.S.C. § 30118(b)(2)(C); 11 CFR 114.5.

Corporate PACs may not make contributions or expenditures using money that was secured by actual or threatened physical force, job discrimination, financial reprisals, or other moneys required as a condition of employment. See 52 U.S.C. § 30118(b)(3)(A); 11 CFR 114.5(a)(1). The Act and Commission regulations also prohibit a person from making a contribution in the name of another person and from knowingly accepting a contribution made by one person in the name of another. 52 U.S.C. § 30122; 11 CFR 110.4(b)(1).

On October 5, 2012, CREW filed a complaint with the Commission alleging that the Respondents engaged in coercive solicitation practices with Murray Energy Corporation employees. CREW also alleged that Murray Energy Corporation's bonus program was used to reimburse employees for their political contributions. On February 1, 2016, the Commission's Office of General Counsel recommended that the Commission find reason to believe (RTB) that the Respondents violated the Act and recommended authorizing an investigation. The Commission failed by a vote of three to three to make an RTB finding and subsequently dismissed the complaint. See MUR 6661.

Challenge to Dismissal of Administrative Complaint

In its challenge to the Commission's dismissal of its complaint, CREW alleges that the Commission applied an improper standard for an RTB finding, incorrectly interpreted provisions of the Act and reached factual conclusions unsupported by the record. CREW seeks a declaration from the District Court to that effect and an order that the Commission conform to the court's declaration within 30 days. CREW also seeks court costs and attorney's fees.

(Posted 06/16/2016; By: Zainab Smith)

Resources

- *CREW v. FEC* (16-1088) [Ongoing Litigation Page](#)

Compliance

[FEC Cites Eight Committees in Four States for Failing to File Pre-Primary Financial Reports](#)

The Commission has cited eight campaign committees for failing to file required pre-election reports for the June 7 primaries in California, Iowa, North Carolina and New Mexico.

As of June 3, 2016, the Commission had not received a 12-Day Pre-Primary Report from:

- Elect Massie Munroe BS MS PE Civil Environmental Engineer to US Senate (CA)
- Emory Rodgers for Senate (CA)
- Phil Wyman for U.S. Senate (CA)
- Dr. Fox 2016 (CA-18)
- Friends of Dr. Rita Ramirez for US Congress District 8 (CA-08)
- Krause for Iowa Inc. (IA)
- Roberts Election Committee (NC-05)
- Committee to Elect Michael Lucero for Congress (NM-03)*

The pre-primary report was due on May 26, 2016, and should have included financial activity for the period April 1, 2016, through May 18, 2016. If sent by certified or registered mail, the report should have been postmarked by May 23, 2016.

The Commission notified committees involved in the June 7 primary elections of their potential filing requirements on May 2, 2016. Those committees that did not file by the due date were sent notification on May 27, 2016, that their reports had not been received and that their names would be published if they did not respond within four business days.

Some individuals and their committees have no obligation to file reports under federal campaign finance law, even though their names may appear on state ballots. If an individual raises or spends \$5,000 or less, he or she is not considered a "candidate" subject to reporting under the Act.

Other political committees that support Senate and House candidates in elections, but are not authorized units of a candidate's campaign, are also required to file quarterly reports, unless they report monthly. Those committee names are not published by the FEC.

Further Commission action against non-filers and late filers is decided on a case-by-case basis. Federal law gives the FEC broad authority to initiate enforcement actions, and the FEC has implemented an Administrative Fine program with provisions for assessing monetary penalties.

**Committee to Elect Michael Lucero for Congress (NM-03) filed a report with incorrect coverage dates.*

(Posted 06/06/2016)

Resources:

- [FEC Press Release](#) (06/03/2016)
- [Compliance Map](#)
- [The Administrative Fine Program](#)
- [FEC Reporting Dates](#)
- [Late Filing and Other Enforcement Penalties](#) (Reports Analysis Division)

[FEC Cites Three Committees in Nevada and South Carolina for Failing to File Pre-Primary Financial Reports](#)

The Commission has cited three campaign committees for failing to file required pre-election reports for the June 14 primaries in Nevada and South Carolina.

As of June 9, 2016, the Commission had not received a 12-Day Pre-Primary Report from:

- Annette Teijeiro for Congress (NV-03)
- Cherny for Congress (SC-01)
- Bobby Mahendra for Senate (NV)

The pre-primary report was due on June 2, 2016, and should have included financial activity for the period April 1, 2016, through May 25, 2016. If sent by certified or registered mail, the report should have been postmarked by May 30, 2016.

The Commission notified committees involved in these primary elections of their potential filing requirements on May 9, 2016. Those committees that did not file by the due date were sent notification on June 3, 2016, that their reports had not been received and that their names would be published if they did not respond within four business days.

Some individuals and their committees have no obligation to file reports under federal campaign finance law, even though their names may appear on state ballots. If an individual raises or spends \$5,000 or less, he or she is not considered a "candidate" subject to reporting under the Act.

Other political committees that support Senate and House candidates in elections, but are not authorized units of a candidate's campaign, are also required to file quarterly reports, unless they report monthly. Those committee names are not published by the FEC.

Further Commission action against non-filers and late filers is decided on a case-by-case basis. Federal law gives the FEC broad authority to initiate enforcement actions, and the FEC has implemented an Administrative Fine program with provisions for assessing monetary penalties.

(Posted 06/13/2016)

Resources:

- [FEC Press Release](#) (06/10/2016)
- [Compliance Map](#)
- [The Administrative Fine Program](#)
- [FEC Reporting Dates](#)
- [Late Filing and Other Enforcement Penalties](#) (Reports Analysis Division)

[FEC Cites Committee in New York for Failing to File Pre-Primary Financial Report](#)

The Commission has cited a campaign committee for failing to file a required pre-election report for the June 28 primary in New York.

As of June 23, 2016, the Commission had not received a 12-Day Pre-Primary Report from:

- Yungman Lee for Congress (NY-07)

The pre-primary report was due on June 16, 2016, and should have included financial activity for the period April 1, 2016, through June 8, 2016. If sent by certified or registered mail, the report should have been postmarked by June 13, 2016.

The Commission notified committees involved in the New York primary of their potential filing requirements on May 23, 2016. Those committees that did not file by the due date were sent notification on June 17, 2016, that their reports had not been received and that their names would be published if they did not respond within four business days.

Some individuals and their committees have no obligation to file reports under federal campaign finance law, even though their names may appear on state ballots. If an individual raises or spends \$5,000 or less, he or she is not considered a "candidate" subject to reporting under the Act.

Other political committees that support Senate and House candidates in elections, but are not authorized units of a candidate's campaign, are also required to file quarterly reports, unless they report monthly. Those committee names are not published by the FEC.

Further Commission action against non-filers and late filers is decided on a case-by-case basis. Federal law gives the FEC broad authority to initiate enforcement actions, and the FEC has implemented an Administrative Fine program with provisions for assessing monetary penalties.

(Posted 06/27/2016)

Resources:

- [FEC Press Release](#) (06/24/2016)
- [Compliance Map](#)
- [The Administrative Fine Program](#)
- [FEC Reporting Dates](#)
- [Late Filing and Other Enforcement Penalties](#) (Reports Analysis Division)

Statistics

[FEC Summarizes First 15 Months of Campaign Activity for 2015-2016 Election Cycle](#)

The Commission has released its statistical summary of 15-month campaign activity for the 2015-2016 election cycle. This summary covers funds raised and spent in connection with federal elections between January 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016.

Presidential Candidates

Presidential candidates raised \$735.3 million and spent \$671.1 million during the first 15 months of the 2015-2016 election cycle. The 93 presidential candidates who had filed campaign finance reports also disclosed combined totals of \$50.8 million in debts and \$67.8 million in cash on hand as of March 31, 2016.

Congressional Candidates

Candidates for the U.S. House and Senate running in the 2016 election cycle reported raising a combined \$796.9 million and spending \$423.6 million between January 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016. The 165 Senate candidates reported total receipts of \$274.2 million, disbursements of \$130.5 million, debts of \$15.9 million and cash-on-hand of \$241.1 million. Meanwhile, 1,188 House candidates reported total receipts of \$522.7 million, disbursements of \$293.1 million, debts of \$53.4 million and cash-on-hand of \$408.4 million. (Note that these figures include activity in connection with several special elections in 2015 and 2016.)

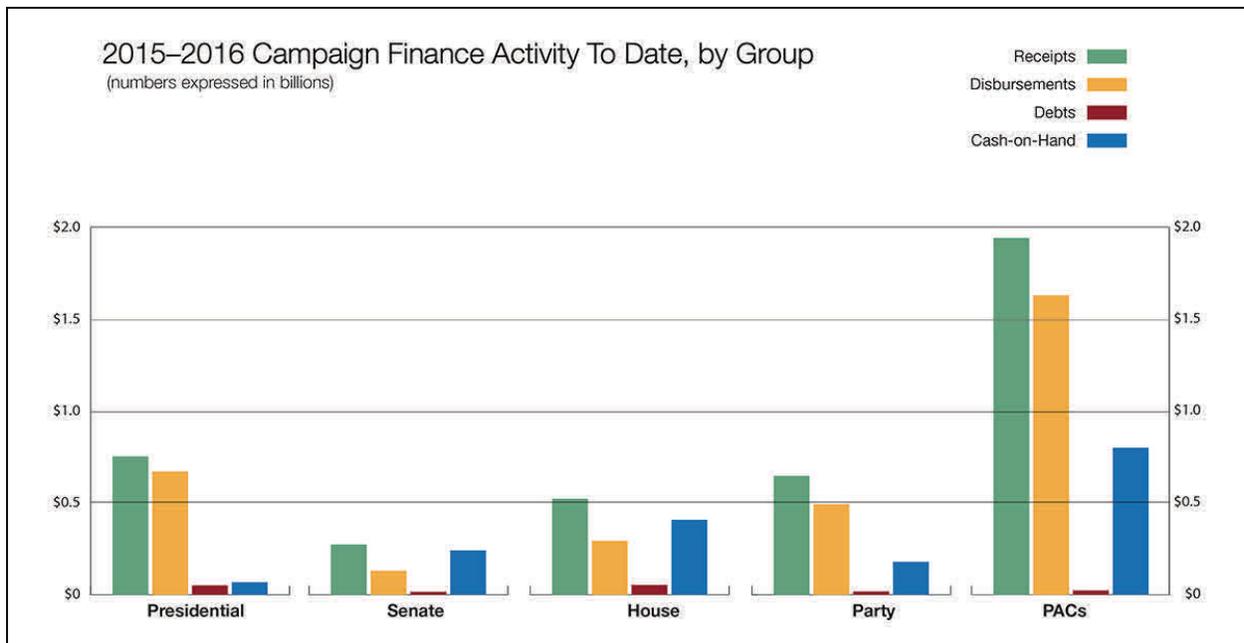
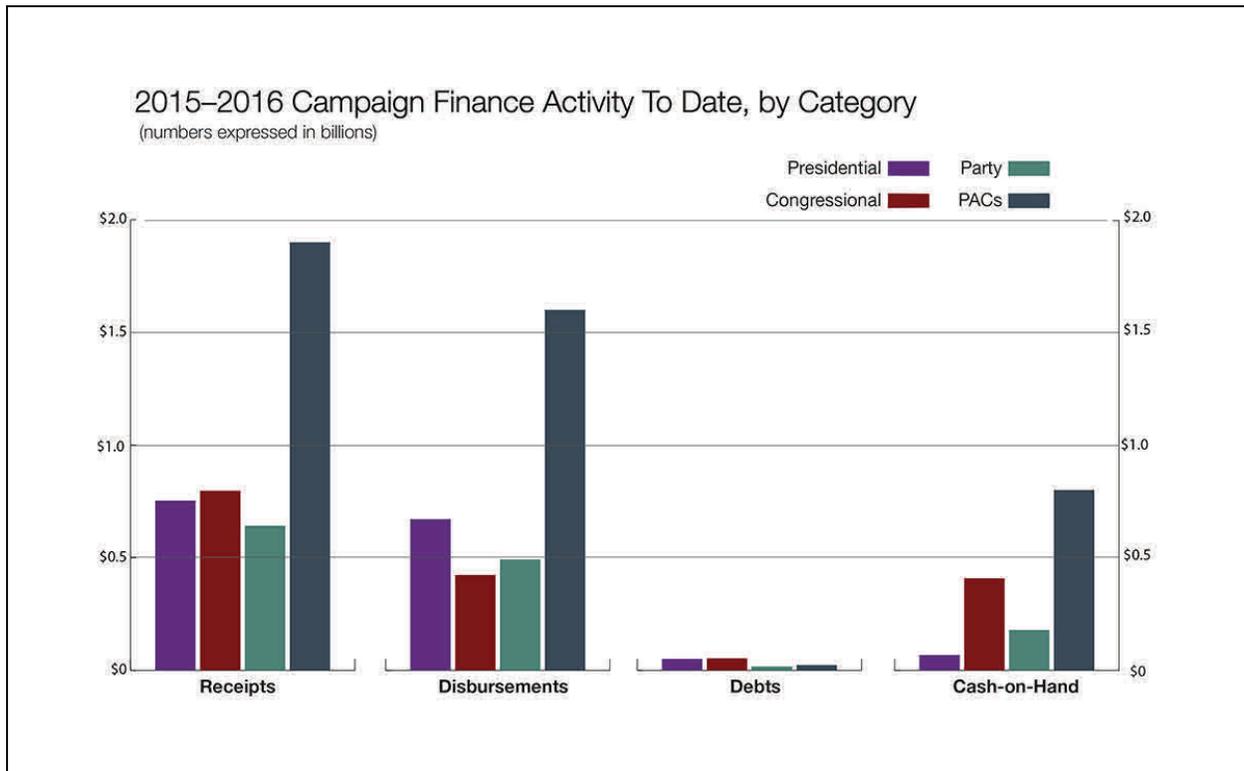
Political Party Committees

For the 2015-2016 election cycle through March 31, 2016, national, state and local political party committees reported combined total receipts of \$647.1 million in federal funds, disbursements of \$492.6 million, debts of \$17.8 million, and cash-on-hand of \$179 million. Individuals were the largest source of federal funds for party committees. Legislation signed into law in December 2014 enabled national party committees to

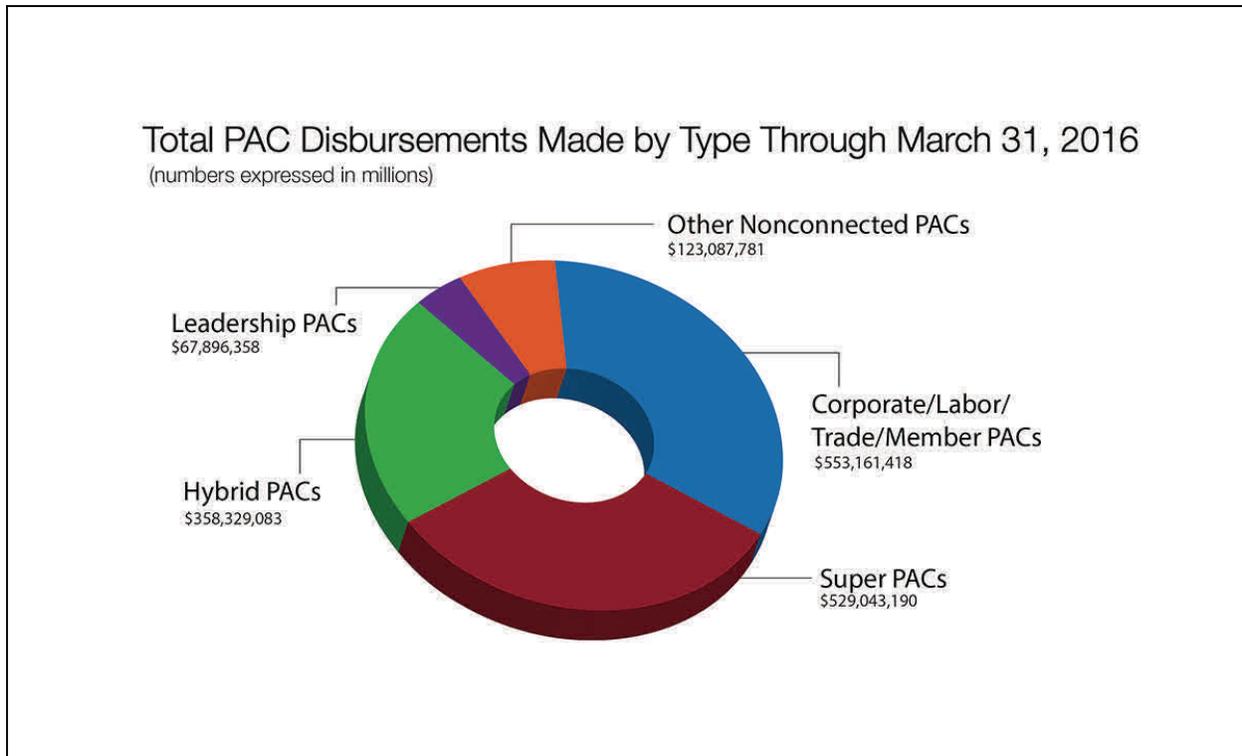
establish accounts to defray expenses incurred with respect to presidential nominating conventions, national party headquarters buildings and election recounts and contests. The resulting new accounts reported receiving a combined total of \$59.9 million between January 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016.

Political Action Committees (PACs)

Based on reports filed with the Commission for the 2015-16 election cycle through March 31, 2016, 7,774 federal PACs reported total receipts of \$1.9 billion, disbursements of \$1.6



billion, debts of \$23.7 million and combined cash-on-hand of \$800.8 million. Contributions by PACs to presidential and congressional candidates seeking office in the 2015-2016 election cycle totaled \$1.6 million and \$249.8 million, respectively, as of March 31, 2016.



Independent Expenditures

Independent expenditures reported to the Commission through March 31, 2016 in connection with presidential and congressional elections in the 2015-2016 election cycle totaled \$310.5 million.

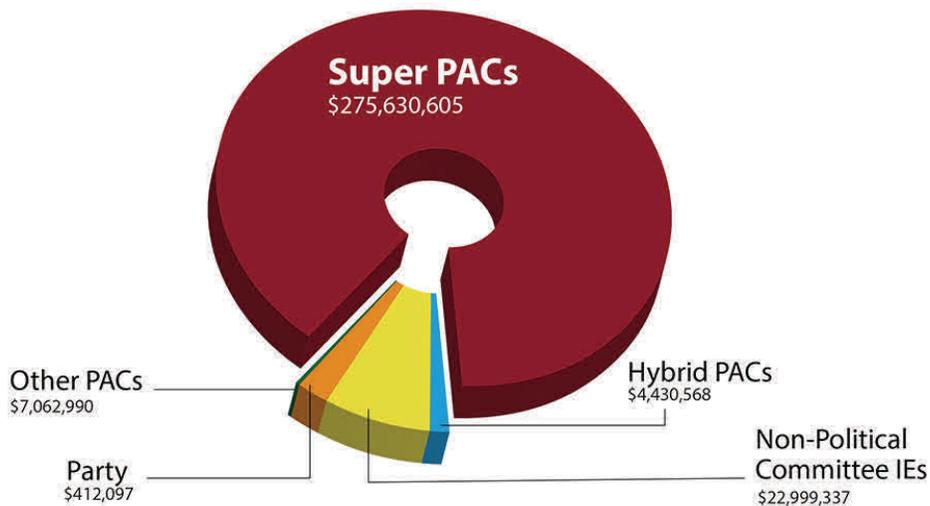
Independent expenditure-only political committees (Super PACs) accounted for \$275.6 million of all independent expenditures disclosed to the Commission, while committees with non-contribution accounts (Hybrid PACs) reported spending \$4.4 million, and other PACs reported spending \$7.1 million. Independent expenditures made by persons other than political committees totaled \$23 million, and party committees reported independent expenditures totaling \$412,097.

Other Reportable Communications

Electioneering communications filings totaled \$838,979 in the 2015-2016 election cycle through March 31, 2016. An electioneering communication is a broadcast, cable or satellite communication that refers to a clearly identified candidate (but that does not contain express advocacy) and is distributed within 30 days prior to a primary election or within 60 days prior to a general election. See 52 U.S.C. § 30104(f) and 11 CFR 100.29 and 104.20.

Express advocacy communications by corporations and labor organizations to their "restricted classes," (i.e., "Communications Costs") must be disclosed when the cost exceeds \$2,000 per election. See 52 U.S.C. § 30101(9)(B)(iii) and 11 CFR 100.134 and

Independent Expenditures Made Through March 31, 2016 (numbers expressed in millions)



104.6. The Commission received 20 such filings disclosing spending of \$5.3 million between January 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016.

Data summary tables for reports submitted to the Commission through March 31, 2016 are listed below for:

- [Presidential candidate committees](#);
- [Congressional candidate committees](#);
- [Political party committees](#);
- [PACs](#); and
- [Independent expenditures, electioneering communications and communications costs](#)

(Posted 07/01/2016; By: Dorothy Yeager. Graphics by James Jones)

Resources:

- [FEC Statistical Summary](#) (June 27, 2016)
- [Campaign Finance Disclosure Portal](#)