FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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Statistical Summary of 18-Month Campaign Activity of the 2015-2016 Election Cycle

Presidential candidates raised $936.6 million and spent $857.9 million in the first 18 months of the 2015-2016 election cycle, according to campaign finance reports filed with the Federal Election Commission that cover activity from January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Congressional candidates raised $1.1 billion and spent $698.9 million in the same period. Political parties received $839.8 million and disbursed $625.9 million, and political action committees (PACs) received $2.5 billion and disbursed $2.2 billion. Disbursements for independent expenditures reported in this period totaled $434.2 million. Communication costs reported to the Commission totaled $8.7 million.

Activity from Jan. 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016
(figures in millions)

Filers	Receipts	Disbursements
2016 Presidential Candidates	$936.6	$857.9
2016 Congressional Candidates	$1,092.1	$698.9
Party Committees	$839.8	$625.9
PACs	$2,503.7	$2,199.3

Communications Filings	Total
Independent Expenditures	$434.2
Electioneering Communications	$1.4
Communication Costs	$8.7

This summary of campaign activity in the 2015-2016 election cycle provides a benchmark for comparison with the same reporting period in previous cycles. Supporting data tables are linked at the end of each summary section below.

I. Presidential Candidates

As of June 30, 2016, 103 individuals had filed campaign finance reports disclosing financial activity in connection with the 2016 presidential election. These candidates reported raising $936.6 million and spending $857.9 million from January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Their combined cash-on-hand was $82.9 million, while their combined debt was $16.3 million as of June 30, 2016.

The following table summarizes campaign finance activity of presidential candidates through June 30 of the election year since the 2003-2004 election cycle.

18-Month Financial Activity of Presidential Candidates*
(figures in millions)

Year	Candidates	Receipts	Disbursements	Debts Owed	Cash on Hand
2016	103	$936.6	$857.9	$16.3	$82.9
2012	13	$601.9	$496.7	$16.4	$124.2
2008	20	$1,057.8	$1,000.8	$79.9	$128.3
2004	12	$575.9	$468.2	$10.6	$104.6

*Includes activity from January 1 of the pre-election year through June 30 of the election year. Contribution limits are indexed for inflation every cycle. Note that this chart captures all candidates who reported financial activity in this period of the cycle; press releases in earlier cycles captured only a subset of candidates who reported a significant level of activity, such as raising more than $100,000 by the end of the cycle.

Data summary tables for reports submitted to the Commission through June 30, 2016 by 2016 presidential candidate committees can be found here. Historical campaign finance activity for presidential candidates can be found here.

II. Congressional Candidates

United States House and Senate candidates running in the 2016 election cycle reported raising a total of $1.1 billion and spending $698.9 million between January 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. Candidates for the two chambers reported combined total debts of $91 million and combined total cash-on-hand of $681.8 million as of June 30, 2016.

The following table summarizes campaign finance activity of House and Senate candidates through June 30 of election years since the 2005-2006 election cycle.

18-Month Financial Activity of Congressional Candidates*
(monetary figures in millions)

Year	No. of Cand.	Receipts	Disbursements	Debts Owed	Cash on Hand
2016	1,556	$1,092.1	$698.9	$91.0	$681.8
2014	1,607	$1,143.4	$766.7	$95.2	$569.6
2012	1,848	$1,210.4	$786.8	$113.5	$602.3
2010	2,068	$1,183.6	$756.3	$140.7	$654.2
2008	1,461	$946.3	$571.3	$81.9	$554.2
2006	1,343	$880.7	$500.1	$64.1	$581.2

*Includes activity from January 1 of the pre-election year through June 30 of the election year. Contribution limits are indexed for inflation every cycle. The totals in the 2016 row may differ slightly from the sum of the numbers in the two subsequent paragraphs as the numbers have been rounded. The number of candidates reflects the number of candidate committees that filed reports with financial activity in a given election cycle.

The 195 candidates running for Senate in 2016 reported total receipts of $366.1 million, disbursements of $219.2 million, debts of $22.9 million and cash-on-hand of $255.4 million.

The 1,361 candidates running for the House of Representatives in 2015-2016 reported combined total receipts of $725.9 million, disbursements of $479.6 million, debts of $68.1 million and cash-on-hand of $426.4 million. In addition to the 2016 primary and general elections, these numbers encompass financial activity associated with the 2015 special elections for Illinois's 18th Congressional District, Mississippi's 1st Congressional District and New York's 11th Congressional District, as well as the 2016 special election for Ohio's 8th Congressional District.

Data summary tables for reports submitted to the Commission through June 30, 2016 by 2015 and 2016 congressional candidate committees can be found here.

III. Political Party Committees

National, state and local political party committees reported combined total receipts of $839.8 million in federal funds, disbursements of $625.9 million, debts of $25.6 million, and cash-on-hand of $235.2 million as of June 30, 2016. Of those totals, party committees other than the two major political parties reported receipts of $4.4 million, disbursements of $3.9 million, debts of $46,634, and a combined cash-on-hand of $1.2 million as of June 30, 2016. (See the footnote in the following table for a list of these other party committees.)

The following table summarizes 2015-2016 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, 2015 through June 30, 2016
(figures in millions)

Party Committees	Receipts	Disbursements	Debts Owed	Cash on Hand
DNC	$119.5	$118.5	$9.0	$7.9
DSCC	$104.5	$76.4	$4.9	$29.0
DCCC	$121.9	$66.8	$0	$57.3
State and Local Democratic Party Committees (federal funds)	$85.2	$71.4	$1.4	$15.4
Total*	$404.5	$306.5	$15.3	$109.6
RNC	$180.7	$164.5	$7.7	$21.1
NRSC	$71.7	$48.0	$0	$26.4
NRCC	$116.9	$55.1	$0	$63.3
State and Local Republican Party Committees (federal funds)	$75.2	$61.5	$2.6	$13.6
Total*	$430.9	$315.5	$10.3	$124.4
Total Other Party**	$4.4	$3.9	$0.0	$1.2
Total Party Activity*	**$839.8**	**$625.9**	**$25.6**	**$235.2**

*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 Senatorial Campaign Committee, Constitution Party National Committee, and the Reform Party of the United States of America.

Individuals, for whom contributions to national parties are limited to $33,400 per year this election cycle, were the largest source of federal funds for party committees' traditional accounts. Democratic and Republican party committees reported receiving $281.9 million and $249.7 million, respectively, from individuals. PACs and other political committees contributed $45.7 million to Democratic party committees and $55.9 million to Republican party committees as of June 30, 2016.

Democratic and Republican House campaign committees transferred $19.2 million and $25.1 million, respectively, from their campaign accounts to their national congressional party committees. Committees representing Democratic Senate candidates transferred $1.4 million to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. Committees representing Republican Senate candidates transferred $115,000 to the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Provisions of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (H.R. 83), 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.

The resulting new accounts of national party committees reported receiving $86.7 million between January 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. Of that total, the new Democratic national party committee accounts received $20.6 million, while the corresponding Republican national party committee accounts received $66.1 million. New accounts established by other national political parties reported receiving $21,508.

Headquarters accounts reported the highest receipt total across all the newly established national party committee accounts: $42.7 million. New convention and recount accounts raised $24.7 million and $19.4 million, respectively, through June 30, 2016.

Data summary tables for reports submitted by political party committees to the Commission through June 30, 2016 can be found here.

IV. Political Action Committees (PACs)

Based on reports filed with the Commission from January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, 8,169 federal PACs reported total receipts of $2.5 billion, disbursements of $2.2 billion, debts of $13.4 million, and combined cash-on-hand of $787.1 million.

The following table summarizes campaign finance activity of PACs based on PAC type in 2015-2016. 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, 2015 through June 30, 2016
(monetary figures in millions)

Committee Type	No. of PACs	Receipts	Disbursements	Debts Owed	Cash on Hand
Separate Segregated Funds					
Corporate	1,773	$305.9	$289.7	$0.2	$163.1
Labor	289	$249.1	$197.9	$1.3	$153.1
Trade	726	$125.2	$108.3	$0.2	$72.0
Membership	234	$110.5	$89.7	$0.0	$54.3
Cooperative	40	$6.4	$5.4	$0.0	$5.6
Corporations without Stock	104	$12.8	$11.7	$0.4	$4.0
Nonconnected PACs*					
Independent Expenditure-Only Political Committees	2,472	$936.1	$772.7	$5.4	$212.8
Committees w/ Non-Contribution Accounts	156	$494.8	$483.9	$1.1	$28.6
Leadership PACs	555	$94.5	$84.5	$0.2	$39.0
Other Nonconnected PACs	1,820	$168.4	$155.6	$4.7	$54.5
Total SSF and Nonconnected PAC Activity**	**8,169**	**$2,503.7**	**$2,199.3**	**$13.4**	**$787.1**

*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 purposes as Independent Expenditure-Only Political Committees, while maintaining a separate bank account -- subject to all of the statutory amount limitations and source prohibitions -- that is permitted to make contributions to federal candidates. The data above includes receipts and disbursements from both bank accounts of Committees with Non-Contribution Accounts. Leadership PACs are political committees that are 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 affiliated with 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 presidential and congressional candidates seeking office in the 2015-2016 election cycle totaled $2.4 million and $325.4 million, respectively, as of June 30, 2016. PAC contributions to Senate and House candidates totaled $67.7 million and $257.7 million,

respectively. 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, 2016 can be found here.

V. Independent Expenditures

Independent expenditures reported to the Commission through June 30, 2016 in connection with presidential and congressional elections in the 2015-2016 election cycle totaled $434.2 million.[*] Independent Expenditure-Only Political Committees accounted for $367.8 million of all independent expenditures disclosed to the Commission, Committees with Non-Contribution Accounts reported $7.5 million, and other PACs reported $14.2 million. Independent expenditures made by persons other than political committees totaled $41.3 million, and party committees reported independent expenditures totaling $3.3 million.

Data summary tables for independent expenditure filings submitted to the Commission through June 30, 2016 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 (individual, partnership or group of individuals) must file a report with the FEC 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.

VI. Electioneering Communications

Electioneering communication filings totaling $1.4 million were reported to the Commission in connection with activity in the 2015-2016 election cycle. 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. These communications do not expressly advocate the election or defeat of a federal candidate.

The data summary table for electioneering communication filings submitted to the Commission through June 30, 2016 can be found here.

VII. 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. The costs of such communications must be reported to the Commission when the cost exceeds $2,000 per election. This provision of the Act pre-dates 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 41 such filings during the reporting period, disclosing spending of $8.7 million in costs for communications to organizations' restricted class between January 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

The data summary table for communication cost filings submitted to the Commission through June 30, 2016 can be found here.

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