

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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## FEC UPDATES PAC SPENDING FIGURES

WASHINGTON — The Federal Election Commission released updated figures today on the amount of money raised and spent by PAC's for the 1980 elections. The total spending figures cover financial activity from January 1, 1979, through November 24, 1980.

Today's release of information shows that PAC's began the 1980 election cycle with \$14.8 million cash-on-hand. They raised an additional \$127.3 million and spent \$121.9 million from January 1979, through November 1980. Their cash-on-hand at the end of that period was \$20.8 million, although 1980 year-end reports are still to be filed with the FEC at the end of January. Those reports, covering the last six weeks of the election cycle, could significantly alter interim figures.

Details of how PAC's spent \$121.9 million are not yet known, since the FEC is continuing to computerize information reported by PAC's before the November election. However, preliminary information which is available shows a portion of the 1980 PAC contribution activity.

Some of the \$121.9 million was contributed to federal candidates. The following categorizes those contributions. Again, none of the figures listed below is complete through November; they represent activity through mid to late summer 1980 only:

\$37.6 million contributed to 1980 House and Senate races —

\$26.7 million to House candidates; \$10.9 million to Senate candidates.  
\$21.8 million to Democrats; \$15.8 million to Republicans.  
\$25.3 million to incumbents; \$7.7 million to challengers;  
\$4.6 million to open-seat races.

\$1.7 million contributed to 1980 Presidential candidates —

\$2.9 million contributed to other federal races —  
(either for debt retirement or for future campaigns.)

Total PAC activity thus far totals \$42.4 million in contributions to all federal candidates and \$8.3 million spent independently for or against candidates during 1979-80, with additional information still to be tabulated.

Charts on the following page provide greater detail for the contribution patterns outlined above.

**CAUTION:** The information contained in this release is incomplete and is being released to inform the press and public of information thus far compiled on the financial aspects of the 1980 elections. No attempt should be made to compare or contrast contributions spending figures with total dollars spent, since the two categories of information are taken from different time periods. Future updates will provide the additional data necessary for such analysis.

