Government Union Political Spending: 2018 Election

Pennsylvania’s top government union political action committees (PACs) spent over $12 million during the 2017-18 election cycle.

Contributions to Governor Wolf
- Gov. Wolf was the number one recipient at $5.8 million—19 percent of his total election cycle donations.
- When accounting for independent expenditures spent on behalf of Wolf, that number surpasses $11 million since 2013.

Government Union PAC Contributions to Gov. Wolf since 2013

*National and local unions
**The top 14 unions spent an additional $1.3 million in independent expenditures on behalf of Wolf.
Source: Pennsylvania Department of State, “Campaign Finance Online Reporting.”

AFSCME 13, AFT PA, APSCUF, FOP, PA AFL-CIO, PA, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, PPFFA, PSCOA, PSEA, SEIU (state council, Local 668, Healthcare PA), PFT, and UFCW 1776.
The United Homecare Workers of Pennsylvania—the union representing the Medicaid-funded home care workers forcibly unionized via Gov. Wolf’s executive order—spent $45,000 helping reelect Gov. Wolf. Simply put, the governor’s campaign benefitted from his unilateral action to skim Medicaid funds for union dues.

**Contributions to Legislative Candidates**
- These unions gave $2.75 million directly to legislative candidates on the 2018 ballot.
- This doesn’t include independent expenditures spent on behalf of candidates.
- In 34 legislative races, government unions donated to both candidates vying for a seat.

**Contributions to Political Organizations**
- Union leaders funded political entities, which in turn donated to candidates or ran advertisements on their behalf. For example:
  - $909,303 to the State Democratic party and campaign committees.
  - $139,050 to the State Republican party and campaign committees.
  - $390,000 to PA Alliance Action.
    - This 501(c)4 gave $1.4 million to Fund for Change, a trial lawyer PAC which issued ads and mailers attacking Republicans, including those who had voted for union and trial lawyers’ interests and received union donations.
  - $345,000 to Fairness PA, one of Gov. Wolf’s largest donors, a PAC formed by trial lawyers who owned pharmacies and opposed workers comp reform.

**Government Union 2018 Election Spending by Party**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Democrats</th>
<th>Republicans</th>
<th>Third Party</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senate</td>
<td>$428,506</td>
<td>$128,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>$1,814,655</td>
<td>$381,975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political</td>
<td>$620,407</td>
<td>$142,050</td>
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<td>Committees</td>
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<td>20%</td>
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<td>40%</td>
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<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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**Source:** Pennsylvania Department of State, "Campaign Finance Online Reporting."

Since 2007, these top government union PACs have spent $58.5 million. The 2018 election is the most expensive election cycle in the last ten years, more than doubling spending in each of the 2008, 2010, and 2012 election cycles.