

Table 3-2

**House Campaign Expenditures: Major Party General Election Candidates, 1974-2018 (full cycle)**  
*Adjusted for inflation, 2018 Dollars*

	2018	2016	2014	2012	2010	2008	2006	2004
All Candidates	1,333,707,704 <sup>a</sup>	853,684,433	870,995,031	1,010,092,496	1,070,295,308	942,369,061	936,332,749	772,972,462 <sup>a</sup>
Total expenditures	1,696,829	1,180,753	1,159,780	1,288,383.19	1,339,543	1,249,826	1,240,176	1,027,889
Mean expenditure	(n=786)	(n=723)	(n=751)	(n=784)	(n=799)	(n=754)	(n=755)	(n=752)
Mean, Democrats	1,898,931	1,024,616	1,048,586	1,127,710.98	1,447,883	1,249,571	1,059,490	924,824
	(n=430)	(n=367)	(n=377)	(n=390)	(n=388)	(n=410)	(n=414)	(n=380)
Mean, Republicans	1,597,291	1,341,715	1,271,867	1,447,424.70	1,237,266	1,250,132	1,459,542	1,133,323
	(n=355)	(n=356)	(n=374)	(n=394)	(n=411)	(n=344)	(n=341)	(n=371)
Incumbents	1,880,909	1,756,748	1,534,041	1,811,448.59	1,788,269	1,554,956	1,571,361	1,364,658 <sup>a</sup>
Mean, all incumbents	(n=369)	(n=387)	(n=386)	(n=378)	(n=393)	(n=399)	(n=402)	(n=401)
Mean, Democrats	1,403,432	1,261,621	1,497,537	1,530,867.46	1,984,298	1,450,713	1,225,174	1,270,991
	(n=173)	(n=169)	(n=182)	(n=162)	(n=236)	(n=229)	(n=191)	(n=190)
Mean, Republicans	2,302,355	1,818,322	1,566,608	2,021,885.25	1,493,600	1,695,378	1,884,732	1,450,775
	(n=196)	(n=218)	(n=204)	(n=216)	(n=157)	(n=170)	(n=211)	(n=210)
Challengers	1,302,669 <sup>a</sup>	454,660	529,229	642,195.59	800,488	676,228	635,484	428,119
Mean, all challengers	(n=289)	(n=254)	(n=271)	(n=288)	(n=325)	(n=284)	(n=289)	(n=284)
Mean, Democrats	1,816,084	588,649	463,857	697,679.00	427,326	778,242	735,580	416,242
	(n=193)	(n=156)	(n=149)	(n=170)	(n=111)	(n=146)	(n=190)	(n=158)
Mean, Republicans	252,881	216,468	609,069	562,262.51	994,044	582,319	443,381	443,012
	(n=95)	(n=98)	(n=122)	(n=118)	(n=214)	(n=139)	(n=99)	(n=126)
Open seats	2,056,102	1,668,475	1,440,789	1,189,934.86	1,325,272	1,829,480	1,890,482	1,554,612
Mean, all open-seat candidates	(n=128)	(n=82)	(n=94)	(n=118)	(n=81)	(n=71)	(n=64)	(n=67)
Mean, Democrats	2,683,895	1,689,213	1,166,317	1,262,088.45	1,123,200	1,916,789	1,965,458	1,380,578
	(n=64)	(n=42)	(n=46)	(n=58)	(n=41)	(n=36)	(n=33)	(n=32)
Mean, Republicans	1,428,309	1,501,059	1,703,825	1,120,186.32	1,532,395	1,739,677	1,810,670	1,713,728
	(n=64)	(n=40)	(n=48)	(n=60)	(n=40)	(n=35)	(n=31)	(n=35)

2002	2000	1998	1996	1994	1992	1990	1988	1986	1984
734,179,021 <sup>a</sup>	750,686,708 <sup>a</sup>	611,933,708 <sup>a</sup>	676,439,632 <sup>a</sup>	##### <sup>a</sup>	##### <sup>a</sup>	##### <sup>a</sup>	477,834,291	498,463,357	427,492,989
1,029,704 (n=712)	1,014,442 (n=740)	851,089 (n=719)	826,943 (n=818)	745,332 (n=787)	726,063 (n=813)	617,981 (n=731)	643,982 (n=742)	677,260 (n=736)	583,209 (n=733)
1,022,374 (n=353)	977,312 (n=372)	778,727 (n=358)	755,654 (n=412)	821,734 (n=386)	819,711 (n=410)	673,497 (n=381)	669,475 (n=397)	691,816 (n=397)	574,554 (n=399)
1,037,197 (n=358)	1,054,084 (n=366)	923,031 (n=360)	897,782 (n=405)	670,887 (n=400)	629,790 (n=402)	556,009 (n=349)	614,389 (n=344)	664,636 (n=340)	593,548 (n=334)
1,221,044 <sup>a</sup>	1,209,064 <sup>a</sup>	1,007,720 <sup>a</sup>	1,081,098 <sup>a</sup>	946,933 <sup>a</sup>	1,056,699 <sup>a</sup>	800,528	829,538	829,622	674,398
(n=387)	(n=400)	(n=400)	(n=382)	(n=382)	(n=349)	(n=405)	(n=408)	(n=389)	(n=408)
1,168,272 (n=188)	1,101,562 (n=201)	910,355 (n=189)	939,459 (n=168)	1,049,480 (n=224)	1,102,365 (n=211)	805,804 (n=247)	795,143 (n=245)	801,705 (n=231)	674,782 (n=254)
1,272,641 (n=198)	1,324,263 (n=197)	1,096,264 (n=210)	1,190,809 (n=213)	800,084 (n=157)	986,552 (n=137)	792,278 (n=158)	881,235 (n=163)	870,436 (n=158)	673,762 (n=154)
474,765 (n=226)	550,239 (n=272)	511,599 (n=254)	464,185 (n=331)	406,665 (n=302)	297,831 (n=290)	258,244 <sup>a</sup> (n=270)	290,554 (n=283)	356,515 (n=262)	391,509 (n=273)
578,375 (n=115)	645,941 (n=136)	501,843 (n=136)	515,773 (n=191)	299,476 (n=110)	254,891 (n=111)	252,200 (n=104)	347,124 (n=126)	390,778 (n=123)	300,913 (n=119)
369,320 (n=111)	454,536 (n=136)	522,843 (n=118)	393,803 (n=140)	468,074 (n=192)	324,458 (n=179)	256,984 (n=165)	245,151 (n=157)	323,864 (n=139)	461,515 (n=154)
1,572,360 (n=99)	1,726,412 (n=68)	1,213,836 (n=65)	1,045,858 (n=105)	990,631 (n=103)	776,610 (n=174)	1,032,221 (n=56)	1,120,714 (n=51)	986,291 (n=86)	874,152 (n=52)
1,501,667 (n=50)	1,551,370 (n=35)	1,165,961 (n=33)	1,037,506 (n=53)	945,450 (n=52)	854,431 (n=88)	1,044,653 (n=30)	1,047,447 (n=26)	962,588 (n=43)	847,828 (n=26)
1,646,061 (n=49)	1,912,060 (n=33)	1,263,207 (n=32)	1,054,373 (n=52)	1,036,699 (n=51)	696,979 (n=86)	1,017,875 (n=26)	1,217,483 (n=24)	1,009,995 (n=43)	900,478 (n=26)

<b>1982</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>1974</b>
455,172,015	351,129,933	331,712,228	264,990,728	224,372,127
593,445 <i>(n=767)</i>	466,928 <i>(n=752)</i>	421,490 <i>(n=787)</i>	323,553 <i>(n=819)</i>	271,909 <i>(n=810)</i>
555,217 <i>(n=411)</i>	436,624 <i>(n=396)</i>	419,742 <i>(n=416)</i>	329,056 <i>(n=429)</i>	275,011 <i>(n=434)</i>
637,578 <i>(n=356)</i>	500,635 <i>(n=356)</i>	423,628 <i>(n=371)</i>	317,503 <i>(n=390)</i>	279,299 <i>(n=376)</i>
689,571 <i>(n=383)</i>	503,070 <i>(n=391)</i>	428,110 <i>(n=377)</i>	350,394 <i>(n=382)</i>	287,978 <i>(n=382)</i>
644,221 <i>(n=216)</i>	481,522 <i>(n=248)</i>	398,686 <i>(n=249)</i>	323,579 <i>(n=254)</i>	197,335 <i>(n=218)</i>
748,229 <i>(n=167)</i>	540,444 <i>(n=143)</i>	485,353 <i>(n=128)</i>	403,607 <i>(n=128)</i>	409,203 <i>(n=163)</i>
394,790 <i>(n=270)</i>	371,026 <i>(n=277)</i>	288,088 <i>(n=299)</i>	224,165 <i>(n=335)</i>	203,814 <i>(n=323)</i>
367,917 <i>(n=137)</i>	284,363 <i>(n=105)</i>	273,244 <i>(n=109)</i>	204,460 <i>(n=122)</i>	301,868 <i>(n=162)</i>
422,469 <i>(n=133)</i>	423,929 <i>(n=172)</i>	296,599 <i>(n=190)</i>	235,449 <i>(n=213)</i>	105,149 <i>(n=161)</i>
740,248 <i>(n=114)</i>	614,938 <i>(n=84)</i>	774,307 <i>(n=111)</i>	549,461 <i>(n=102)</i>	460,580 <i>(n=106)</i>
666,160 <i>(n=58)</i>	549,486 <i>(n=43)</i>	815,986 <i>(n=58)</i>	642,097 <i>(n=53)</i>	508,036 <i>(n=54)</i>
818,497 <i>(n=56)</i>	682,974 <i>(n=41)</i>	728,692 <i>(n=53)</i>	449,265 <i>(n=49)</i>	411,301 <i>(n=52)</i>

Note: The data include primary and general election expenditures for major party general-election candidates only.

a. Includes one or more Independents. Independents are included only if they are incumbents or highly competitive non-incumbents.

Source: Campaign Finance Institute analysis of Federal Election Commission data.