

February 2019

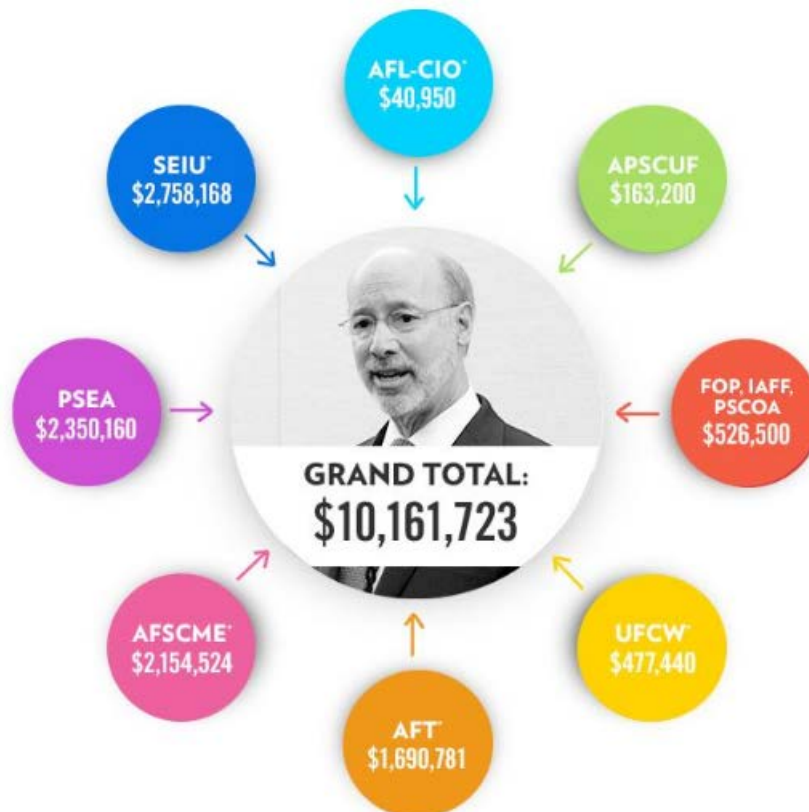
Government Union Political Spending: 2018 Election

Pennsylvania's top government union¹ 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."

¹ AFSCME 13, AFT PA, APSCUF, FOP, PA AFL-CIO, PA, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, PPFPA, 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.

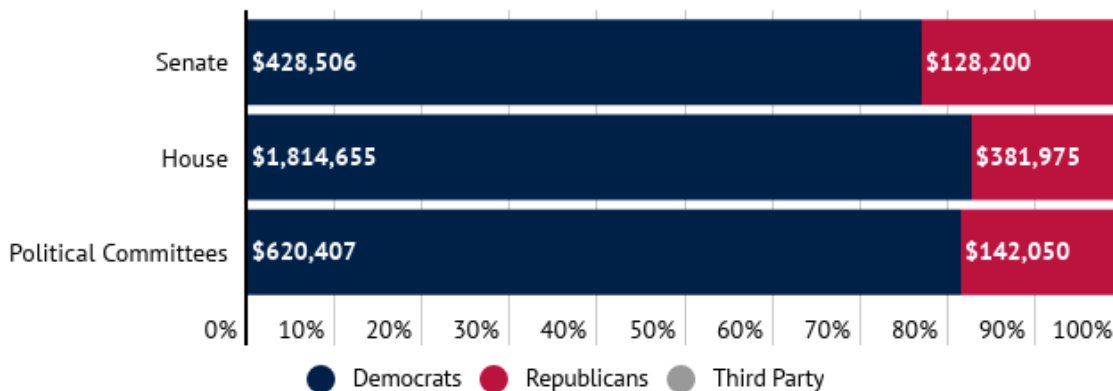
Contributions to Legislative Candidates

- 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



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.