



Total Outside Spending by Election Cycle, Excluding Party Committees

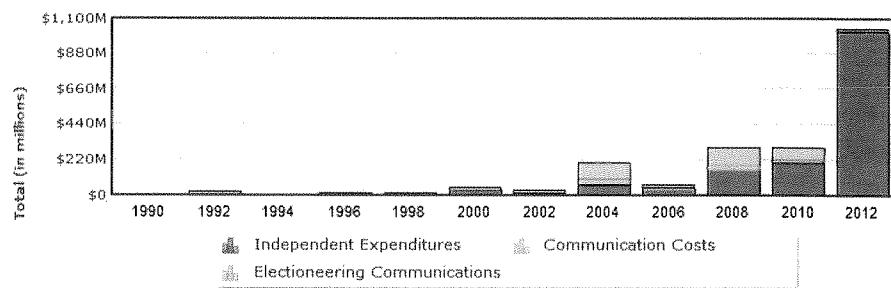
The chart below shows spending by outside groups in three categories: [independent expenditures](#), [electioneering communications](#) and [communication costs](#). As the chart makes clear, the 2004 election marked a watershed moment in the use of independent expenditures to try to sway voters, with most of that new spending coming from the national party committees. The 2010 election marks the rise of a new political committee, dubbed "super PACs," and officially known as "independent-expenditure only committees," which can raise unlimited sums from corporations, unions and other groups, as well as wealthy individuals. [Read more...](#)

GROUP FILTER: [Excluding Party Committees](#) | [All Groups](#)

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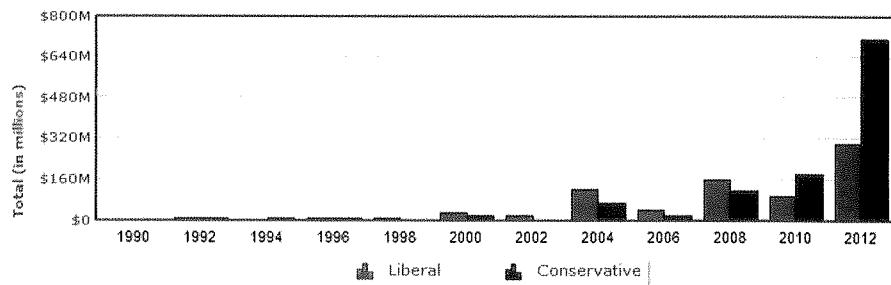
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Cycle	Total	Independent Expenditures	Electioneering Communications	Communication Costs
2012	\$1,037,022,715	\$1,010,773,322	\$14,675,939	\$11,573,454
2010	\$294,693,518	\$206,431,179	\$74,453,972	\$13,808,367
2008	\$301,679,929	\$156,841,894	\$119,256,138	\$25,581,897
2006	\$68,852,502	\$37,394,589	\$15,152,326	\$16,305,587
2004	\$200,102,202	\$68,716,443	\$100,218,129	\$31,167,630
2002	\$27,289,285	\$16,588,844	N/A	\$10,700,441
2000	\$50,796,592	\$33,034,631	N/A	\$17,761,961
1998	\$15,191,107	\$10,266,937	N/A	\$4,924,170
1996	\$17,884,043	\$10,167,742	N/A	\$7,716,301
1994	\$9,538,844	\$5,219,215	N/A	\$4,319,629
1992	\$19,635,123	\$10,947,342	N/A	\$8,687,781
1990	\$7,213,219	\$5,650,524	N/A	\$1,562,695

Total Liberal vs. Conservative Outside Spending, Excluding Party Committees



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