



# Political Action Committees



# Understanding PACs

- Political Action Committee
- Formed to give money to candidates in order to influence their political decisions.
- Limitations placed on how much money they can give
- PACs can give money directly to candidates





# Campaign finance reform in 1973

- Established the Federal Elections Commission
  - Commission for overseeing campaign spending
  - Sets contribution limits
  - Makes it legal for corporations and unions to form PACs
- Number of PACs exploded, as did the money they spent on congressional candidates.





# Purpose of PACs

- Allow interest groups to support candidates
  - Over half of PACs are set up by corporations
  - Rest are established by Unions and various other groups
    - Ex. [American Federation of Teachers](#)
- Helps cover costs of candidates
  - Mostly consist of small contributions

**Nurse Practitioners of  
New York State**



**Political Action Committee**



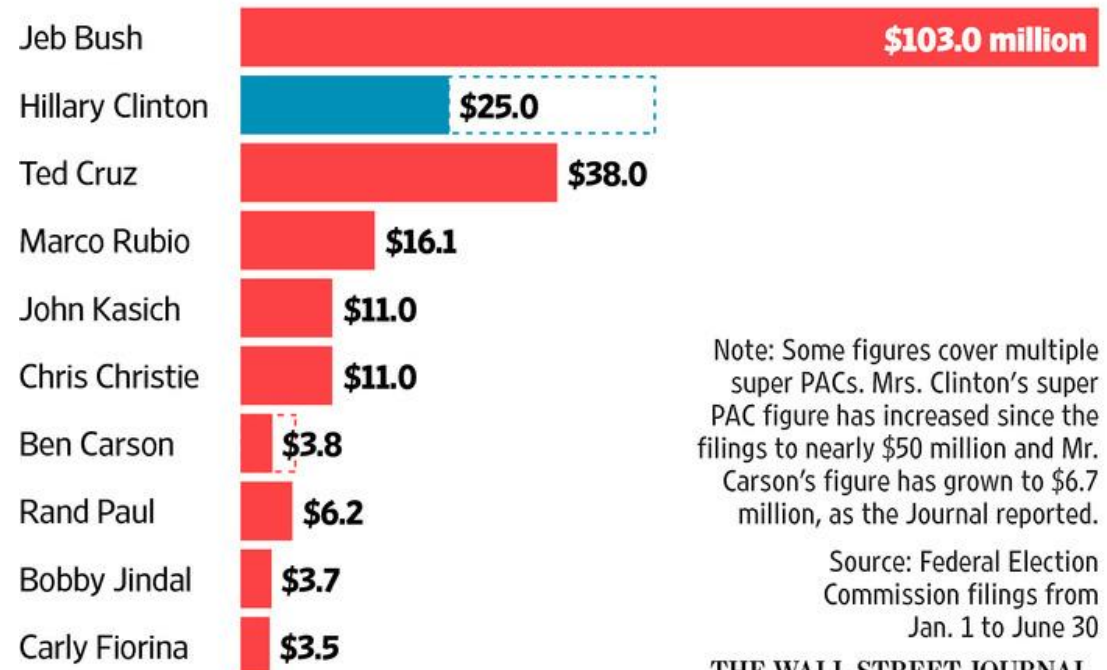
# Super PACs

- Can collect and spend unlimited amounts of money
  - Can not directly contribute to an individuals campaigns
    - Largest contribution is running ads on a candidate's behalf
- Candidates and Super PAC managers are allowed to work with each other
  - Super PACs normally established by wealthy ideological contributors

## Super Bucks

Money raised by super PACs backing 2016 presidential candidates

■ Republicans ■ Democrats



Note: Some figures cover multiple super PACs. Mrs. Clinton's super PAC figure has increased since the filings to nearly \$50 million and Mr. Carson's figure has grown to \$6.7 million, as the Journal reported.

Source: Federal Election Commission filings from Jan. 1 to June 30

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