

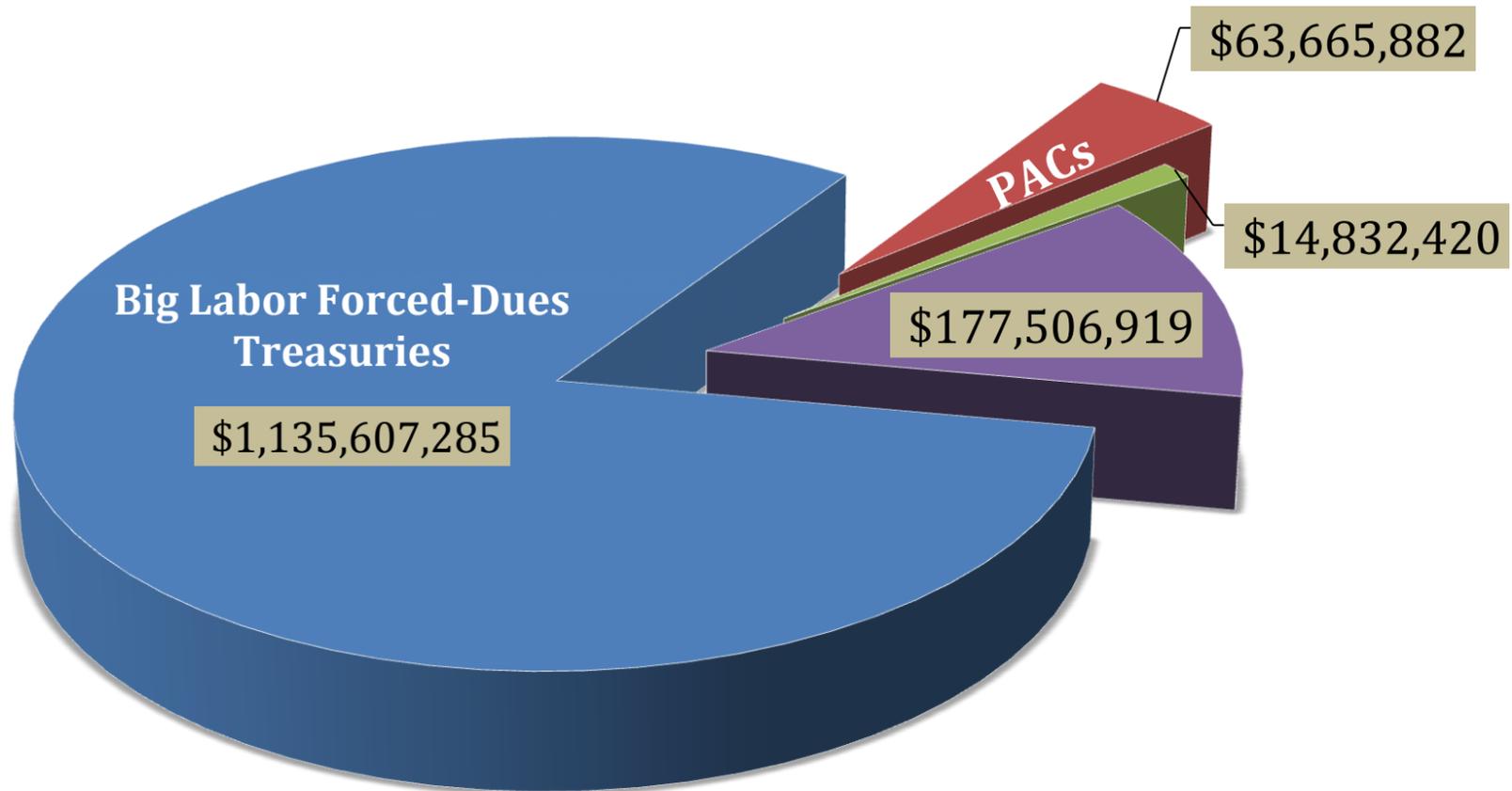


NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LABOR RELATIONS RESEARCH

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BIG LABOR SPENT \$1.4 BILLION FOR POLITICS



- Labor union spending from union treasuries as self-reported in U.S. Department of Labor union financial disclosure reports (LM-2)*
- Labor union spending from Political Action Committees (PACs) as reported to the Federal Election Commission (FEC)**
- Government union spending from union controlled "Federally Focused 527s" as reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)***
- Government union spending from state campaign finance reports****

Big Labor Political Spending in the 2010 Election Cycle

Labor union spending from union treasuries as self-reported in U.S. Department of Labor union financial disclosure reports (LM-2)*	\$1,135,607,285
Labor union spending from Political Action Committees (PACs) as reported to the Federal Election Commission (FEC)**	63,665,882
Government union spending from union controlled "Federally Focused 527s" as reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)***	14,832,420
Government union spending from state campaign finance reports****	177,506,919
Total	\$1,391,612,506

*U.S. Department of Labor Reports, Form LM-2, category "Political Activity" (www.UnionReports.gov) **Political Action Committees as reported to the Federal Election Commission (www.OpenSecrets.org) ***Federally Focused 527s as reported to the Internal Revenue Service (www.OpenSecrets.org) ****State Campaign Finance Reports usually located in Secretary of State Offices (www.FollowTheMoney.org) **Downloaded on 9/14-15/2011**

Explanatory note regarding the National Institute of Labor Research (NILRR) 2010:

The **\$1,135,607,285** number comes from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Union Financial Disclosure Form LM-2 (UnionReports.gov). These reports are completed by union Presidents and union Secretary-Treasurers, and thus are self-reported political and lobbying expenditure amounts. Labor organizations that file LM-2 reports often incorrectly report political expenditures in another category on the form, “Gifts and Grants.” None of the unions’ Gifts and Grants was included in this NILRR report of labor political spending. In addition, the DOL reports only include unions that represent private sector employees and federal employees. Therefore the DOL numbers exclude most of the state and municipal employee unions. In addition, few unions list PAC administration costs in their political activities category.

Since it is illegal to comingle federal Political Action Committee (PAC) funds, we use the entire **\$63,665,882** from the OpenSecrets.org tally of labor union PAC expenditures during the 2010 Election Cycle (years 2009 and 2010 combined). As noted above, this does not include PAC administration costs which may or may not be included in LM-2 reports.

Because IRS 527 funds may be included in the LM-2 figure reported above, NILRR staff decided to use only **\$14,832,420** from the OpenSecrets.org tally of labor union public sector 527 account expenditures during the 2010 Election cycle. However, this method excludes large 527’s like the one SEIU operates even though much of its funds likely came from public sector unions that do not file LM-2 reports. NILRR chose this to err on understating political rather than overstating numbers

In a similar manner, NILRR used the **\$177,506,919** tally of government union political activity in states reported by FollowTheMoney.org to understate political spending and reduce duplication from DOL LM-2 reporting.

On balance, then, the aggregate \$1.4 billion in political and lobbying expenditures by labor unions in the 2010 election cycle reported here is undoubtedly an understatement.