



25 August 2010

Unions plan on spending big this election cycle

The AFL-CIO and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) recently announced that they will spend a combined \$88 million during this year's election cycle. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) plans to spend about \$50 million.

Organized labor's enormous war chests are largely derived from member dues—money that is deducted from workers' paychecks and sent directly to the "representing" union. While some states have enacted paycheck protection laws that allow a worker to decide whether or not his dues are used for political purposes, a majority of states give workers no choice in how their dues are spent.

The following figures illustrate labor's donations during this year's election cycle:

Nine out of the top ten PACs that contributed to Democratic candidates are run by labor unions

Labor Union Political Action Committee	Amount Contributed
Intl Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	\$2,323,373
Operating Engineers Union	\$1,879,300
American Fedn of St/Cnty/Munic Employees	\$1,749,000
Teamsters Union	\$1,588,910
Laborers Union	\$1,582,500
Machinists/Aerospace Workers Union	\$1,527,500
American Federation of Teachers	\$1,482,250
Plumbers/Pipefitters Union	\$1,389,975
International Assn of Fire Fighters	\$1,355,500

Four out of the top five organizations giving money to all 527s are labor unions

Organization	Recipient
Service Employees International Union	\$10,764,321
United Food & Commercial Workers Union	\$3,562,014
American Fedn of St/Cnty/Munic Employees	\$2,382,873
Operating Engineers Union	\$2,196,245

Alliance for Worker Freedom (AWF) is a special project of Americans for Tax Reform dedicated to the protection of workers rights. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact (202) 785-0266 or JKartch@ATR.org

###

722 12TH STREET, N.W.
4TH FLOOR
WASHINGTON DC 20005
WORKERFREEDOM.COM
(P) 202.785.0266
(F) 202.785.0261