

**Transparency and Campaign Spending in Minnesota, Report 5:  
Overall Spending on Minnesota Elections\***

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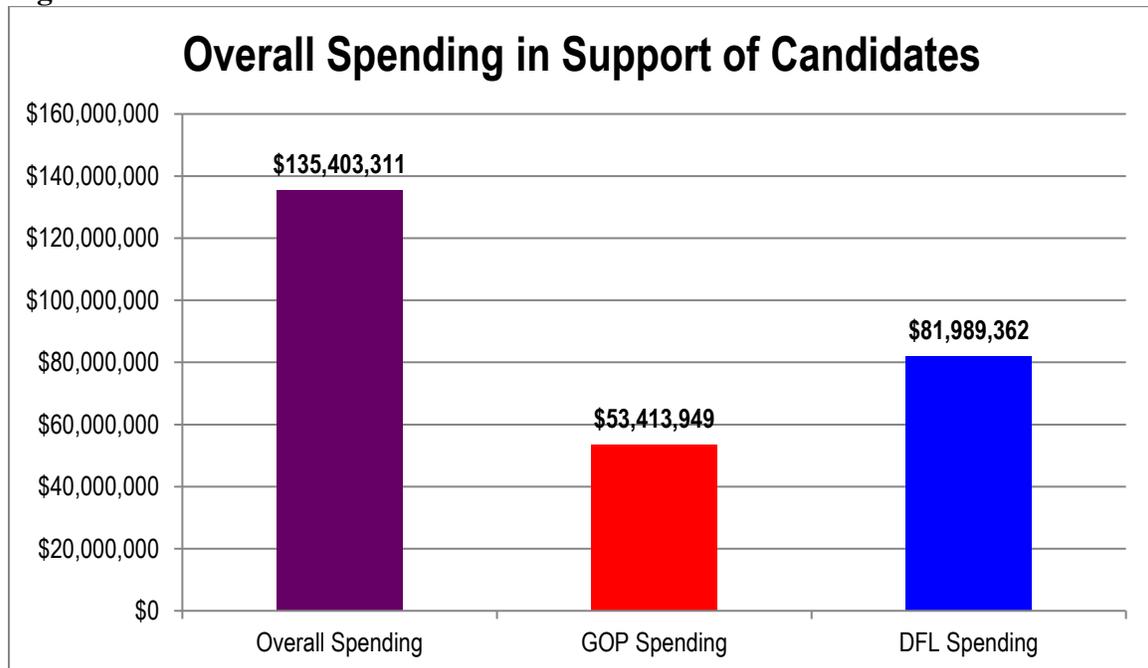
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**Over \$135 million has been spent on Minnesota’s 2018 state and federal elections** (Figure 1). As stunning as this total is, it will be larger after groups and donors disclose their spending during the final week of the campaign.

**Support for Democratic candidates was more than 50% higher than support for Republicans – nearly \$82 million versus \$53 million.**

**Figure 1.**



Note: Spending on state campaigns includes the period beginning on January 1, 2018; the spending on federal elections includes the period beginning January 1, 2017, although there were no independent expenditures in 2017.

More than \$75 million was spent on Minnesota’s eight U.S. House races, with a focus on Minnesota’s 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Districts.

Independent expenditures from parties, groups, corporations, unions, and associations accounted for much of this spending. It accounted for 64% of the spending in support of Republican candidates for Congress compared to 49% in support of Democratic candidates.

By contrast, spending in Minnesota’s two U.S. Senate races totaled only around \$25 million, and 90% of the spending was in the form of direct contributions to the candidates rather than independent expenditures.

Independent expenditures accounted for most of the spending to support Tim Walz’s gubernatorial campaign (71%) and the Republican statehouse campaigns (60%).

Figure 2.

