

## Twitter Thread by [S.V. Dáte](#)



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**NEW -- If you have spent years sending a few dollars a month out of your paycheck or Social Security check to Donald Trump's campaign, congratulations. You helped Trump funnel \$8.5 million of that back into his own cash**

Other GOP candidates and committees kicked in another \$2 million.

The biggest spender in that category?

America First Action, which spent \$573,132 at Trump's DC hotel.

Through a trust that he controls, Trump owns the hotels, golf courses and buildings that received the money, with every penny of profit flowing to him personally.

The HuffPost analysis is based on a review of filings by the Trump campaign, the RNC and their two joint fundraising committees, representing all spending reported between Jan. 20, 2017 and Nov. 23, the last date for the final filing period this year.

Trump Tower, the NYC skyscraper where Trump keeps a penthouse residence and his business offices, received \$1,716,155 in the form of rent payments, even though the campaign was based in a high-rise office building in Arlington, VA, across the Potomac River from the White House.

Trump's hotel in Washington, where Trump held several fundraisers, took in \$967,599 in donor money. His struggling golf resort near the Miami airport got \$1,363,565.

Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Florida, where Trump spent some three months of his presidency playing golf and where he also hosted several fundraisers, received \$639,031.

But the biggest beneficiary was Trump's hotel in New York City, which took in a total of \$3,039,979 over the four years of his presidency, with \$891,003 of that in just the final four months of the campaign.

One top RNC fundraiser close to Trump acknowledged that the hotel was not necessarily the best value. “The Trump is pricey,” he said.

Trump’s various committees managed to hide \$761 million of their spending — the majority of all his expenditures ■ by running it through a shell company created specifically for that purpose and through the private firm owned by his initial reelection campaign manager.

The Trump campaign and the RNC created the shell company, American Made Media Consultants, ostensibly to save money on ad purchases by cutting out the middleman; it received \$721.8 million. Campaign manager Brad Parscale’s companies, meanwhile, received \$39.7 million.

The campaign used Parscale’s firms to secretly pay \$15,000 a month each to Kimberly Guilfoyle — the girlfriend of Trump’s eldest son, Donald Trump Jr. —and to Lara Trump — the wife of Trump’s middle son, Eric Trump.

Guilfoyle chaired Trump Victory, the campaign’s large-dollar fundraising operation. Lara Trump was a “senior adviser” to the campaign.

The campaign routed their payments through Parscale Strategies at the direction of the president himself, according to a Republican familiar with the campaign’s finances, who spoke to HuffPost on condition of anonymity.

A similar maneuver was used to hide the amounts flowing to Trump’s chief campaign strategist, Jason Miller, whose name never shows up in the FEC filings.

He was secretly paid \$35,000 a month, which was routed through American Made to his former employer, the GOP consulting firm Jamestown Associates, at his own request, the Republican source said. That monthly payment amount was first reported by Business Insider.

Miller is involved in a drawn-out child support lawsuit with the mother of his son, and hiding his income might help him reduce the amount he owes.

The Republican close to the campaign said Miller never explained why he wanted his payments run that way. “However, it was easy enough to know why,” the source said.

Most campaigns wind down their solicitations after an election. But Trump and the RNC continued at nearly the same breakneck pace as in the final weeks before the election. As a result, the campaign boasted in a Dec. 3 news release a \$207.5 million haul.

It is unclear how that money is being used. Trump’s email and text solicitations said the money was needed for legal challenges to his election loss and to help win two Georgia runoff elections that will determine control of the Senate.

But the fine print on donation webpages showed that the money is going elsewhere.

In the first days after Trump lost the election, 60% of each dollar raised went to his campaign to pay down debt. The

remainder went to the RNC general fund.

Since Nov. 18, a full 75% of each dollar has been going to Trump's Save America, with the rest going to the RNC.

A donor would have to give \$6,667 before a single penny went to Trump's dedicated "recount" fund — an unlikely scenario, given that the solicitations are being sent to his small-dollar donor list.

Depending on how much of that \$207.5 million came in before Nov. 18 and how much after, Trump could easily leave the White House with upwards of \$150 million available to him personally.

Because the new committee is structured as a "leadership PAC," with almost no restrictions on how it can spend, Trump could legally use the money for almost anything he wants. Indeed, one of the few things he cannot use the money for is a formal 2024 campaign.