

# Annual Lobbying on “Pro-Israel”, A Major Force in US Foreign Affairs: Summary for 2018

By [Center for Responsive Politics](#)

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Region: [USA](#)  
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*One of, if not the most, powerful international issue lobby is that of the pro-Israel crowd. Well-financed and politically powerful, the pro-Israel lobby is a major force on American foreign affairs that looks to continue America’s military and fiscal support of the Jewish nation-state. The lobby has had recent policy success with the Trump administration moving the U.S. embassy in Israel from the internationally-recognized capital of Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a move long advocated by some in the pro-Israel lobby. Notably however, JStreet, one of the larger pro-Israel groups opposed the move. The administration is very friendly with the Israeli **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** and has taken a hard line on Israel peace talks, barely talking to the Palestinians and ending all foreign aid to the West Bank and Gaza.*

Even with the policy victories coming under a Republican president, the lobby still remained staunch Democratic contributors, giving more than \$14.8 million in the 2018 midterms to mostly Democrats. This marked their third-biggest cycle ever and their biggest non-presidential cycle.

The largest group which contributed was [JStreetPAC](#) which gave more than \$4 million to candidates in 2018. Only one other pro-Israel group spent over \$1 million on the cycle - [NorPAC](#) with more than \$1.1 million.

The top recipient of pro-Israel funds in the 2018 midterms was **Sen. Robert Menendez** (D-N.J.) with \$546,507. Menendez is the ranking member on the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee. **Sen. Ted Cruz** (R-Texas) received the second-most with \$349,437.

2018 was an all-time high for money spent on lobbying for pro-Israel issues with more than \$5 million. The robust lobbying force was led by the face of the pro-Israel movement the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). AIPAC spent more than \$3.5 million on lobbying in 2018, making up the vast majority the entire lobby spent. A distant second was the Israeli-American Coalition for Action which dropped \$550,000.

The pro-Israel lobby is not entirely unified on policy decisions. JStreet, the group with the biggest campaign contributions, differs from AIPAC which led the lobbying effort. JStreet is a more liberal organization and is often critical of the Netanyahu and Trump administrations. AIPAC on the other hand has a policy of not publicly criticizing the Israeli government and has been more supportive of Trump.

- **Raymond Arke**, February 2019

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**Top Contributors, 2017-2018**

Contributor	Amount
JStreetPAC	\$4,037,965
NorPAC	\$1,125,577
Republican Jewish Coalition	\$501,097
Joint Action Cmte for Political Affairs	\$306,298
Florida Congressional Cmte	\$278,700
National Action Cmte	\$199,000
Citizens Organized PAC	\$181,000
Desert Caucus	\$135,000
Bi-County PAC	\$126,000
Friends of Israel	\$115,400
American Principles	\$115,000
Maryland Assn for Concerned Citizens	\$91,100
SunPAC	\$84,200
To Protect Our Heritage PAC	\$75,900
Heartland PAC	\$65,000
Washington PAC	\$64,500
Americans United in Support of Democracy	\$59,500
National PAC	\$54,200
J Street	\$53,193
Grand Canyon State Caucus	\$53,000

Contributions to:

Democrats ■

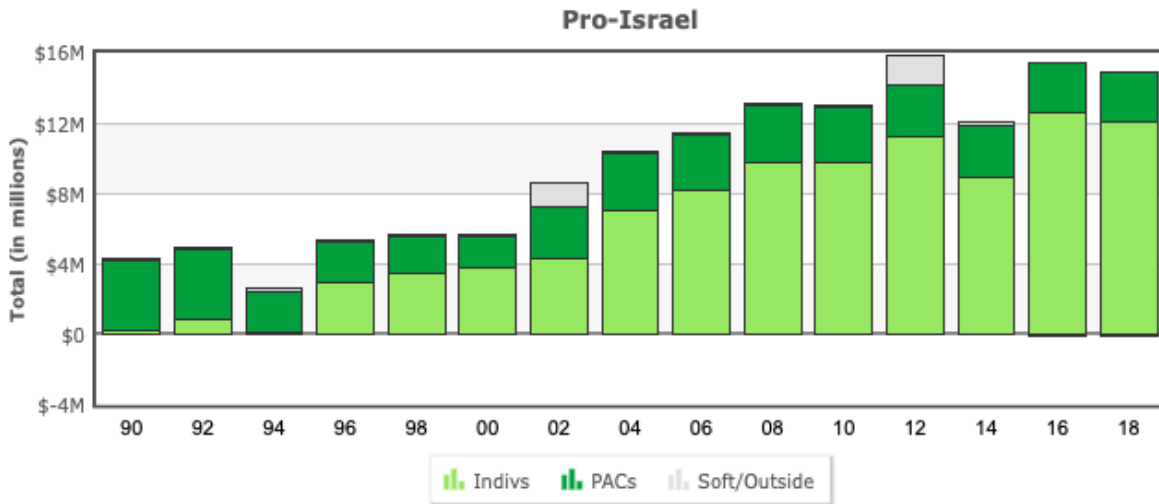
Republicans ■

Liberal Groups ■

Conservative Groups ■

Nonpartisan ■

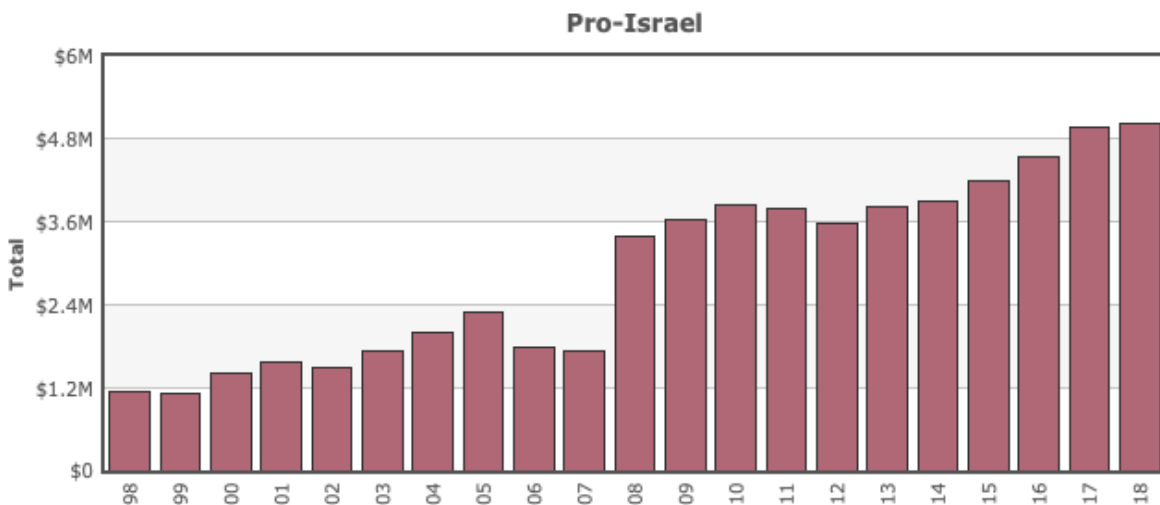
### Contribution Trends, 1990-2018



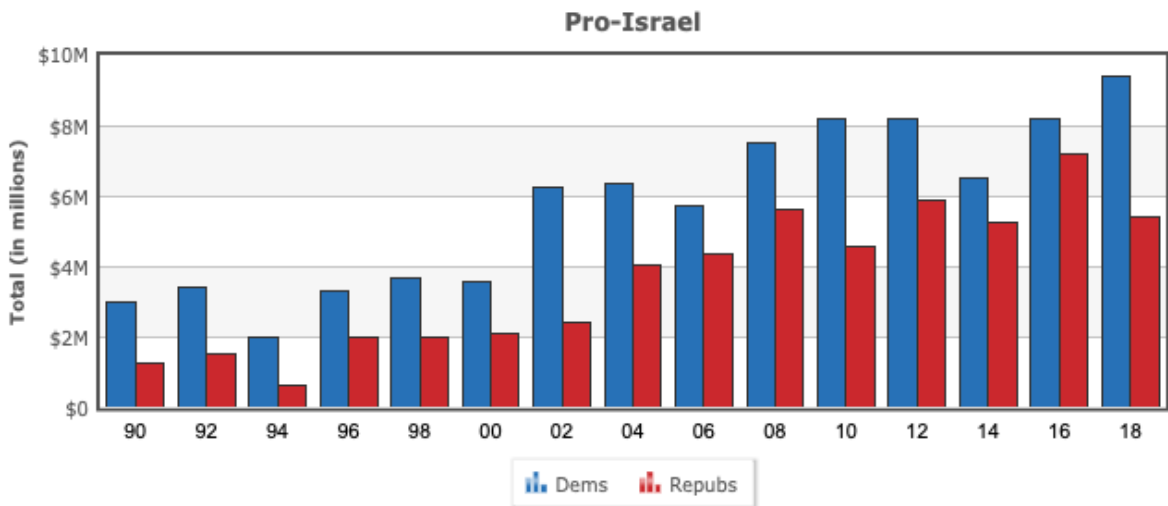
### Top Lobbying Clients, 2018

Client/Parent	Total
American Israel Public Affairs Cmte	\$3,518,028
Israeli-American Coalition for Action	\$550,000
J Street	\$300,000
Zionist Organization of America	\$200,000
Republican Jewish Coalition	\$130,000

### Lobbying Totals, 1998-2018



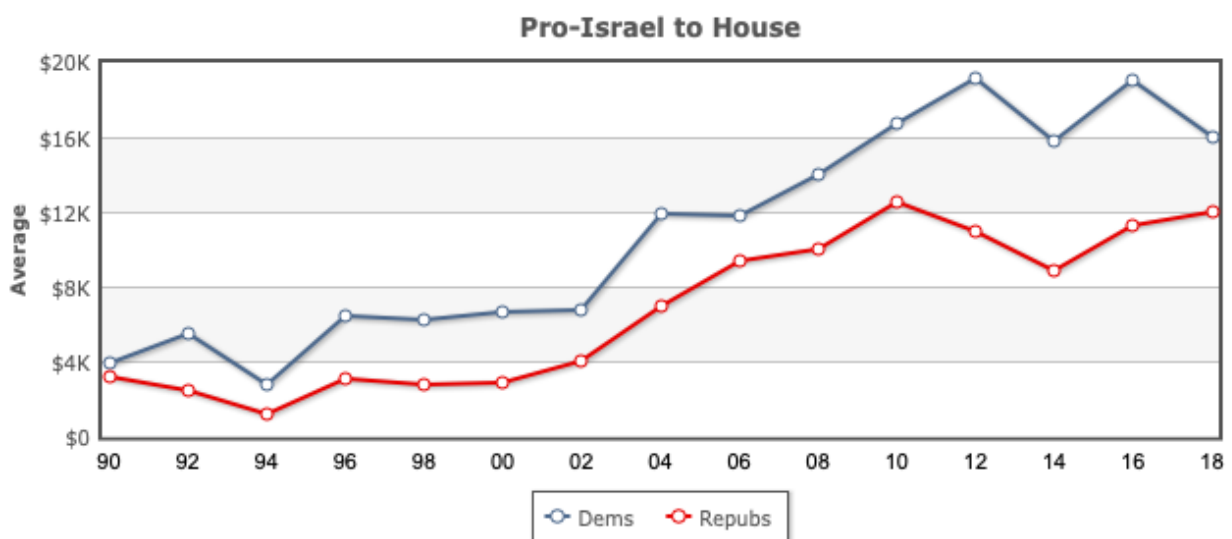
### Party Split, 1990-2018

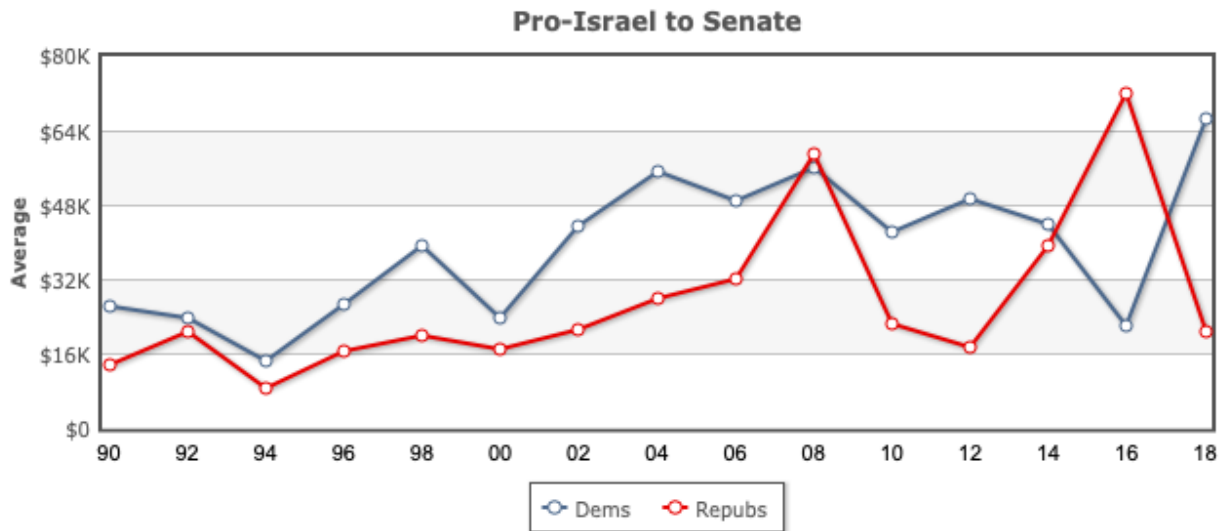


### Top Recipients, 2017-2018

Candidate	Office	Amount
Menendez, Robert (D-NJ)	Senate	\$548,507
Cruz, Ted (R-TX)	Senate	\$352,894
Kohl, Dan (D-WI)		\$270,928
Mandel, Josh (R-OH)		\$265,521
Brown, Sherrod (D-OH)	Senate	\$230,342

### Average Contributions to Members of Congress, 1990-2018





All lobbying expenditures on this page come from the Senate Office of Public Records. Data for the most recent year was downloaded on January 24, 2019.

Data for the current election cycle were released by the Federal Election Commission on Friday, February 01, 2019

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