

WASHINGTON, D.C. | CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING

# After Jan. 6 riot, small donors step up for GOP

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CQ-Roll Call (TNS)

WASHINGTON — Industry PAC contributions to House Republicans who voted against certifying Electoral College results in January fell during the first quarter of the year, but many made up for it with an influx of contributions from small donors.

Meanwhile, Republicans who voted to impeach President Donald Trump for inciting insurrection also saw their fundraising grow, including from PACs, as they prepared for primary challenges.

Political action committees of many companies and lobbying groups said they would pause some or all contributions after rioters broke into the Capitol on Jan. 6 to stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden's 2020 presidential win.

New campaign finance disclosures show House members who objected to Biden's electoral votes from two states raised \$52,000 less from PACs, on average, than they did during the same period two years ago, according to a CQ Roll Call analysis of first-quarter filings with the Federal Election Commission.

At the same time, donors giving small sums, less than \$200 a pop, gave such members an average \$56,000 more than in the previous period two years ago. Republicans in 2019 were also racing to catch up with Democrats in developing a system to attract donations of \$5 or \$10 in response to email solicitations, a grassroots source of support that Donald Trump capitalized on in his 2016 election.

Of the 139 House members who voted against certifying electoral votes, the analysis looked at the 103 who were serving in 2019 and could provide a point of comparison to the same point in the elec-



People storm the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. The riot has changed how national Republican candidates are receiving campaign funds, at least in the short term.

John Minchillo/AP file

tion cycle.

All told, the average lawmaker in the group took in \$254,000 during the first three months of this year, compared with \$226,000 in 2019.

The eight Republican senators who objected to the Electoral College results raised, on average, \$1.1 million in this year's first quarter.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz led the pack with a \$3.6 million haul, including \$2.4 million in donations under \$200. Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley, one of the lead objectors, raised \$3 million in the first quarter, including \$1.7 million in small donations.

"They tried to use corporate America's economic stranglehold to starve me of financial support. They proclaimed me dead in the water; that the long list of corporations rescinding financial support would be my downfall," Hawley wrote in an

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email to his supporters this week.

Seven GOP senators voted in February to convict Trump after his impeachment. Two of them are retiring. The remaining five senators, on average, raised \$206,000 in the first quarter. At first glance that's a small sum for a senator, but only one of the five, Alaska's Lisa Murkowski, is up for re-

election next year.

Among House Republicans who voted against certifying the electoral results, there were sharp variations within the group.

Some well-known members raised significantly more than in 2019 — Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan's total collections were \$1.8 million higher, Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz's rose \$1.6 million, and New York Rep. Elise Stefanik's grew by \$753,000.

At the same time, 58 members raised less money than they did in the comparable period, with the average decline about \$101,000.

It's not just FEC data that show top House Republicans among the 139 are keeping their fundraising operations closely aligned with the former president, who himself was a magnet for small donations.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, for one, sent

## More news from D.C.

**'ANGLO-SAXON' CAUCUS:** Hard-right House Republicans are discussing forming an America First Caucus, which one document described as championing "Anglo-Saxon political traditions" and warning that mass immigration was putting the "unique identity" of the U.S. at risk. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the paper. The AP could not independently confirm the organization's origins or current status, but Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., said he was joining and indicated that fellow conservative Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., was behind it. The document was being circulated as the GOP is struggling to determine a clear direction as it prepares to try winning back control of the House and Senate in the 2022 elections. The group calls for limiting legal immigration "to those that can contribute not only economically, but have demonstrated respect for this nation's culture and rule of law." It voices support for infrastructure "that reflects the architectural, engineering and aesthetic value that befits the progeny of European architecture."

**PUSHBACK:** In a striking criticism, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., issued a tweet that an aide confirmed was aimed at the group. "America is built on the idea that we are all created equal and success is earned through honest, hard work. It isn't built on identity, race, or religion," McCarthy wrote. "The Republican Party is the party of Lincoln & the party of more opportunity for all Americans — not nativist dog whistles."

**CAPITOL RIOT UPDATE:** A member of the far-right Oath Keepers militia group and heavy metal guitarist on Friday became the first defendant to plead guilty to federal charges in connection with the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Jon Ryan Schaffer has agreed to cooperate with investigators in hopes of getting a lighter sentence, and the Justice Department will consider putting Schaffer in the federal witness security program, U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta said. This signals that federal prosecutors see him as a valuable cooperator as they continue to investigate militia groups and other extremists involved in the insurrection on Jan. 6 as Congress was meeting to certify President Joe Biden's electoral win.

— Associated Press

a solicitation Thursday, leading with the tidbit that he "was recently at Mar-a-Lago with President Trump."

"I want President Trump to see that YOU gave \$25 or more to show your dedicated support," he added.

On the other side, the 10 House Republicans who voted to impeach Trump on charges of inciting an insurrection haven't had trouble raising money. Of the 10, eight were in Congress two years earlier and all raised more in this year's first quarter than they did in 2019's.

Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, who survived an attempt to remove her from House lead-

ership but remains a target of Trump's email missives and criticism in speeches, led the group by raising \$1.5 million, including \$301,000 from PACs and \$167,000 from donors giving less than \$200. Also seeing a steep increase among this group was Illinois Rep. Adam Kinzinger, who raised \$1.1 million, up from \$326,000 in 2019.

"I think what the first quarter showed, with me, with Liz (Cheney), frankly, the others that voted to impeach, is that there's a constituency that supports doing the right thing," Kinzinger said in an interview Friday. "This is about a fight for the soul of the party."

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