

Spending Data

Tag	Field Name	Description
CHARACTER VARIABLES		
can_id	Candidate ID	Unique ID of candidate for or against whom the expenditure was made. First character indicates office sought - H=House, S=Senate, P=Presidential. Columns 3-4 are the state abbreviation for Congressional candidates. NOTE - this information is provided by filers and may be missing - in these cases office, state, district and candidate name should appear.
can_nam	Candidate Name	Name of candidate for or against whom the expenditure was made. There are 58 unique presidential candidate names in the data set, but they do not identify candidates uniquely. For example, there are eight unique spellings of Mr. Obama's name.
spe_id	Spender ID	Unique ID of committee, individual or group making expenditure. Unique FEC ID assigned to the entity submitting reports of independent expenditures.
spe_nam	Spender Name	Name of committee, individual or group making expenditure.
ele_typ	Election Type	Code for specific election for which expenditure was made. First character indicates election - P=Primary, G=General, S=Special. Next four characters indicate election year.
can_off_sta	Candidate State	Postal state abbreviation for the candidate.
can_off	Office	Office Sought by Candidate - H=House, S=Senate, P=President.
can_par_aff	Party	Party abbreviation for candidate - Dem=Democrat, Rep=Republican.
sup_opp	Support or Oppose	Describes whether the expenditure was made to support or oppose the candidate - S=Support, O=Oppose.
pur	Purpose of expenditure	Description of the expenditure, e.g. television or radio ad.
pay	name of payee	Name of the person or vendor or other entity receiving this payment.
amn_ind	Amendment Indicator	New report or amendment to a report.
tra_id	Transaction ID	Unique identifier for the transaction (unique within the specific filing).
CURRENCY VARIABLES		
exp_amo	Expenditure Amount	Dollar amount of specific expenditure. Min: \$0 Max: \$17,661,251 Mean: \$11,306.42 Median: \$26.61

agg_amo	Aggregate amount	Total amount expended during the calendar year, per election, per office sought. Min: \$-39,124.40 <i>Max</i> : \$161,321,977 Mean: \$514,487 <i>Median</i> : \$202,015
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DATE VARIABLES

exp_dat	Expenditure date	Date of specific Expenditure MM/DD/YYYY.
rec_dt	Filing receipt date	Date on which transaction was submitted to FEC MM/DD/YYYY.

NUMERIC VARIABLES

can_off_dis	Candidate District	District number for the candidate. District location if spending for/against House candidate.
file_num	Filing number	Unique identifier for a submission (which may report several disbursements).
ima_num	Image number	Image location for page on which transaction appears.
prev_file_num	Previous filing number	Reference to a filing being amended. For electronic filings the previous filing number references the filing being amended. For new filings and paper filings this field will be null.

DERIVED VARIABLES

bucket	Category of expenditure	Low level categories detailing what the expenditure was for. Examples include television, internet, and radio ads.
bucket2	High level category	High level categories detailing what the expenditure was for. Examples include ads, transport, and swag.
oflag	Obama flag	Flag indicating if this record is associated with Obama or Romney - 1 = Obama, 0 = Romney.
beneful_can	Benefiting candidate	Name of candidate that benefits from the expenditure. For example, a record with sup_opp = "oppose" and can_nam = "Romney" will benefit Mr. Obama.

Polling Data

Tag	Field Name	Description
<hr/> CHARACTER VARIABLES <hr/>		
Pollster	Polling Company	Company that conducted the poll.
State/US	State	State poll was conducted of. If national poll, then value is “National”.
<hr/> DATE VARIABLES <hr/>		
Date	Poll Date	Range of dates that the poll was being conducted.
<hr/> NUMERIC VARIABLES <hr/>		
Obama	Support for Mr. Obama	Integer rounded percent of support in the poll.
Romney	Support for Mr. Romney	Integer rounded percent of support in the poll.

Table 2: Description of polling data fields.