



### [The Array of 2024 Elections That Have Been Mired in AIPAC Money](#)

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), and by extension, the United Democracy Project (UDP) war chest has been unlatched during this ongoing 2024 electoral cycle, much to the displeasure of any candidates who have been justifiably critical of Israel's actions. With an excess of \$100 million at its disposal this campaign season, observers have witnessed over \$30 million flowing into U.S. lawmakers' funds. As a result of the increased attention and budget to try and influence campaigns, there has also been a shift in the language being used by these pro-Israel groups. It appears that the negative attention being paid to Israel and its ongoing assault on Gaza has caused a decrease in how often Israel is being directly mentioned in AIPAC-backed campaign ads, which have instead been focused on candidate characteristics, desirable or otherwise.

The ongoing race in New York between Incumbent "Squad" member Jamaal Bowman and AIPAC recruit George Latimer has reached new heights of tension. AIPAC has strategically channeled a record-breaking amount into Latimer's campaign, totaling upwards of \$1.5 million. AIPAC's super PAC, UDP, has also strategically opened its wallet for the Latimer campaign with a recent set of attack ads costing \$1.9 million. These ads focus on Bowman's Congressional performance and have so far refrained from any direct mention of Israel, but the calculated nature of AIPAC's support is evident, and it is a clear demonstration of their efforts to strategically influence the outcome of electoral races. However, AIPAC has plans far beyond New York. Tens of millions of dollars are flowing into campaigns around the nation, and many of these have seen individual AIPAC donations exceed \$100,000. In an election cycle that will prove pivotal to the direction of the country, AIPAC has chosen three campaigns that it has bet on above all others. The Latimer (D-NY), Torres(D-NY), and Menendez (D-NJ) campaign receipts show AIPAC money flowing in at over \$1 million. New York's 15th U.S. district representative, Ritchie Torres, has received a substantial amount of help from PACs as it has recently been discovered that ten different groups connected to the Torres campaign have been run out of the same P.O. box in Washington D.C.

Additionally, just recently, Maryland's 3rd congressional district held a democratic primary with a crowded field of 22 candidates seeking to replace outgoing U.S. Representative John Sarbanes (D-MD). Maryland State Senator Sarah Elfreth emerged as the winner, with the UDP having chosen to support Elfreth via a substantial \$4.2 million despite her not having taken a public stance on Israel. This is not the first time that the UDP and its members have achieved success with their strategic support and contributions. Historically, they have been able to wield significant influence. Valerie Foushee (D-NC), Haley Stevens (D-MI), and Kevin Mullin (D-CA) are all prime examples of AIPAC's success in shaping electoral outcomes. Back in 2022, these three campaigns alone received over \$1.1 million. With over 340 candidates backed in total during this election cycle, AIPAC has successfully supported 168 candidates through their primaries.

The amount of effort exerted by AIPAC to try and influence electoral outcomes is immense. The vehemently pro-Israel PAC is hedging its bets, and the amount of money accepted by candidates still in the running this election season is proof of it. Active on-ballot candidates have received well in the range of \$30 million in contributions, excluding indirect support, which many campaigns have received through public outreach and ad campaigns. There is still plenty of time before November for this number to grow, and with things heating up in battleground states, it is highly unlikely that AIPAC or UDP will slow down. As pressure from the international community

mounts in regards to Israel's destructive War on Gaza, AIPAC and, by extension, Israel, have a lot at stake this electoral season and the 340+ active candidates running for Congress who have accepted AIPAC money will find it challenging to remain impartial and fair-minded – something that could have significant implications for future U.S. policy.