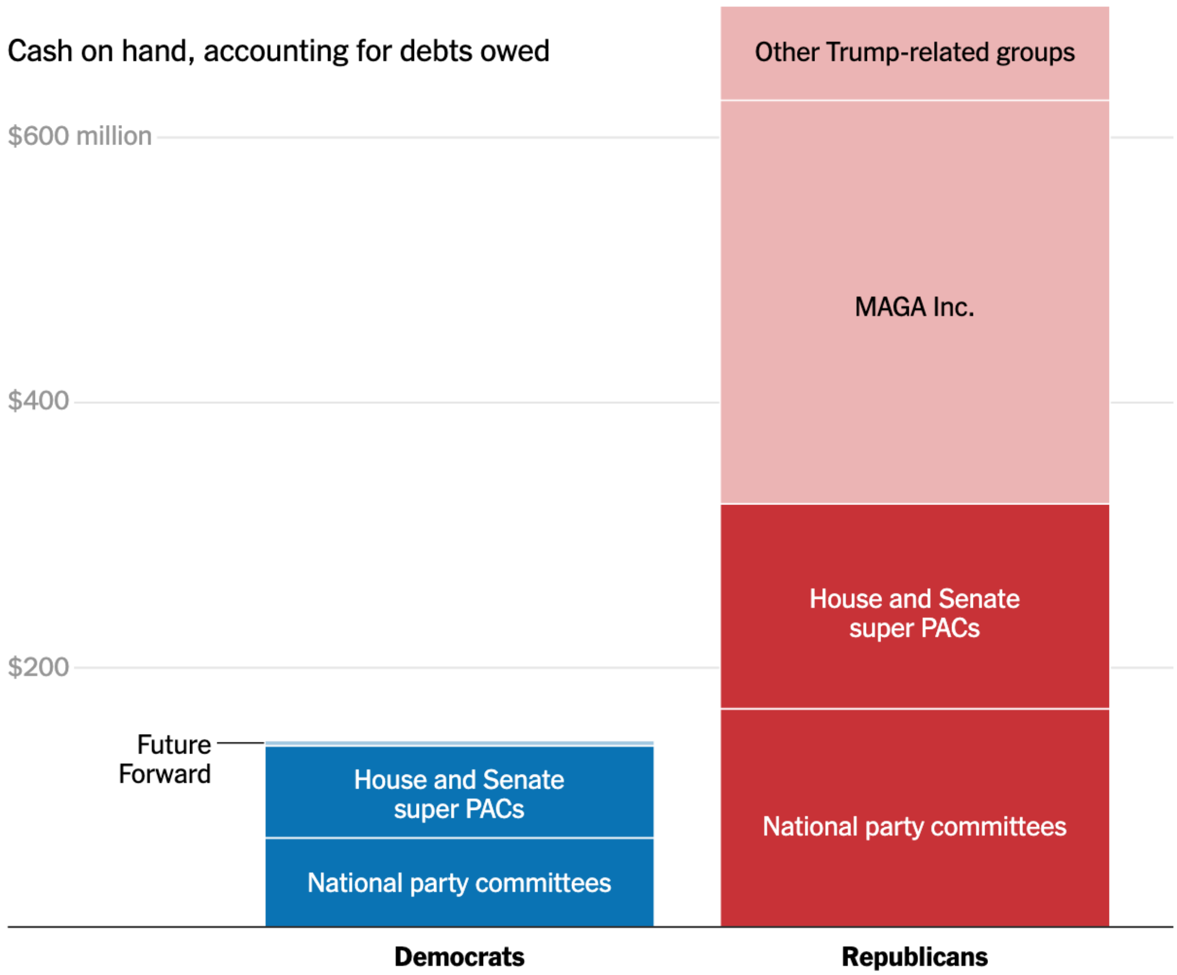
# How much of a monetary advantage do Republicans have over Democrats leading up to the 2026 midterm elections?




Notes: Data is as of Jan. 1. Source: Federal Election Commission. Ashley Wu/The New York Times

## Critical Analysis

**Find answers to the following questions using the visual above, any links below, your big brain, and your knowledge of American government and politics:**

**Questions:**

1. The midterm elections are Tuesday, November 3, 2026. According to the visual above, at this point, how much money do the Democrats have?
2. According to the visual above, at this point, how much money do the Republicans have?
3. Describe the difference between the amount of Republican and Democratic money?
4. Why do you think there is such a difference?
5. How do you think the difference will impact the midterm election?
6. “Donald Trump has 99 problems going into the midterms,” one Democratic strategist said. “But money ain’t one.” Of Trump’s “99 problems” which one is most likely to have the most detrimental impact on the Republican party in the midterm elections?
7. in 95% of U.S. House elections the candidate who outspends their opponent wins. At the same time, Donald Trump is a historically unpopular candidate with a current approval level of approximately 36%. How will the interplay of money and presidential unpopularity impact the 2026 midterm elections?
8. Elon Musk, the world’s richest person, donated more than $291 million to Republican candidates, PACs, and outside spending groups during the 2024 election cycle, making him the top individual political donor. His funding, largely directed through his America PAC, primarily supported Donald Trump's campaign, along with over $19 million in the final weeks for congressional races. Since his feud with Mr. Trump last year, Elon Musk has begun supporting the Republican Party, donating tens of millions of dollars in the last two months. How does Elon Musk represent the concept of democracy and political equality?
9. Imagine the Democrats did win the midterm election and control of both houses of Congress. How would that impact the second half of Trump’s second term?
10. For a decade, President Trump has falsely claimed U.S. elections are broken, riddled with corruption, widespread fraud, and faulty machines. He alleges the U.S. is the only country allowing mail-in voting and one political party to cheat in every election. However, despite his persistent claims, there is no evidence of widespread voter fraud, including by noncitizens, as Mr. Trump asserts. Why do you think the President continues to make these false claims, and how do you think these false claims of widespread voter fraud will impact the results of the 2026 midterm elections?

**Answer Key:**

1.approximately $150 million
2.approximately $700 million
3.Republicans have almost 5 times as much money
4.People are donating money to Republicans because they seem to have all the power and it seems like a good investment.
5. Money wins elections and all this money might be just enough to give the Republicans the advantage then need to defeat the Democrats.
6.Unpopularity.
7.I think his money will overcome his unpopularity and the Republicans will keep control fo the congress.
8.Democracy is based on the idea that all men are created equal and have roughly the same political power. Musk obviously has more money than anyone else and thus more political power than anyone else, rendering things far from politically equal. He is an example of an oligarch running the government for and by the rich.
9. He would be able to do less and there would be investigations and checks on his power.
10.Because if he loses the election he needs to have a reason to declare the elections unfair and void.