

# Patrick Murphy leads House Democrats in campaign cash, data shows

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While his would-be Republican challengers struggle to raise money, freshman U.S. Rep. **Patrick Murphy**, D-Jupiter, has collected more 2014 campaign cash than any other House Democrat seeking re-election and all but a few Republicans, according to data compiled by [OpenSecrets.org](http://OpenSecrets.org).

Murphy raised \$3.6 million through June 30 for his campaign in Palm Beach-Treasure Coast District 18. Last week he reserved \$1.4 million worth of TV ad time for the fall, an expenditure greater than the combined fundraising of the six Republicans running for his seat.



The best-financed Republican candidate in District 18, former state Rep. **Carl Domino**, has garnered \$181,109 in contributions and added \$425,000 of his own money.

Only a few nationally known House Republicans have collected more money for their re-election campaigns than Murphy.

Speaker **John Boehner** tops all House members at \$15.2 million, followed by Budget Chairman **Paul Ryan** (\$6.9 million), departing Majority Leader **Eric Cantor** (who raised \$6.2 million but lost

Among Dems, Murphy's 2014 fundraising exceeds that of Minority Whip **Steny Hoyer** (\$3.1 million), Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman **Steve Israel** (\$3.1 million) and Minority Leader **Nancy Pelosi** (\$1.95 million).

Democratic Reps. **Bruce Braley** of Iowa (\$7.1 million) and **Gary Peters** of Michigan (\$6.8 million) have raked in more than Murphy — but they raised their money for U.S. Senate campaigns. Rep. **Curt Clawson**, R-Bonita Springs, raised nearly \$4 million for a special election he won in June, but \$3.65 million of that came from his personal bank account.

— While there haven't been any public polls in the crowded GOP primary for Murphy's seat, a visit to any candidate forum or a look inside Republican mailboxes confirms that Domino is the front-runner.

Gatherings of the six GOP candidates — including confabs the Politics column attended last week in Palm Beach Gardens and Stuart — have been cordial, but candidate **Beverly Hires** regularly calls out Domino by name to accuse him of not being a credible foe of the All Aboard Florida train because he supported the SunRail project in Central Florida as a state House member.

Look for Hires also to rip Domino in mailers she plans to send Republican voters this week.

Another GOP candidate, former Connecticut legislator **Alan Schlesinger**, used his first campaign mailing last week to blast Domino on All Aboard Florida, his support for the 2008 Troubled Asset Relief Program and his votes in 2007 to allow children of undocumented immigrants to receive in-state tuition benefits.

Republican candidate **Brian Lara** plans a mailer this week faulting Domino for not coming up with on a solution to St. Lucie River pollution problems during his eight years in Tallahassee.

Domino's mailers don't mention any of his primary foes. He sent out a piece attacking Murphy on All Aboard Florida and is sending an anti-Washington mailer this week touting term limits, cutting congressional lobbying and perks and limiting each House member's salary to the median income in the district he or she represents.

— It was a boffo fortnight for former Republican Sen. **Ellyn Bogdanoff**'s bid to reclaim her Palm Beach-Broward seat from Democratic Sen. **Maria Sachs**. From July 5-18, Bogdanoff raised \$85,720, including 54 contributions at the maximum \$1,000. Less than \$3,000 of Bogdanoff's haul came from Palm Beach and Broward counties.

— Attorney **Peter Sachs**, the Republican husband of Democratic Sen. Maria Sachs, contributed \$1,000 to **Michelle Santamaria**'s no-party bid for the Palm Beach County commission seat of her term-limited father, Democrat **Jess Santamaria**. Of the \$19,660 Michelle Santamaria raised through July 18, \$13,000 came from Santamaria family members or businesses.

— In addition to giving \$1,000 to his daughter's campaign, Jess Santamaria gave \$1,000 this month to Democrat **Andy O'Brien**'s campaign to unseat Republican Palm Beach County Commissioner **Steven Abrams**. Santamaria has an epic dislike for Abrams, accusing him in a May memo of having “a penchant for showing off how smart you are by finding fault in almost everything I (say) during ... meetings.”