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## **NRA: DOLLARS INVESTED IN POLITICS – SOME FACTS**



By Stephen L. Bakke  March 2, 2018

*Here's what provoked me:*

*Who gets more blame for mass killings than the NRA? Nobody. It's not even close! I had never actually dug into the numbers about lobbying and such, so I decided to do so. Here's what I came up with after a brief period of research.*

*Here's my response:*

### **NRA: Dollars Invested in Politics – Some Facts**

The NRA is the whipping boy “culprit” for allegedly causing mass shootings. I’m not writing this to defend their public positions or activities. That’s for individuals to judge. I have no “axe to grind” about the group as I’m neither a member nor a gun enthusiast. I’m someone who wants to solve the mass killing problem without wasting time and money on misguided opinions and ineffective legislation.

Does the NRA buy elections and legislation because of their dominance in lobbying and political spending? Is it true, or is it demagoguery? Here are some facts. Accept them as such. Then decide on the issue of reducing mass killings. Much of this information is gleaned from “OpenSecrets.org.” This data relates to the two-year 2016 election cycle, and includes all affiliates of the NRA.

In terms of lobbying expenditures, for which they are most scorned, the NRA ranked 154<sup>th</sup>.  
In terms of political contributions, the NRA ranked 488<sup>th</sup>.  
In terms of outside spending, (includes PACs etc.) the NRA ranked 9<sup>th</sup>.

Investigate further. Then decide. Let’s have a search for legitimate solutions to these killings. Or, let’s be really radical and work together with the NRA in finding ways to secure our schools.