

Georgia



Because of tough, comprehensive rules on candidate contributions, and because three election cycles produced little or no opposition to incumbents, Georgia ranked only 14th in candidate fundraising among the 22 states that held competitive Supreme Court elections during 2000–09. But in 2006, Georgia’s high court election became one of the nation’s noisiest and costliest when the Michigan-based

American Justice Partnership poured \$1.3 million into an independent ad campaign, and the state GOP spent an additional \$550,000 on its own TV ads. The effort failed to unseat Justice Carol Hunstein, who relied overwhelmingly on lawyers to raise nearly \$1.4 million.

Candidate Fundraising
\$3,773,428

National Ranking
14

Total TV
\$3,128,572

National Ranking
8

Top Spenders, 2000–09	Candidate Contributions	Independent Expenditures	Total
Safety and Prosperity Coalition	\$0	\$1,747,803	\$1,747,803
Georgia Republican Party	\$0	\$550,003	\$550,003
Georgia Democratic Party	\$0	\$191,456	\$191,456
Thomas W. Malone	\$27,400	\$0	\$27,400
Troutman Sanders LLP	\$26,889	\$0	\$26,889

Illinois



The 2004 Lloyd Karmeier-Gordon Maag race was the most expensive two-candidate judicial election in American history, with \$9.3 million raised by the two campaigns. Top spenders over the decade include the **Illinois Democratic Party** (spending \$3,765,920 in contributions and in-kind media buys); the **Illinois Republican Party**, (\$1,981,714 in contributions and TV ads); the **Justice for All PAC** (spending \$1,221,367) and the **Illinois Civil Justice League** (spending \$1,272,083 in contributions and ads).

Most, but not all, of that money was spent in the 2004 race, and was heavily underwritten by plaintiffs’ lawyers or Chamber of Commerce and insurance groups. In 2002, the **American Taxpayers Alliance**, a group that has received U.S. Chamber funding, spent an estimated \$250,000 on TV ads to help elect Republican Rita Garman to the Supreme Court. The 2008 election was a relatively tame footnote to a tumultuous decade: Justice Ann Burke raised \$1.8 million in advance of the campaign, which helped drive away any potential opposition, and then later gave back \$760,000 after no challengers emerged.

Candidate Fundraising
\$20,655,924

National Ranking
4

Total TV
\$7,141,130

National Ranking
6

Top Spenders, 2000–09	Candidate Contributions	Independent Expenditures	Total
Illinois Democratic Party	\$3,765,920	\$0	\$3,765,920
Illinois Republican Party	\$1,981,714	\$0	\$1,981,714
Illinois Civil Justice League	\$1,272,083	\$0	\$1,272,083
Justice for All PAC	\$1,221,367	\$0	\$1,221,367
Illinois Chamber of Commerce	\$276,838	\$0	\$276,838