

State Supreme Court race spending topped \$10M, shattering previous \$8M record

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Candidates and outside groups combined to spend more than \$10 million on this year's state Supreme Court race, shattering the record of \$8 million set just last year.

The latest campaign finance reports filed with the state show Justice-elect Jill Karofsky spent nearly \$2.7 million on her bid, while outgoing conservative Justice Daniel Kelly spent more than \$2.1 million.

Marquette University Law Prof. Ed Fallone, who finished third in the February primary, spent \$193,141 on his bid, pushing the combined candidate spending past \$5 million.

Meanwhile, outside groups dropped another \$5 million on the race, according to a tally by the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

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Of that, Kelly had a slight edge in support from independent groups.

But Karofsky had the overall edge in spending, in part, thanks to the nearly \$1.4 million the state Dem Party gave to her campaign. The state GOP, meanwhile, contributed \$320,987 to Kelly's campaign.

Karofsky's most recent filing shows she finished June with \$50,247 in the bank. Three days after unofficial returns showed she had won, Karofsky repaid a \$15,000 loan she gave her campaign as she launched her bid.

Kelly finished June with \$25,420 in the bank.

Karofsky joins the court next month, trimming the conservative majority to 4-3.

See Karfofsky's report:

<https://cfis.wi.gov/ReportsOutputFiles/0106129JulyContinuing2020ba36b714202020154PMCF-2Report.pdf>

See Kelly's report:

<https://cfis.wi.gov/ReportsOutputFiles/0105892JulyContinuing2020ccb4c715202085534PMCF-2Report.pdf>