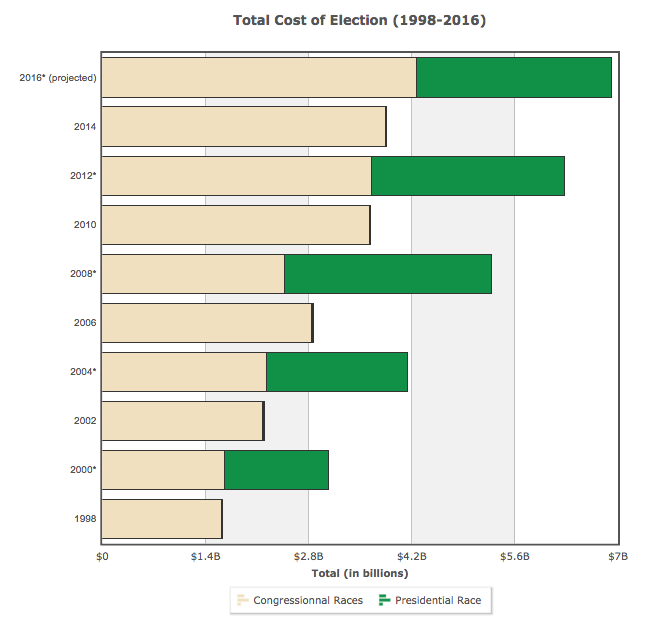
**Within the nearest billion, how much was spent on the 2016 elections?**

OPEN SECRETS

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper to turn in next class.

# What trend do you see in the data?

# Why do you think that is?

# What is one consequence of this?

# What is the primary effect of this over $7 billion being spent in this year's elections?

# Who is all this spending good for?

# Who is this bad for?

# Overall, is this good or bad news for democracy?

# Does all this money help us become more educated, informed, or wise in our political choices?

# What are some other positive ways $7 billion could be spent?

# Where does most of this campaign spending go?

# Which cost more, presidential or congressional races?

# What American elections are not even included in this data?

# As the amount of money spent on elections increases, the percentage people voting decreases. Explain this paradox.

# What would be two possible ways to decrease the amount of money in elections?

# How different do you think this year's presidential election would have been had there been a strict limit on campaign spending?

# Based on this chart, how much money would you project will be spent in the 2020 elections?

# Learning Extension

# Scroll through [Open Secret's](https://www.opensecrets.org/pres16/) detailed charts and graphs to get a good idea of the total impact of money in presidential politics.

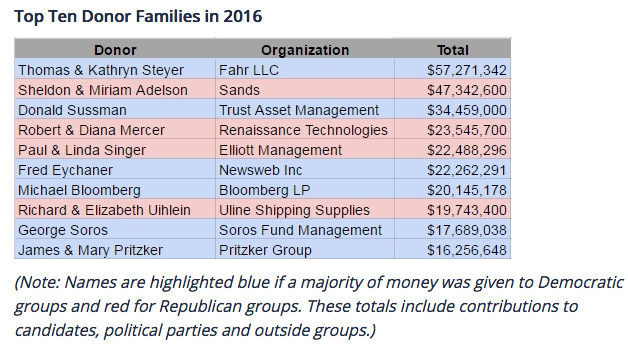
# Action Extension

# Here's a list from Bill Moyers of [8 things you could do](http://billmoyers.com/2014/11/21/8-ways-get-money-politics/) to help get money OUT of politics.

# And here's a list from me of 1 thing you could do to help get money INTO politics: give money to a candidate!

# Read these lists and do one of the things! Share your action on social media or in class.

# Bonus Chart



OPEN SECRETS