

McCarthy leadership PAC paid for lavish expenses

Spending on private flights, hotels, other luxuries since 2012 far outpaced that of other congressional leaders.

BY PAUL PRINGLE AND ADAM ELMAHREK

Rambling above the rust-colored cliffs of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Terranea Resort is known for its ocean views, world-ranked spa and villas that can command \$3,000 a night or more.

The property is less well-known as a gathering spot for federal elected officials and the campaign donors they wine and dine.

But one politician was very familiar with the luxurious resort: former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy. In 2 ½ years, the Bakersfield Republican's election committees dropped nearly a quarter of a million dollars at Terranea, with most of the money coming from a thinly regulated leadership PAC, a Times investigation has found.

As he exits Congress two months after his historic ouster as speaker, political obituaries tout McCarthy's skills as a prolific fundraiser on behalf of Republican candidates. Also setting him apart from other congressional leaders was his roughly decade-long pattern of using his Majority Committee PAC to spend lavishly on hotels, private jets and fine dining establishments, according to a Times analysis of campaign finance records on file with the Federal Election Commission.

From 2012 through June, McCarthy's PAC shelled out more than \$1 million on hotels, private air travel and eateries, the FEC records show. That's more than double the combined total spent by the leadership PACs of the seven other lawmakers who've held the top House and Senate positions for their parties during all or part of that period, according to the Times analysis.

Leadership PACs are subject to fewer spending controls than other campaign accounts. In fact, the FEC determined earlier this year that these political action committees are free to use their money on personal expenses without limits. Even before the ruling, good-government advocates had complained to the FEC that politicians were using their leadership PACs as personal slush funds to subsidize expensive lifestyles. Now, these advocates fear the problem will grow worse.

"Unfortunately, it's a little bit of the Wild West," said Michael Beckel, research director for Issue One, a nonprofit organization that studies the role of money in politics. He said the group [See McCarthy, A8]

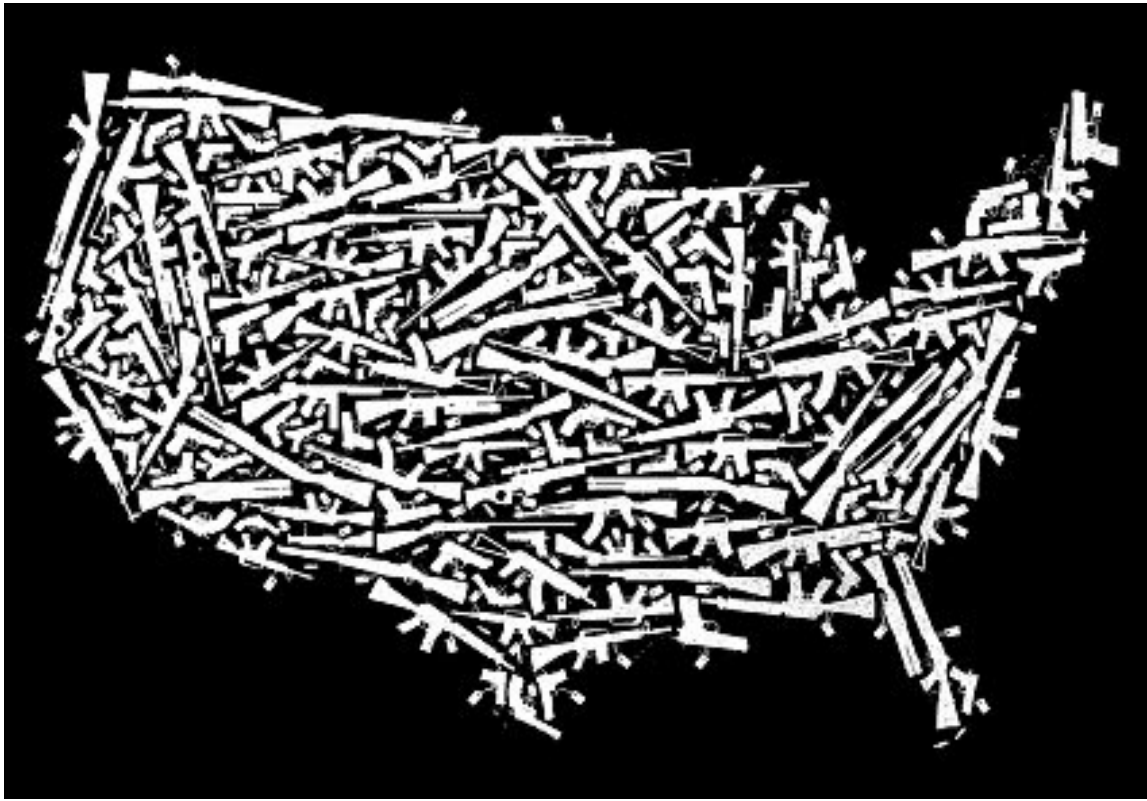


WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

SHOHEI OHTANI, the American League's designated hitter at the 2022 All-Star Game at Dodger Stadium, is now the Dodgers' brightest star after agreeing to what is believed to be the largest contract in sports history.

ARMING AMERICA

After mass shooting, this city limited gun sales. But local laws alone won't stop violence



JIM COOKE Los Angeles Times

BY CONNOR SHEETS AND GABRIELLE LAMARR LEMEE

Six months after a gunman killed 11 people at a Monterey Park dance studio, the City Council unanimously approved legislation to drastically limit where gun dealers are permitted in the San Gabriel Valley enclave.

The battle over gun rights has filled headlines and courtrooms, and yet no one showed up at City Hall to address the ordinance. No residents, no advocates, no lawyers.

"We didn't really have any public comment," Mayor Jose Sanchez said, adding that he received only "one or two emails" after the August vote. "Either it was a slow night or people just didn't oppose it."

Cities across Los Angeles County are considering — and in many cases approving — sweeping changes to how and where they allow firearms dealers to operate. Meanwhile, daily gun violence and mass shootings continue. Just Wednesday, a gunman opened fire at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, killing three people.

Some municipalities, including Burbank, have instituted temporary moratoriums on new gun dealers, to allow officials time to deliberate over more permanent solutions. Others, including Torrance, have restricted where dealers can open.

[See Gun sales, A10]

OHTANI CHOOSES DODGERS FOR NEXT CHAPTER

Two-time MVP agrees to a \$700-million deal over 10 seasons to join a star-studded lineup.

BY JACK HARRIS AND MIKE DIGIOVANNA

The Shohei Ohtani sweepstakes are over.

The Dodgers, as they had long dreamed, held the winning ticket.

In a blockbuster announcement Saturday, Ohtani agreed to a 10-year, \$700-million contract with the Dodgers, according to a statement posted on Instagram, bringing the two-time most valuable player across town after his historic six-year stint with the Angels.

"To all the fans and everyone involved in the baseball world, I apologize for taking so long to come to a decision," Ohtani said in his Instagram post. "I have decided to choose the Dodgers as my next team."

With the Dodgers, the 29-year-old Ohtani will now become an instant face of the franchise, as well as the highest-paid player in MLB history, with his record-breaking contract, shattering Mike Trout's previous high of \$426.5 million.

[See Ohtani, A12]

The perfect player at the perfect time

Ohtani boosts Dodgers' pursuit of another World Series title, Bill Plaschke writes. **SPORTS, D3**

Students' rallying cry: 'Free Palestine'

U.S. college campuses have embraced the Middle East cause like never before.

BY JENNY JARVIE

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee was best known for its sit-ins against segregation in the Deep South. But in the summer of 1967, the civil rights group used its newsletter to weigh in on a different topic.

In an article headlined "The Palestine Problem," the group wrote: "Do you know that Zionism, which is a world-wide nationalistic Jewish movement, organized, planned and created the 'State of Israel' by sending Jewish immigrants from Europe into Palestine (the heart of the Arab world) to take over land and homes belonging to the Arabs?"

It was illustrated with a dollar sign inside a Star of David. The story roiled many civil rights activists, who denounced it as anti- [See Palestinian, A6]



L.A.'S 101 BEST RESTAURANTS

Our annual dining guide is included in today's newspaper for print subscribers. The guide is also available for purchase at latimes.com/store.

University president quits

UPenn's Liz Magill was pressured after testimony on anti-semitism. **NATION, A7**

Weather: Mostly sun. L.A. Basin: 77/51. **B10**

Luna marks one year in office

L.A. County sheriff's tenure is relatively calm, but he has his critics. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

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TikTok: QVC for Gen Z

Product testimonials on shopping feature prove highly effective. **BUSINESS, A13**



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