

House lawmakers reported a decline in political fund raising in the first three months of the midterm-election cycle, driven largely by a drop in donations to Republicans, according to new finance reports.

The reports, filed with the Federal Election Commission on Wednesday, are the latest evidence that individuals and corporate political-action committees are dialing back on political contributions during the recession.

Separate figures reported last week showed that donations to the Democratic and Republican parties for the 2009-10 election cycle slid 23% in January and February compared with the same period in the prior election cycle. Contributions by corporate fund-raising arms to both parties declined 6% over the same period.

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