

SHORT TAKE: A REVERSAL OF FORTUNES FOR THE NRA

The National Rifle Association of America, the nation's leading gun-rights organization, saw its income drop by \$55 million last year, after a record-breaking 2016 in which the group and its political affiliates spent unprecedented sums to elect Donald Trump president.

The NRA reported \$98 million in contributions in 2017, down from nearly \$125 million in 2016, according to new tax records obtained by The Daily

Beast. Nearly one-fifth came from a single anonymous donor, who chipped in nearly \$19 million.

More noteworthy, though, was its decline in membership dues. The NRA took in more than \$128 million in dues last year — significant, but down considerably from the \$163 million it took in the year prior. That decline, more than the drop in direct contributions, appears to indicate a dwindling, if still formidable,

base of public support. Asked for comment, an NRA spokesperson pointed to its magazine subscriptions shooting up this year, interpreted as an indicator of a membership surge.

Nonetheless, 2017 did not see a financial windfall for the group. In all, the NRA reported just under \$312 million in total income, down from nearly \$367 million in 2016.

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