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Wealthy candidates spend own millions trying to win office

WASHINGTON (AP) — In Texas, banker Tony Sanchez has spent \$60 million of his own money on his Democratic campaign for governor. Billionaire businessman Thomas Golisano has kicked in more than \$50 million from his personal fortune in New York's gubernatorial race, hoping to make history by winning as a third-party candidate.

Across the country, wealthy candidates are pouring millions into campaigns this fall, often in uphill efforts to win public office.

Sanchez's millions have already made the Texas governor's race the highest-spending contest in state history. In all, his campaign has spent more than \$64 million on the bid to unseat Republican Gov. Rick Perry, nearly three times Perry's \$23 million.

And it's not over yet.

"We'll spend what it takes to get Rick Perry out of office," Sanchez spokeswoman Becky Bunn said.

A poll by *The Dallas Morning News* published this week showed Perry with a double-digit lead.

In New York, Independence Party candidate Golisano has spent at least \$54 million so far on his third campaign for governor. With almost unlimited cash to tap in the campaign's final days, Golisano has moved closer to Democrat H. Carl McCall for second place.

Despite Republican Gov. George Pataki's wide lead in the polls — Pataki came in at 47 percent compared with 31 percent for McCall and 18 percent for Golisano in one recent survey — Pataki has taken Golisano's campaign seriously enough to start airing ads criticizing him.

While it's uncertain whether any of the self-funded candidates will win this year, the 2000 election sent at least three to the Senate.



They included Washington Democrat Matt Cantwell, who tapped her high-tech fortune to elect Wisconsin Sen. Herb Kohl, a Democrat and owner of the Milwaukee Bucks, and New Jersey Democrat Jon Corzine, a former Wall Street investment banker who spent more than \$60 million of his own money on his race in the most expensive Senate contest ever.

A new campaign finance law taking effect after the Nov. 5 election offers help to candidates trying to keep pace with wealthy rivals. The law's "millionaire amendment" increases contribution limits for House and Senate candidates once self-financed opponents hit a certain spending threshold.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg set the record for the most expensive non-presidential race ever. The Republican and billionaire media magnate spent about \$73 million of his own money to win the mayor's seat last year.

Gunman told instructor about 'ending it all,' police report says

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — A year and a half before a University of Arizona nursing student killed three of his professors and then himself, an instructor told police the student had thought about "ending it all" and "might put something under the college."

Instructor Melissa M. Goldsmith told police that Robert S. Flores Jr. said he was having problems with a paper but also had a lot of problems other than school, according to the university police department report filed on April 24, 2001.

"He was depressed and thought about 'ending it all.' Flores then stated he 'might put something under the college,'" according to the report, which was provided to *The Associated Press* on Tuesday by university police.

The report said an officer

walked into a classroom full of students taking a test being given by two teachers.

There, he confronted Charles McGaffic, a 44-year-old associate professor who studied death, dying and the relationship between health and spirituality in seriously ill patients.

Witnesses said he told McGaffic "he was going to give her a lesson in spirituality," fired two shots into her chest and after she fell, two more into her head.

Assistant professor Barbara Monroe, 45, was covering behind a desk in the back of the room as Flores approached, witnesses said. "He asked her if she was ready to meet her maker," she said "Yes," and then he shot her once and then twice more," said Genia Johnson said.

Flores then turned one of the guns on himself.

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