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## OCPF study finds significant fundraising and spending by mayoral candidates

BOSTON -- A study released today by the Office of Campaign and Political Finance shows substantial financial activity by mayoral candidates in Massachusetts in 1997, especially in larger cities where incumbents were defeated.

The 66 candidates in the November elections in 37 cities raised \$3,708,975 and spent \$3,835,055 in 1997, according to *Campaign Finance Activity by Mayoral Candidates in Massachusetts – 1997* (attached). The median level of fundraising (the exact midpoint of all the totals) was \$28,157, while the median of spending was \$27,127. (A median is a more accurate figure than an average because a handful of candidates with significant activity would skew the average of a base of this size.)

A breakdown of the numbers showed greater activity by candidates in contested races and incumbents, who had substantially higher medians than unopposed candidates and non-incumbents. There was also a high correlation between spending and victory: the candidate who spent the most money won in 21 of the 27 contested races.

Candidates' total fundraising and spending exceeded \$100,000 in nine cities, most of which featured heated races. The contested races with the most spending by the November finalists were in Newton (\$428,969), New Bedford (\$390,072), Revere (\$337,946), Everett (\$227,209) and Lawrence (\$165,273). In all these five cities but one, Revere, the incumbent was defeated.

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino was by far the top fundraiser and spender among the mayoral candidates in 1997, followed by then state Rep. David Cohen, who unseated an incumbent to be elected mayor of Newton and was second on both lists. The study includes a ranking of the top ten candidates in fundraising, spending and amount spent per vote received. The study also includes complete totals for all of the candidates.



Mayoral spending press release  
April 2, 1998  
Page Two

OCPF compiles regular studies of campaign finance activity by statewide and legislative candidates and political action committees, but this is the first comparable survey of local races.

“Some mayoral candidates, whether incumbent or challenger, raise and spend more than \$100,000, which is almost twice the 1996 average for state Senate candidates and five times the average for House candidates,” said OCPF Director Michael J. Sullivan, himself a former city clerk. “It only makes sense for us to look at the mayoral races, too, given the amount of campaign money raised and spent locally.”

The study was compiled from data submitted by candidates to city clerks and election commissions and provided to OCPF. In the four largest cities – Boston, Lowell, Worcester and Springfield – candidates’ reports are filed directly with OCPF.

The 1997 election marked the second time OCPF has conducted field reviews of campaign finance reports filed by candidates in cities. The cities were selected based on a combination of geography, whether the seat was contested and the amounts raised and spent. The cities visited by an OCPF representative after their 1997 elections were Lawrence, New Bedford, Newton, North Adams and Revere.

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