

Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance

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Contact: Jason Tait

Communications Director

617-979-8300 / jason.tait@state.ma.us

Super PACs and independent groups spent \$20.4 million in 2014

Independent Expenditure “Super” PACs and other independent groups spent \$20.4 million in the 2014 election, according to an OCPF review of disclosure reports filed by those entities. It was the first statewide election in Massachusetts in which Super PACs played a role.

The total in 2014 is twice the amount spent by independent entities in the last statewide election in 2010, when \$11.5 million was reported.

More than half of the 2014 total, \$11,012,216*, was spent to benefit the gubernatorial winner, Republican Charles Baker. A total of \$6,926,733 was spent to benefit the Democratic candidate Martha Coakley. The remaining funds were used for other statewide and legislative races.

Independent committees and groups spent more to support or oppose the party finalists for governor than the candidates spent themselves. Baker’s campaign reported \$5.6 million in expenditures and \$1.2 million in in-kind contributions. Coakley’s campaign spent \$3.9 million and received \$2 million in in-kind contributions. Almost all of the in-kind contributions came from the state parties for each candidate.

Independent expenditures are made to support or oppose candidates without coordinating with their campaigns.

Super PACs (IEPACs) accounted for most of the independent spending in 2014, \$19.2 million. Groups that are not political committees and spent money from their general treasuries reported an additional \$915,970 in independent expenditures.

Most of the spending was done by two Super PACs, the Commonwealth Future IEPAC and the Mass IEPAC.

Commonwealth Future reported \$10.4 million in expenditures to benefit Baker, with \$10,770,000 in receipts. All but \$20,000 of the receipts was from the Republican Governors Association.

The next highest spender was the Mass IEPAC, which supported Coakley with \$6,253,003 in expenditures. The Mass IEPAC raised \$7 million from the Democratic Governors Association, Emily's List MA PAC, labor unions and individuals.

All reports by Super PACs and independent groups are available on the OCPF website by [clicking here](#).

Super PACs originated in 2010 after two court decisions. In the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United vs. FEC decision, the court ruled that independent expenditures by corporations that are made to influence candidate elections cannot be limited, because doing so would not be consistent with the First Amendment. The second court decision, SpeechNow.org vs. FEC, held that individuals, corporations and other groups can provide funds without limit to independent expenditure-only committees (Super PACs). This decision was made by the U.S. Court of Appeals in D.C.

Massachusetts Super PACs are required to file campaign finance reports shortly after making an expenditure to support or oppose a candidate or candidates. The reports also disclose information about contributions to the Super PACs.

Super PACs were also required to file year-end reports, due by Jan. 20, 2015, disclosing all expenditures and receipts, including administrative costs for such things as consulting and legal expenses.

**OC PF issued a press release on Nov. 6, 2014, which showed that the total benefiting Baker was \$9,909,217. The total was adjusted upward for this study due to amendments and reports that were filed after Nov. 6.*

Charts are available on the following pages

Fundraising and Spending by IEPACs in 2014

IEPAC	Total 2014 Receipts	Total Independent Expenditures in 2014#
Commonwealth Future IEPAC	\$10,770,000	\$10,400,000
Mass IEPAC	\$7,008,855	\$6,253,003
Mass Teachers Association IEPAC	\$3,645,199	\$2,714,604*
Mass Forward IEPAC	\$766,637	\$753,991
American Comeback Committee MA IEPAC	\$596,256	\$596,216
Mass Realtor IEPAC	\$216,582	\$216,482
Jobs First IEPAC	\$219,502	\$193,806
Democrats for Education Reform IEPAC	\$150,081**	\$176,734
Mass WOMEN VOTE IEPAC	\$144,255	\$144,255
Mass Values IEPAC	\$105,000**	\$125,036
National Association of Government Employees IEPAC	\$150,000	\$125,000
Strong Economy MA IEPAC	\$5,100	\$6,000
Global Warming Solutions IEPAC	\$27,386	\$2,600
Totals	\$23,804,853	\$19,208,372

#Does not include administrative expenditures, such as bank fees, consulting and attorney fees.

*Of this total, \$2,499,355 was contributed to the Mass IEPAC and Mass Values IEPAC. The \$2.5 million amount is not included in the \$19.2 million total above.

**Receipts are lower than expenditures because the IEPAC started 2014 with a balance that carried over from 2013.

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IEPAC Spending: Opposed vs. Supported (Statewide Candidates)

Candidate	Office Sought	Total Spent to Oppose this Candidate	Total Spent to Support this Candidate
Charles Baker - R	Governor	\$6,378,003	\$3,861,749
Martha Coakley – D	Governor	\$7,140,467	\$122,907
Steven Grossman – D	Governor	--	\$753,991
Barry Finegold - D	Treasurer	--	\$125,624

Spending by IEPACs and Independent Groups

IEPACs = \$19,208,372

Independent Expenditures by Groups = \$915,970

Electioneering Communications = \$297,954

Total = \$20,422,296*

**Statewide and Legislative Candidates, calendar year 2014*