

Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance

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Most Independent Expenditure “Super” PAC spending supported the incumbent governor in 2018

Independent Expenditure “Super” PACs (IEPACs) in Massachusetts reported \$6,843,672 in expenditures to support or oppose candidates in the 2018 state election, 97 percent of which supported incumbent Gov. Charles Baker, according to an OCPF review of campaign finance report disclosures.

The remaining three percent of independent expenditures supported or opposed legislative candidates. IEPACs did not spend money to support Jay Gonzalez, Baker’s general election opponent.

Of the nine IEPACs active in the 2018 election, the Commonwealth Future IEPAC reported spending the most, nearly \$6.2 million. All of Commonwealth Future’s expenditures supported Baker.

Commonwealth Future was almost entirely funded by the Republican Governors Association (RGA) located in Washington, D.C. Of the \$6.6 million in receipts, only \$20,000 came from sources other than the RGA.

The next highest IEPAC expenditure total was reported by Patients for Affordable Drugs Action, which spent \$479,717 to support Baker. The IEPAC was funded entirely by Laura and John Arnold of Texas.

All reports by IEPACs are available on the OCPF website by [clicking here](#).

IEPACs are committees that only make independent expenditures and do not contribute funds directly to candidates. Independent expenditures are goods or services that expressly advocate for or against candidates, such as mailings and TV advertisements, but without coordinating with candidates or committees.

IEPACs are required to file campaign finance reports shortly after making an expenditure that supports or opposes candidates. The reports also disclose contributor information to the IEPAC.

The 2018 IEPAC total is far below 2014 spending levels, when IEPACs reported spending \$19.2 million.

Other Types of Independent Spending

In addition to the \$6.8 million spent by IEPACs, other groups and committees reported \$530,716 in individual [independent expenditures](#).

Independent expenditures are made by entities that use their general funds, as well as traditional PACs that use their campaign funds. The 1199 SEIU MA PAC (a traditional PAC) reported \$300,747 in independent expenditures to support House and Senate candidates.

[Electioneering communications](#) were non-existent in the 2018 state election.

Electioneering communications are advertisements that identify a candidate but do not expressly advocate for or against the candidate, and are not coordinated with candidates or committees.

Independent Expenditure “Super” PAC Totals 2018 Calendar Year

	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURES*
Commonwealth Future	\$6,645,001	\$6,169,740
Patients for Affordable Drugs Action	\$510,000	\$479,717
Massachusetts Realtor	\$169,774	\$84,890
Democrats for Education Reform	\$1,050	\$35,680
Massachusetts Teachers Association	\$0	\$30,681
Environmental League of Massachusetts	\$27,500	\$27,172
Jobs First	\$43,396	\$10,647
Priorities for Progress	\$6,635	\$3,387
Global Warming Solutions	\$25,342	\$1,758
TOTALS	\$7,428,698	\$6,843,672

**The totals represent only “independent expenditures,” and not administrative costs reported by the committees, such as rent. Administrative costs are disclosed on year-end reports due each January.*