

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Campaign and Political Finance

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CONTACT: Jason Tait
617-979-8300

**\$11.5 million spent on
statewide ballot questions in 2008**

Corporations, unions and other entities reported spending \$11,516,215 to support or oppose three questions on this year's statewide ballot, according to an analysis by the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

Question 1, asking voters to repeal the state income tax, generated the greatest amount of spending this election cycle at \$7,918,157. Question 3, concerning a ban on dog racing, accounted for \$1,983,163 in spending. Additionally, \$1,613,895 was spent on Question 2, which asked voters to make marijuana possession a civil, not criminal, offense. The totals include in-kind contributions and expenditures that were made independently of any organized ballot question committee.

The election results favored the side that spent the most money for all three questions. The supporters of Question 2 outspent opponents 20 to 1, the most disproportionate spending comparison of the three questions, in a successful campaign concerning penalties for marijuana possession. Question 1 opponents outspent supporters 15 to 1 to defeat the proposal to eliminate the income tax. Question 3 supporters outspent opponents 2 to 1 to pass a ban on dog racing beginning in 2010.

Of the entities that spent money to support or oppose ballot questions, the Massachusetts Teachers Union spent the most, \$3,468,241 to oppose Question 1. The National Education Association of Washington, D.C., spent the second most, \$1.5 million, also to oppose Question 1. The Marijuana Policy Project spent \$1,067,756 to support Question 2.

Total spending on the 2008 ballot questions fell \$4.6 million short of the \$16.1 million record set in 1992, when four questions were on the statewide ballot. The record for spending on a single ballot question is \$13.1 million, a mark set in 2006 concerning the sale of wine in food stores and \$5 million greater than the total spent by the Coalition for Our Communities ballot question committee in 2008 to oppose Question 1.

Three ballot question committees organized to support or oppose **Question 1** – Coalition for Our Communities was opposed, the Committee for Small Government and Citizens for Limited Taxation’s Hell Yes on 1 supported the question. Coalition for Our Communities spent \$6,604,984, compared to \$481,102 spent by the Committee for Small Government and \$3,000 by the Hell Yes on 1 Committee. In-kind contributions to the committees, and independent spending by groups and corporations not affiliated with any committee, totaled \$830,071.

Question 2 had the least amount of spending among the three statewide ballot questions in 2008. The Committee for Sensible Marijuana Policy supported the question, spending \$1,218,388, while the Coalition for Safe Streets opposed it, spending \$63,172. In-kind contributions to the committees and independent spending totaled \$332,335.

The supporters of **Question 3**, the Committee to Protect Dogs, spent \$905,973. In opposition, the Massachusetts Animal Interest Coalition spent \$440,600. The total amount of in-kind contributions and independent spending was \$636,063.

The figures in this study are based on reports filed by committees and other organizations covering the period through Nov. 15, 2008. Ballot question committees still in operation after Nov. 15 must file year-end reports with OCPF on or before Jan. 20, 2009. Those reports may include additional financial activity.

A ballot question committee receives or expends money or other things of value for the purpose of favoring or opposing the adoption or rejection of a specific question submitted to voters. There are no contribution limits concerning ballot questions, though statewide candidates are prohibited by the campaign finance law from contributing. Corporations, associations and organizations that make expenditures or contributions in connection with a ballot question are required to file CPF 22 forms with OCPF. The 2008 ballot question CPF 22 forms are posted in PDF form at the OCPF Web site: www.mass.gov/ocpf. Click on “View Reports On-line” on the light-blue vertical options bar on the left side of the screen, and choose CFP 22s under “Reports of Ballot Question Expenditures by Corporations, Organizations or Governmental Units.”

A breakdown of activity for each question is attached.

Campaign Finance Activity for the 2008 Statewide Ballot Questions

Totals include receipts and expenditures, and in-kind expenses made to benefit ballot question committees organized with OCPF. Expenditures by outside parties made independent of any committee are also included.

Question 1: Repealing the State Income Tax (Defeated)

Committee	Organized	Receipts	Expenditures
<i>Support</i>			
Committee for Small Government	8/30/2007	\$490,362	\$481,102
CLT's Hell Yes on 1 Committee	10/14/2008	\$3,000	\$3,000
In-kind total	--	--	\$2,941
Independent total	--	--	\$262
<i>Total expenditures in favor</i>		--	\$487,305
<i>Oppose</i>			
Coalition for Our Communities	11/20/2007	\$6,675,242	\$6,604,984
In-kind total	--	--	\$739,304
Independent total	--	--	\$87,564
<i>Total expenditures in opposition</i>		--	\$7,431,852
<i>Question 1 Totals</i>	--	\$7,168,604	\$7,918,157

Question 2: Making Marijuana Possession a Civil, Not Criminal, Offense (Passed)

Committee	Organized	Receipts	Expenditures
<i>Support</i>			
Committee for Sensible Marijuana Policy	4/19/2007	\$1,253,479	\$1,218,388
In-kind total	--	--	\$319,294
Independent total	--	--	--
<i>Total expenditures in favor</i>	--		\$1,537,682
<i>Oppose</i>			
Coalition for Safe Streets	9/5/2008	\$61,570	\$63,172
In-kind total	--	--	--
Independent total	--	--	\$13,041
<i>Total expenditures in opposition</i>	--		\$76,213
<i>Question 2 Totals</i>	--	\$1,315,049	\$1,613,895

Question 3: Ban Dog Racing in Massachusetts (Passed)

Committee	Organized	Receipts	Expenditures
<i>Support</i>			
Committee to Protect Dogs	9/14/2005	\$906,295	\$905,973
In-kind total	--	--	\$409,071
Independent total	--	--	\$1,056
<i>Total expenditures in favor</i>	--		\$1,316,100
<i>Oppose</i>			
Mass. Animal Interest Coalition	9/22/2008	\$441,800	\$440,600
In-kind total	--	--	\$226,463
Independent total	--	--	--
<i>Total expenditures in opposition</i>	--		\$667,063
<i>Question 3 Total</i>	--	\$1,348,095	\$1,983,163

Total Activity by Question – 2008

<i>Question</i>	<i>Committee receipts</i>	<i>Committee Expenditures</i>	<i>In-kind contributions*</i>	<i>Independent Expenditures*</i>
1 - Income Tax	\$7,168,604	\$7,089,086	\$739,304	\$87,826
2 – Marijuana Possession	\$1,315,049	\$1,281,560	\$319,294	\$13,041
3 – Dog Racing	\$1,348,095	\$1,346,573	\$635,534	\$1,056
TOTAL	\$9,831,748	\$9,714,219	\$1,694,132	\$101,923

All figures are through Nov. 15, 2008.

*In-kind contributions made by outside parties to ballot question committees are included in the spending totals for each question. Independent expenses were made separate from the organized committees and were not cash or in-kind contributions to the committees.

Statewide Ballot Question Expenditures 1988 – 2008

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Questions ¹</i>	<i>Number of Committees</i>	<i>Total spent</i>
1988	4	18	\$13,317,952
1990	6	20	\$ 5,661,062
1992	4	8	\$16,139,661
1994	9	23	\$11,155,836
1996	1	3	\$ 1,210,778
1998	3	9	\$ 9,999,284
2000	8	16	\$15,340,199
2002	3	6	\$ 2,332,881
2006	3	6	\$15,320,327
2008	3	7	\$11,516,215

Note: There were no questions on the statewide ballot in 2004.

1. Total number of questions on statewide ballot. Some questions featured no campaign finance activity.

Top Contributors to Ballot Question Committees 2008

(Includes both monetary and in-kind contributions.)

Question 1 – Repeal the State Income Tax

In favor

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1.	Craig Franklin	\$25,000
2.	John Gilmore	\$20,000
3.	Richard Offerdahl	\$15,000
4.	John Skar	\$13,650
5.	Chris Rufer	\$13,000

Opposed

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1.	Mass. Teachers Association	\$3,468,241
2.	National Education Association	\$1,500,000
3.	SEIU 1199	\$855,033
4.	American Federation of Teachers	\$250,000
5.	Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA	\$150,000

Question 2 – Make Marijuana Possession a Civil, Not Criminal, Offense

In favor

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1.	Marijuana Policy Project	\$1,067,756
2.	George Soros	\$400,000
3.	Rene Ruiz	\$36,250
4.	Woody Kaplan	\$10,000
5.	Ted Pietras	\$2,200

Opposed

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1.	Save Our Society from Drugs	\$21,400
2.	Free & Strong America PAC	\$5,000
2.	Kevin Landry	\$5,000
3.	Michael Ashe Committee	\$2,500
3.	Carvey Committee	\$2,500
3.	Worcester County Deputy Sheriffs Assn.	\$2,500

Question 3 – Ban Dog Racing in Massachusetts

In favor

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1.	Humane Society of the United States	\$527,703
2.	Grey2K USA	\$352,517
3.	MSPCA	\$159,224
4.	Animal Rescue League of Boston	\$39,421
5.	Paula Blanchard	\$32,086

Opposed

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1.	Massasoit Greyhound Association Inc.	\$582,647
2.	American Greyhound Council Inc.	\$25,000
3.	Holmes Inc.	\$19,667
4.	National Greyhound Association	\$16,000
5.	American Greyhound Track OP Assn.	\$15,000