

Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 31, 2022

Contact: Jason Tait
617-979-8300

\$6.2 million reported in independent spending in 2021 municipal election year

Independent expenditure political action committees (IEPACs) reported spending \$5.7 million in 2021, in large part to support or oppose candidates for mayor in Boston. Other entities, including traditional PACs, reported spending an additional \$498,400 to support and oppose candidates.

Total independent spending for 2021 was \$6.2 million.

Nearly \$1.9 million was spent to support Annissa Essaibi George, a former Boston city councilor and 2021 mayoral finalist – the highest total in 2021.

IEPACs reported spending \$1.6 million to support Andrea Joy Campbell, also a former Boston city councilor turned mayoral candidate. The eventual winner of the Boston mayoral race, Michelle Wu, received \$1.3 million in independent support from IEPACs and other entities. Wu was also a former city councilor.

Two IEPACs exceeded \$1.6 million in spending in 2021.

Better Boston IEPAC spent \$1,616,712 to support Campbell during the preliminary election period, mostly for television advertising. **Real Progress Boston IEPAC** supported Essaibi George by spending \$1,614,439 on television, digital and radio advertising. Real Progress Boston's expenditure total also includes a direct contribution of \$220,000 to the **Bostonians for Real Progress IEPAC**, which spent \$368,235 to oppose Wu before the general election. Bostonians for Real Progress also spent \$120,546 to support Essaibi George.

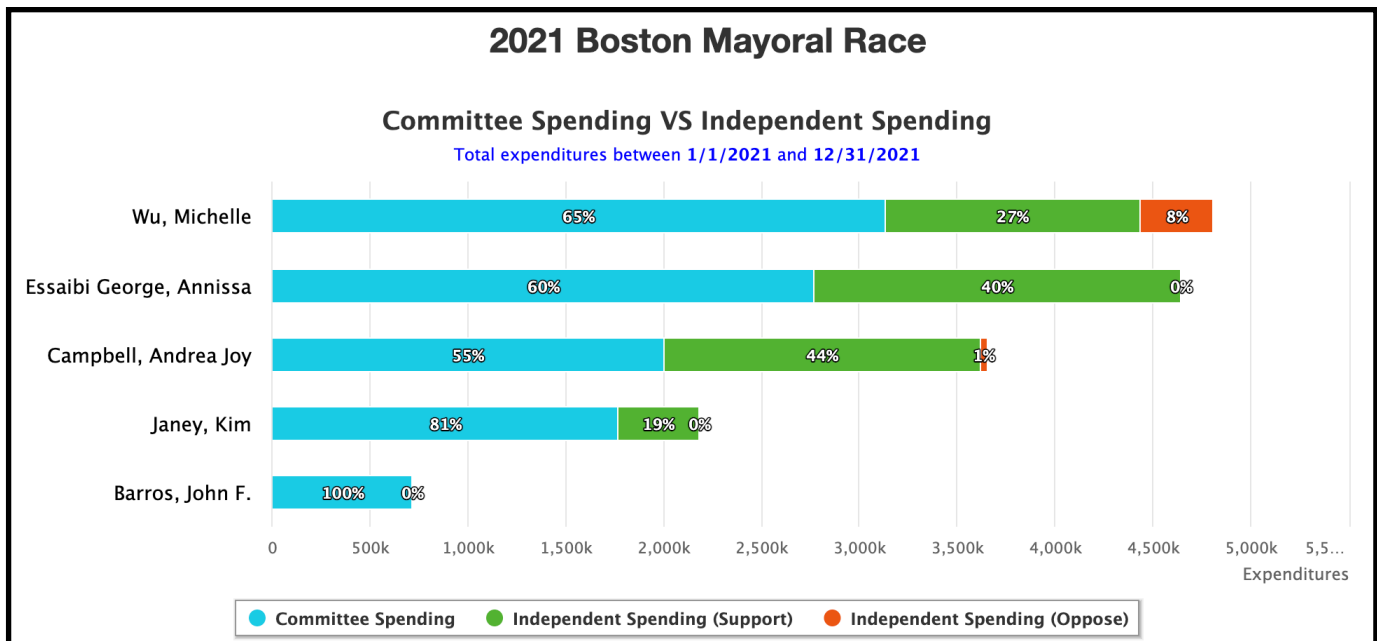
Massachusetts state law limits the amounts individuals, political action committees and other committees may contribute directly to candidates. However, unlimited independent expenditures can be made to support or oppose candidates, so long as those efforts are not coordinated with candidates.

IEPACs, also known as 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.

The record for independent spending, since the Citizens United decision, was \$20.4 million in 2014, a statewide election year.

Massachusetts Super PACs are required to file campaign finance reports shortly after making an expenditure to support or oppose candidates. The reports also disclose information about contributions. Administrative expenses made by IEPACs are not included in these totals.

[Click here](#) for IEPAC spending reports. [Click here](#) for independent spending reports by other entities, including traditional PACs.



2021 IEPAC EXPENDITURE TOTALS

IEPAC	Independent Expenditure Totals
A Better Cambridge	\$11,178.00
Better Boston	\$1,616,712.00
Boston Opportunity	\$38,770.00
Boston Turnout Project	\$874,911.00
Bostonians for Real Progress	\$488,781.00
Cambridge Citizens Coalition	\$23,292.00
Democrats for Education Reform	\$39,670.00
Environmental League of Massachusetts	\$175,758.00
Global Warming Solutions	\$19,500.00
Hospitality Workers	\$380,380.00
Local 103 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	\$92,500.00
Lynn United for Change Social Justice Organization	\$2,510.00
Massachusetts Majority	\$263,187.00
Massachusetts Teachers Association	\$21,197.00
Priorities for Progress	\$1,500.00
Real Progress Boston	\$1,614,440.00
Right to the City Vote	\$31,703.00
Worcester Working Families	\$9,316.00
Total	\$5,705,305.00