

Office of Campaign and Political Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jason Tait
Director of Communications
617-979-8300

June 21, 2010

Mayoral candidates report record spending

Mayoral candidates running for election across Massachusetts in 2009 reported campaign expenditures of \$7.5 million for the year, breaking the previous high of \$6.2 million set in 2005, according to a campaign finance study recently compiled by the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

The expenditure record was reached, in large part, due to an expensive Boston contest. Mayor Thomas Menino and former City Councilor Michael Flaherty reported total expenditures of \$4.1 million, a new high for a mayoral race. The previous record of \$2.4 million was set in 2005 when Menino was challenged by former City Councilor Maura Hennigan.

Menino broke the spending record for a single mayoral campaign, reporting expenditures of \$2.7 million in 2009. The previous high of \$1.7 million was set by the Menino campaign in 2005.

The OCPF study, compiled every two years since 1997, includes campaign finance data filed by 73 mayoral finalists in 38 communities in 2009. Candidates were not included in the analysis if they lost in the preliminary elections. The study summarizes the financial activity of finalists for the entire 2009 calendar year.

Total expenditures have increased steadily since 1997, a growth reflected in the average amount spent per vote. Candidates spent \$16.44 per vote in 2009, 2 ½ times the amount spent 12 years ago. Menino topped all 73 candidates in per-vote spending at \$42.40 (he received 63,123 votes).

Campaign expenditures in 2009 generally correlate with success – the top spender in the 31 contested elections won 22 races, or 71 percent of the time.

Total fundraising by mayoral candidates during 2009 was \$5.5 million, the second highest amount recorded in an OCPF study. The expenditure total is higher than the receipts total because candidates could spend money already in their campaign accounts, such as funds raised during 2008 and earlier.

Menino led all candidates in fundraising with \$1.5 million in 2009, followed by his challenger, Flaherty, with \$880,314. Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch raised the third highest amount with \$325,805.

The 2009 mayoral races featured 25 incumbents on the final ballot, five of which were defeated in Brockton, Lynn, North Adams, Westfield and Worcester. Three incumbents were defeated in the preliminary elections in Agawam, Greenfield and Fall River.

The mayoral candidates were required to report their activity for all 12 months of 2009. Mayoral candidates from Boston, Springfield and Worcester report their campaign finance activity directly to OCPF. All other candidates reported to local election officials in 2009. Starting in 2011, mayoral candidates in cities with populations between 40,000 and 100,000 will begin reporting electronically to OCPF.

This report summarizes the campaign finance activity for the 2009 mayoral finalists. The full campaign finance reports are available for public inspection at the relevant local election official offices. Please contact them for more information on how to obtain the reports. The full mayoral study is available on-line at www.mass.gov/ocpf/studies.htm.

OCPF is an independent state agency that administers Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 55, which provides for the disclosure and regulation of campaign finance activity by candidates for state, county and municipal office.

Campaign Finance Activity by Mayoral Candidates (1997-2009)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of candidates</i>	<i>Receipts</i>		<i>Expenditures</i>		
		<i>Total</i>	<i>Median</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Median</i>	<i>Average spent per vote</i>
1997	66	\$3,708,975	\$28,157	\$3,835,055	\$27,127	\$6.63
1999	69	\$3,198,736	\$32,289	\$3,284,268	\$23,388	\$7.44
2001	76	\$4,546,947	\$32,644	\$5,852,880	\$33,040	\$11.70
2003	70	\$3,587,911	\$31,586	\$3,949,051	\$27,672	\$11.03
2005	71	\$5,778,781	\$30,021	\$6,209,404	\$27,621	\$14.18
2007	69	\$3,577,819	\$29,122	\$3,914,462	\$25,339	\$12.23
2009	73	\$5,549,845	\$30,523	\$7,542,006	\$28,924	\$16.52