

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Campaign and Political Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 22, 2008

CONTACT: Jason Tait
Director of Communication
617-727-8352 / 800-462-6273

Labor unions lead all groups in ‘independent expenditures’ for candidates

Organizations and individuals spent \$99,704 last year on “independent expenditures” to support candidates for state and local office, with most of the total coming from a single labor union, according to the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

The money was used to help support candidates in four special state Senate elections, three state House contests, four candidates in the Boston City Council election and 10 municipal candidates in Lynn.

Labor unions accounted for most of the spending in 2007, with 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East topping the list at \$69,234. The 2007 total is just a sliver of the \$3,995,453 spent in 2006 during gubernatorial and state Senate and House races. SEIU spent \$1.15 million in 2006.

Normal campaign finance activity regulated by Massachusetts campaign finance law requires candidates to account for all their spending and adhere to strict contribution limits from individuals, political action committees and other groups. Contributions are generally limited to \$500.

Independent expenditures are made by individuals or groups for the purpose of expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or candidates. They must be made without cooperation or consultation with any candidate or campaign, and therefore are not considered contributions subject to statutory limits. Such independent expenditures must be disclosed to OCPF if they exceed \$100 in a calendar year.

Four labor unions accounted for 94 percent of the independent expenditure spending in 2007: 1199 SEIU, the Massachusetts Nurses Association, Lynn School Employees Local Union 1736 and the Massachusetts Teachers Association.

-- MORE --

Highlights taken from the 2007 independent expenditure reports:

1199 SEIU spent \$25,595 on fliers and postage to support four Boston City Council candidates: Felix Arroyo, Michael F. Flaherty Jr., Stephen Murphy and Sam Yoon. Only Arroyo was not elected.

State Senate candidate Anthony Galluccio, D-Cambridge, received \$12,854 in support from 1199 SEIU and \$3,900 from the Massachusetts Nurses Association. He won the special election to replace state Sen. Jarrett Barrios.

State Senate candidate Anthony Petruccelli, D-Boston, received \$8,614 in help from 1199 SEIU and \$4,379 from the Massachusetts Nurses Association in the special election to replace former Senate President Robert Travaglini.

The Massachusetts Teachers Association spent \$2,629 in a successful effort to elect House candidate James O’Day, D-West Boylston, in a special election. The SEIU donated \$11,384. O’Day replaces former state Rep. James Leary.

The Coalition for Marriage, a Wakefield-based group, spent \$6,134 in an unsuccessful bid to elect Douglas Obey to the 11th Norfolk House seat. State Rep. Paul McMurtry, D-Dedham, won the special election.

The Lynn School Employees Local Union 1736 spent \$6,134 to support five School Committee candidates and five City Council candidates. The union bought newspaper advertisements, and paid for political literature and postage.

This report does not include independent expenditures by groups for advertisements or literature that refers to a candidate but does not expressly urge the election or defeat of the candidates, also known as “issue ads.” Such advertisements are not currently subject to disclosure under the Massachusetts campaign finance law.

Independent Expenditures by Individuals and Organizations 2007 State and Local Elections

Organization	Total Spent
1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East	\$69,234.62
Mass. Nurses Association	\$14,660.86
Mass. Teachers Association	\$2,629.01
Lynn School Employees Local Union 1736	\$7,045.83
Coalition for Marriage Inc.	\$6,134.36
Total	\$99,704.68