

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Campaign and Political Finance

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**Independent expenditures for legislative
candidates exceeds \$500,000 in 2008**

Three unions spent \$525,306 in independent expenditures to support or oppose candidates running for state legislative seats this year, according to an analysis by the Office of Campaign and Political Finance. The Coalition for Marriage also spent \$1,427 in support of five House candidates.

The four groups spent the money prior to the Sept. 16 primary and the Nov. 4 general election in support of 49 candidates and in opposition to three candidates, much of it going toward printing, postage and phone banks. All 52 candidates were running for state Senate or House seats.

Independent expenditures are made by individuals or organizations for the purpose of expressly advocating the election or defeat of candidates. They are defined as being made without cooperation, consultation, suggestion or coordination with any candidate or campaign. There are no spending limits for independent expenditures, which are not considered contributions subject to statutory limitations. Independent expenditures to support or oppose state candidates are disclosed to OCPF if they exceed \$100 in a calendar year.

The Service Employees International Union 1199 was the top spender in 2008 at \$320,384. The Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) spent \$129,450, followed by the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), which spent \$75,472.

The total amount of independent expenditures disclosed to OCPF in 2008 was \$526,733. Nearly \$4 million was spent in 2006, 97 percent of which was spent by unions. A bulk of the 2006 total was a single media purchase of \$2.3 million by the MTA to support Gov. Deval Patrick, then the Democratic gubernatorial nominee. Independent expenditures for legislative candidates was \$306,142 in 2006, more than \$200,000 less than the 2008 total.

The vast majority of independent expenditures in 2008 were made to support Democrats or defeat Republicans. The three unions spent \$506,291 in support of Democratic candidates. The MNA also spent \$16,433 to oppose three incumbents – Sen. Scott Brown, R-Wrentham; Rep. Patrick Natale, D-Woburn; and Rep. Jeffrey Perry, R-Sandwich. The \$1,427 spent by the Coalition for Marriage was in support of five Republican candidates.

The MTA and SEIU spent \$65,718 to support state Sen. James Timilty, D-Walpole, in his successful re-election, the highest amount for any candidate in 2008. The second highest amount was \$44,657, spent by SEIU and the MNA in support of Senate candidate Sara Orozco, D-Needham, in her unsuccessful bid to unseat her opponent, Sen. Brown. The \$44,657 total for Orozco does not include \$9,821 spent by the MNA to oppose Sen. Brown. The three unions spent \$30,616 to support Senate candidate Douglas Belanger, D-Leicester, and SEIU and the MTA spent \$27,475 to support Sen. Dianne Wilkerson, D-Boston. Belanger and Wilkerson are third and fourth on the list, respectively. Candidates are not involved in how independent expenditures are spent.

A complete list of independent expenditures by candidate is available at the OCPF Web site, www.mass.gov/ocpf. Under “quick links” choose “electronic filing system” then “indep. expenditures” from the vertical options bar on the left side of the screen.

The figures in this study include only those disclosed by individuals, groups and associations in filings with OCPF. They do **not** include the following types of expenditures:

- Expenditures by groups for advertisements or literature that refer to a candidate but do not expressly advocate the election or defeat of the candidate, also known as “issue ads.” Such advertisements are not subject to disclosure under the state campaign finance law.
- Independent expenditures by political committees organized with OCPF, such as political action committees, which are not reported in the same manner as the activity in this report. Such independent expenditures are disclosed in the PAC’s regular campaign finance reports filed with OCPF.

A chart of 2008 independent expenditures follows

Independent Expenditures by Organization 2008 State Election

Organization	Total	In Support	In Opposition
1199 SEIU	\$320,383	\$320,383	0
Mass. Teachers Association	\$129,450	\$129,450	0
Mass. Nurses Association	\$75,471	\$59,038	\$16,433
Coalition for Marriage	\$1,427	\$1,427	0
Total	\$526,733	\$510,300	\$16,433