Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Campaign and Political Finance

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Contributor database now on the Web

The Office of Campaign and Political Finance has unveiled a searchable Internet database for tracking contributions to 1998 statewide candidates.

The Contributor Information Database, or CID, is accessible on OCPF's web site, www.state.ma.us/OCPF.

CID marks the latest step in OCPF's continuing effort to use technology to bring campaign finance information to the public. The Web link provides, for the first time, access to reporting information from outside the Office.

With CID, users will now be able to look up contribution information for 1997 and 1998 in one of several ways, including:

- a search for an individual contributor who was identified by any candidate committee (the law requires the identification of those who give an aggregate of more than $50 in a calendar year, though many statewide committees identify all contributors) and a list of any candidate to whom the individual contributed.
- a list of all contributors from any city or town, broken down by candidate.
- a breakdown of contributions from any community by party.
- a ranking of communities whose residents gave the most to any candidate.

CID is also available at a terminal in the public area of OCPF's office in the McCormack Building, One Ashburton Place, Boston. Printouts are available at a cost of 10 cents per page. Database reports may also be e-mailed from the lobby terminal for use at another computer.

Candidate reports are still required to be filed in hard copy, so the information in the database must be inputted by typing it in. Consequently, there is a delay of several weeks between the filing of a report and the posting of information in the database. Searchers are also advised to check the actual reports filed to verify information or check errors.

While CID is primarily intended for use with Windows/Microsoft Access, the raw contribution data are available in a Macintosh-compatible format.

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