

Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance

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Legislative candidates report spending \$16.9 million in 2010

BOSTON – The largest field of legislative candidates in 18 years reported spending nearly \$16.9 million in the 2010 election, a 34 percent increase from the previous state election in 2008, according to an OCPF study of campaign finance activity by 433 House and Senate candidates.

The 2010 totals fall short of the record-setting spending total of \$17.6 million in 2004. Total fundraising in 2010 was nearly \$15 million, \$2.5 million more than in 2008, but \$2.3 million less than the record set in 2004.

The increased spending totals in 2010 correspond with a boost in contested seats. Of 200 legislative races in 2010, 118 were contested by more than one candidate in either the primary or general election, 47 more than in 2008.

OCPF's General Court study examines campaign finance activity undertaken by candidates for House and Senate in calendar year 2010. OCPF has issued a report of this type after every state election since 1990, all of which are available on the agency website ([click here](#)).

The 2010 study focused on total and average receipts and expenditures, and how those numbers translated to electoral success in such categories as political party and incumbency.

Incumbents were the most successful group in 2010. All 32 Senate incumbents running for re-election won, and 121 of 134 House incumbents running for re-election were successful.

The successful Senate incumbents averaged \$102,936 in expenditures in 2010, 38 percent higher than non-incumbents. In the House, 134 incumbents averaged \$39,898 in expenditures, nearly twice the average for non-incumbents.

The field of 256 Democratic candidates outpaced the 134 Republicans in total and average receipts and expenditures.

In Senate races, 52 Democrats reported expenditures of \$120,307 on average, more than four times higher than the \$28,655 average reported by 36 Republican candidates. Democrats averaged \$96,843 in receipts, compared to \$27,628 for Republican candidates. In House races, 204 Democrats averaged expenditures of \$35,019 compared to \$22,235 for 98 Republican candidates. House Democratic candidates averaged \$32,274 in receipts, and Republicans averaged \$21,544.

Winning and unsuccessful campaigns reported wide spending differences, on average.

In the Senate, 40 winners averaged \$130,999 in expenditures, compared to \$37,868 for non-winners. In the House, 159 winners averaged \$39,621 in expenditures, compared to \$18,160 for non-winners. One House race, the 6th Worcester District, was not decided in 2010 and all three candidates were listed as unsuccessful. A special election was held May 10 to fill the seat.

Of the 433 legislative candidates in 2010, 95 were seeking one of 40 Senate seats and 338 were running for the 160-seat House. The number of candidates in 2010 was the highest since 1992, but short of the highest number of legislative candidates recorded in an OCPF study, 507 in 1990.

The Office of Campaign and Political Finance administers the campaign finance law, M.G.L. Chapter 55. Candidates for state, county and some municipal offices file campaign finance disclosure reports with OCPF. Party committees, political action committees and ballot question committees also file with OCPF. In 2010, more than 23,000 campaign finance disclosure reports were filed electronically with the agency.

**AGGREGATE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES
BY LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES
2000 – 2010**

	<i>2000</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2010</i>
Number of candidates	330	372	390	339	311	433
Receipts	\$12,223,071	\$11,561,938	\$17,275,537	\$12,398,381	\$12,462,676	\$14,994,001
Expenditures	\$11,013,392	\$11,968,889	\$17,640,644	\$11,877,068	\$12,550,335	\$16,873,190