

Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance

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Independent expenditures and electioneering communications for candidates top \$11.5 million

Organizations and individuals reported spending more than \$11.5 million during the 2010 election year on independent expenditures and electioneering communications, political spending that is done without consultation or cooperation with any candidate campaign.

A total of \$3.7 million was spent on independent expenditures to directly advocate for or against the election of 116 legislative and statewide candidates. An independent expenditure is an expenditure made by an individual, group, association or corporation to expressly advocate for the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, without cooperating or consulting with any candidate.

A majority of all independent expenditures were made to influence the gubernatorial race. The Massachusetts Teachers Association spent \$2.75 million to support Gov. Deval Patrick, and the Massachusetts AFL-CIO spent \$33,879 to oppose gubernatorial candidate Charles Baker. The remaining \$952,203 was spent to support or oppose candidates running for the House of Representatives, Senate and other offices.

More than twice as much was spent on electioneering communications than on independent expenditures. Electioneering communications are print, mail and broadcast ads that clearly identify candidates on the ballot within 90 days of an election but do not expressly advocate for or against their election.

Two organizations, the Republican Governors Association and Bay State Future, accounted for the vast majority of the \$7.8 million spent on electioneering communications concerning candidates who were running for governor. The Republican Governors Association spent more than \$4.6 million in electioneering communications, which identified three

gubernatorial candidates, including Baker, Patrick and Timothy Cahill. Bay State Future, a group funded by the Democratic Governors Association, SEIU and the Massachusetts Teachers Association, spent \$3,157,301 on ads identifying Baker.

No business corporations reported spending money directly on independent expenditures or electioneering communications, despite a US Supreme Court ruling in 2010 that allowed corporations to make independent expenditures to expressly advocate for or against candidates.

The \$3.7 million spent in 2010 on independent expenditures is a 7 percent drop from the last statewide gubernatorial election year 2006, when \$3,995,453 was spent. There are no records on electioneering communication expenditures in 2006 because changes to the state campaign finance law only required such disclosure beginning in 2010.

Independent expenditures and electioneering communications are disclosed on the OCPF electronic filing system at www.mass.gov/ocpf for statewide, legislative and county candidates, and some candidates in cities (mayoral and city council candidates in Boston, Cambridge, Lowell, Springfield and Worcester, and mayoral candidates in cities with populations between 40,000 and 100,000). Reports regarding other municipal candidates are filed with local election officials.

A chart follows:

2010 Independent Expenditure and Electioneering Communication Totals

Organization or Individual Making Expenditure	Total Independent Expenditures	Total Electioneering Communications	Total
Republican Governors Association	0	\$4,643,459	\$4,643,459
Bay State Future	0	\$3,157,301	\$3,157,301
Mass. Teachers Association	\$2,941,153	0	\$2,941,153
1199 SEIU	\$464,334	0	\$464,334
Mass. Nurses Association	\$188,470	\$26,416	\$214,886
SEIU Local 509	\$46,014	0	\$46,014
Mass. AFL-CIO	\$33,879	0	\$33,879
Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound	0	\$32,561	\$32,561
Coalition for Marriage	0	\$11,907	\$11,907
MassEquality	\$10,075	0	\$10,075
Neighbor to Neighbor	\$9,554	0	\$9,554
Empower Massachusetts	\$3,282	\$5,611	\$8,893
SEIU Local 615	\$6,163	0	\$6,163
Retired State, County and Municipal Employees	\$4,226	0	\$4,226
Worcester Police Officials Union	\$1,506	0	\$1,506
Paul Peter Nicolai	0	\$883	\$883
Andover Education Association	\$352	0	\$352
Eldin Villafane	\$262	0	\$262
SEIU Local 888	\$140	0	\$140
Totals	\$3,709,423	\$7,878,138	\$11,587,561