

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Office of Campaign and Political Finance*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sept. 24, 2003

CONTACT: Denis Kennedy  
Director of Public Information  
(617) 727-8352 / (800) 462-6273

## **Legislative candidate spending was almost \$12 million in 2002, according to OCPF study**

Candidates for the Legislature spent almost \$12 million in their campaigns in 2002, posting all-time highs in several categories, according to a study released today by the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

Record figures were posted for total receipts and expenditures by all candidates for the House and for average expenditures by candidates for both chambers. The 2002 campaign also saw single-seat spending records set in both the House and Senate and individual candidate records posted for spending in the Senate and both fundraising and spending in the House.

The total legislative spending figure of \$11,976,712, up 9 percent from 2000, is the third-highest ever recorded, behind the high of \$12.3 million recorded in 1992 and the \$12.2 million posted in 1990.

The 372 legislative candidates (61 in the Senate and 311 in the House) raised a total of \$11,566,192, a decrease of 5 percent from two years before, according to the study.

The breakdown by individual chambers:

In the **Senate**, candidates raised \$3.8 million, a decline of about \$1.7 million, or 31 percent, from 2000, and spent almost \$4.2 million, a drop of 4 percent. Average receipts by a Senate candidate were \$62,619, a drop of 26 percent, while average expenditures were \$68,482, a rise of 2 percent to a record high.

In the **House**, the \$7.7 million raised by candidates was the largest House total ever recorded in an OCPF study and the first time the aggregate receipts have exceeded \$7 million. The receipts total was an increase of 15 percent over 2000. The \$7.8 million spending total was an increase of 17 percent over 2000 and is also the highest aggregate ever recorded, exceeding

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the previous record of \$7.129 million from 1990. Average receipts fell 2 percent to \$24,908 and average expenditures rose less than 1 percent to \$25,078, which was a new record.

In 2002, the legislative candidate spending the most money won 90 of the 102 contested races, for a success rate of 88 percent. That is an increase of seven percentage points from 2000 and is identical to the 1998 rate.

The study also found that as in past years, Democrats, incumbents and those who ultimately won their elections showed significantly more campaign finance activity than their opponents. Candidates who won their races in 2002 usually started and finished the year with more money than their opponents. The lists of the top ten most active individual candidates in terms of fundraising and spending was made up mostly of incumbents and candidates for open or hotly contested seats.

The entire study, with totals for each candidate, may be found on OCPF's web site at [www.mass.gov/ocpf/homepage\\_studies.htm](http://www.mass.gov/ocpf/homepage_studies.htm).

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