

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 11, 2007

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## **Legislative candidates' spending reached almost \$11.9 million in 2006**

Candidates for the House and Senate spent just under \$11.9 million in their campaigns for the Legislature last year, according to a new study by the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

The 339 candidates reported receipts of \$12,398,381 and expenditures of \$11,877,068. Neither figure is a record for aggregate fundraising or spending; in fact, both represent a significant drop from the all-time highs of \$17.3 million and \$17.6 million, respectively, posted in 2004 by 390 candidates.

The decrease in activity was also reflected in the breakdown of figures for each chamber in 2006. In the Senate, 70 candidates reported a total of \$4,612,580 raised and \$4,596,300 spent, down from \$7.6 million in both categories two years before. The 2006 averages were \$65,894 raised and \$65,661 spent – both a drop of about \$28,000 from 2004.

In the House, the 269 candidates raised \$7,785,801 and spent \$7,280,786, which were decreases of \$1.9 million and \$2.7 million, respectively, from 2004. The average amount raised by a House candidate was \$28,943, down almost \$2,500 from 2004, and the average spent was \$27,066, a decrease of about \$5,200.

A major reason for the decline in total activity was a drop in the number of candidates from 2004, as 51 fewer candidates sought legislative office in 2006. In addition, last year's election saw fewer contested races and more unopposed incumbents, which translated into less spending. The total and average amount spent by challengers dropped significantly from 2004, when several non-incumbents recorded spending much higher than previous averages.

The Senate race with the highest spending in 2006 was in the Berkshire, Hampshire and Franklin District, where seven candidates spent \$413,630 to succeed outgoing Sen. Andrea Nuciforo. The winner, Benjamin Downing, D-Pittsfield, prevailed despite not being the top spender in the race. The highest amount ever spent for a Senate race was the \$809,637 spent in

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2002 for the Middlesex, Suffolk and Essex District seat now held by Jarrett Barrios, D-Cambridge.

The House race featuring the highest spending was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Suffolk District, where House Speaker Salvatore DiMasi, D-Boston, and Republican challenger Kenneth Procaccianti spent a total of \$355,113. DiMasi, who was re-elected, accounted for 98 percent of the total spending in the race. The spending total in this race is a new record, surpassing the \$347,148 spent in the 11<sup>th</sup> Norfolk District in 2002. That four-way race was won by Rep. Robert Coughlin, D-Dedham, who resigned his seat earlier this year.

The top spenders in both chambers in 2006 were also their presiding officers. Senate President Robert Travaglini, D-Boston, spent \$459,871 in his unopposed re-election campaign. The spending reported by Travaglini (who resigned his seat earlier this year) fell short of the record for a Senate candidate, which was the \$474,095 recorded by his successor as president, Therese Murray, D-Plymouth, in a contested race in 2004.

The top spender in the House in 2006 was Speaker DiMasi, with a total of \$353,202. That figure trails the House record of \$370,641 set by DiMasi's predecessor as speaker, Thomas Finneran, in 2002.

Candidates finishing the election year with the most money in their respective chambers were Sen. Mark Montigny, D-New Bedford (\$1,078,047), and Rep. Peter Koutoujian, D-Waltham (\$360,582). Neither total is the highest such amount recorded in each chamber.

For the most part, the 2006 figures followed the trends established in previous legislative reports: Democrats, who outnumber Republicans in both chambers, once again outspent their GOP counterparts, both in total and on average. Incumbents were more likely to have higher spending than those not holding legislative office, and contested races also saw greater campaign finance activity.

Figures in the study are subject to further amendment by candidates and committees after its compilation. For the most current data, visit OCPF's Electronic Filing System, accessible through OCPF's website at [www.mass.gov/ocpf](http://www.mass.gov/ocpf).

The study is online on OCPF's website, at [www.mass.gov/ocpf/legrpt06.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/ocpf/legrpt06.pdf). The study and other past studies of campaign finance activity may also be found in the Studies section of the website.