

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

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**Mayoral candidates spent almost \$4 million in 2003,  
according to OCPF study**

Candidates for mayor spent just under \$4 million in their campaigns in 2003, a drop in activity from two years before, according to a study released today by OCPF.

The candidates reported raising \$3,587,911 and spending \$3,949,051 in the 38 cities that elected mayors in 2003.

The totals for 2003 were significantly less than those posted in 2001, when candidates raised \$4.5 million and spent \$5.8 million. The absence of activity from Boston, which did not have a mayoral election in 2003, was a major reason for the lower totals. In addition, the totals vary each election with each new roster of candidates and elections.

The study was based on activity by 70 finalists in the general elections and did not include activity for candidates who lost in preliminary elections.

The median level of fundraising for a candidate in 2003 was \$31,586, while the spending median was \$27,672. Both figures represent declines from two years before, when the medians were \$32,644 and \$33,040, respectively.

The top spender in 2003 was incumbent Edward Lambert of Fall River, who was re-elected. Lambert, who was also the top spender in 1999, reported expenditures of \$416,324 last year. The top spender in 2001 was Mayor Thomas Menino of Boston, who spent \$1.6 million.

The candidate who reported the highest amount raised in 2003 was Joseph Curtatone of Somerville, who was elected after the defeat of the incumbent in the preliminary. Curtatone reported receipts of \$262,218. Boston Mayor Menino was also the top fundraiser in 2001, with \$880,000 in receipts.

A total of 14 cities saw aggregate spending by mayoral finalists exceed \$100,000 in 2003.

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The city with the greatest amount of activity was Springfield, where two finalists competed for an open seat. The two candidates, eventual winner Charles Ryan and state Sen. Linda Melconian, spent a total of \$514,016.

Rounding out the top five in spending in 2003 were, in order, Fall River, Somerville, Quincy and Revere.

Incumbents and winning candidates once again showed substantially higher medians than non-incumbents and unsuccessful candidates, respectively, in 2003. Contests for open mayoral seats are traditionally competitive; candidates for open seats posted medians that were higher than the overall medians, though not as high as those for incumbents. Those who were opposed in their races, be they incumbents or non-incumbents, posted higher medians than those who ran without opposition.

The candidate who spent the most money won in 21 of the 31 contested races, or 68 percent of the time. By contrast, the success rate of the top spenders in 2001 was 79 percent, or 27 out of 34 races.

The average amount spent per vote by a candidate in 2003 was \$11.03, a decrease of 67 cents, or 6 percent, over 2001. The 2003 figure was still well above the averages for 1997 and 1999, which were both below \$9.00. Fall River Mayor Lambert topped the list in spending per vote with a figure of \$41.87.

The study may be found on OCPF's web site, at [www.mass.gov/ocpf](http://www.mass.gov/ocpf). Click on the "OCPF Studies" tab at the top of the page.

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