

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Campaign and Political Finance

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Mayoral candidates spent record total of \$6.2 million in 2005, says OCPF study

BOSTON – Candidates for mayor in the November 2005 city elections spent a total of \$6.2 million last year, according to a study released today by the Office of Campaign and Political Finance. That figure is the highest ever recorded since OCPF first issued a mayoral study after the 1997 elections.

The study tracked activity by the 71 candidates on the November election ballots in 38 cities. (It did not include candidates who lost in the preliminary elections.) According to the study, the candidates raised a total of \$5,778,781 and spent a total of \$6,209,404 in 2005. In addition to the spending figure, the fundraising aggregate is also the highest ever recorded by OCPF. The previous highs were \$4.5 million raised and \$5.8 million spent, both in 2001.

The median amounts raised and spent were \$30,021 and \$27,621, respectively. Both figures do not match the record medians of \$32,644 and \$33,040, both posted in 2001.

A total of 14 candidates spent more than \$100,000 in their campaigns. The top spender in 2005 was Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, who reported expenditures of just under \$1.7 million. Menino has topped the spending list each time he has been featured in such a study, in 1997 and 2001. His 2005 figure, however, is an all-time individual record. Mayor Menino has been the top spending mayoral candidate statewide each of the last three times he has run: in 1997, 2001 and 2005.

Boston was also the city with the highest amount of mayoral spending, as Menino and challenger Maura Hennigan spent a total of \$2,830,361. Boston has been the city with the highest spending the last three times it held a mayoral election. Rounding out the top five in spending in 2005 were New Bedford, Fall River, Salem and Springfield.

The average amount spent per vote by a candidate in 2005 was \$14.18, an increase of 29 percent over two years before and the highest such figure ever noted in an OCPF mayoral study.

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The candidate who spent the higher amount won in 21 of the 29 contested races in 2005, or 72 percent of the time. That percentage was four points higher than 2003, when 21 of 31 races went to the top spender. Seventeen of last year's top spenders were incumbents.

The study, which includes aggregate figures for each candidate, is online at OCPF's website and may be found at www.mass.gov/ocpf/mayors05.pdf.

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