

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Campaign and Political Finance

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Gubernatorial race paces statewide spending to a record high

Candidates for the six statewide offices spent a record \$27.8 million in the two-year period leading up to the Nov. 3 general election, with record spending for three offices, according to figures compiled by the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

OCPF today released fundraising and spending totals for the 23 candidates who were on the primary and/or general election ballot, based on statements filed by the committees' depository banks. A copy of the study is attached.

According to candidates' reports for all races, a total of \$25,199,581 was raised and \$27,826,981 was spent from Jan. 1, 1997, through Nov. 15, 1998. Those two totals exceed the previous highs of \$23.3 million and \$24.7 million, reported in the 1990 campaign, and are almost twice the amounts reported in the 1994 campaign.

The 1998 figures show record receipts and expenditures in the races for Governor, Attorney General and Auditor.

The greatest activity was reported in the race for Governor, where the six candidates reported raising \$16,054,591 and spending \$18,621,409. Those two figures are the highest gubernatorial totals ever reported by OCPF and the highest figures for any single statewide race.

Gov. Paul Cellucci also set individual records for fundraising and spending by a statewide candidate. Cellucci, who was elected to his first full term, raised \$5,573,574 and spent \$7,028,946 in the 1997-1998 period.

Showing the second largest amount of total activity was the race for attorney general, where three candidates reported raising \$3,702,258 and spending \$3,880,458. Those amounts are also new records, eclipsing the 1990 totals of \$2.6 million and \$2.9 million, respectively.

In the race for auditor, three candidates reported raising \$913,180 and spending \$1,119,384. Those figures exceed the previous fundraising record of \$417,813, set in 1990, and the sending record of \$484,816, set in 1994.

The aggregate 1998 figures for the other races are: Lt. Governor -- \$2,093,534 raised, \$1,984,226 spent; Treasurer -- \$2,012,152 raised, \$1,994,584 spent; and Secretary -- \$423,868 raised, \$226,918 spent.

For the primary period, a total of \$20,695,650 was raised by all statewide candidates through Sept. 15, 1998. The candidates reported spending a total of \$19,934,005 during the same period. While the total for primary receipts is a new record, the primary spending record is still the \$20,278,836 spent in 1990.

In the primary, five gubernatorial candidates reported raising \$13,637,931 and spending \$14,057,114. In the general election, the three candidates reported raising \$2,416,660 and spending \$4,564,295. (Figures for Cellucci and Scott Harshbarger start Sept. 16, while those for Dean Cook, who was not on the primary ballot, include all activity.) The general election spending figure is also an all-time high, surpassing the \$2.4 million spent in 1990.

The top spender was also the winner in four of the six contests. In the race for Lieutenant Governor, Warren Tolman spent more than any of the other four candidates, but lost in the general election to Jane Swift. Dale Jenkins was defeated by Secretary William Galvin despite outspending him for that seat.

The figures do not include independent expenditures made on behalf of a candidate, which must be reported to OCPF only by the individual or entity making the expenditure. Three entities reported independent expenditures on behalf of a statewide candidate, all to Scott Harshbarger for a total of \$654,874. The candidates' figures also do not include in-kind contributions, which are made in cooperation or consultation with a campaign and are reported by a campaign committee in their year-end reports, and liabilities paid after Nov. 15 or still outstanding at the end of the year. The later liabilities are reported in committees' year-end reports, which are due Jan. 20, 1999.

(A brief note about the time frame of this report: In the 1990 and 1994 campaigns, OCPF set Oct. 31 as the cutoff date for its totals. For 998, that deadline was extended to Nov. 15 in order to include spending in the days before the election and on election day, as well as any outstanding bills that were paid in the days after the election.)