

OCPF REPORTS

Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance Pre-Election Special Edition Newsletter

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2021

Mayoral elections in 34 cities this year include eight open seats in Boston, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lynn, Newburyport, North Adams, Northampton and Somerville.

Voters will also select city councilors, school committee members and other offices.

This special edition of the OCPF newsletter is a summary of municipal election activity in Massachusetts, and helps point readers to where they can locate campaign finance information for candidates.

2021 Mayoral Elections

34 cities will elect mayors on Nov. 2.


All mayoral candidates file campaign finance reports with OCPF, available on our website [here](#). Approximately 80 mayoral candidates will appear on ballots in 2021

(ballots in two cities are still being certified).

OPEN (NO INCUMBENT) MAYORAL RACES:

***Boston, *Holyoke, *Lawrence, Lynn, Newburyport, North Adams, Northampton and Somerville.**

**Seat currently held by acting mayors*



Agawam / Amesbury / Attleboro / Beverly / Boston
Brockton / Chicopee / Easthampton / Everett / Fall River
Fitchburg / Framingham / Gardner / Gloucester / Haverhill
Holyoke / Lawrence / Leominster / Lynn / Marlborough
Medford / Methuen / Newburyport / Newton / North Adams
Northampton / Peabody / Salem / Somerville / Taunton
Westfield / West Springfield / Woburn / Worcester



Most campaign finance reports filed by municipal candidates do not appear on OCPF's website.

How do you find them?

Contact your [local election official](#).

All school committee candidates, as well as city council candidates in cities with fewer than 65,000 residents, file reports with city clerks and local election officials. Candidates file eight days before the preliminary election, if they appear on the preliminary ballot, and eight days before the Nov. 2 general election.

Tip: Many reports are posted to the municipal website, usually on the city clerk's page.

2021 REPORTING DATES FOR MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES* WHO FILE WITH THEIR LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIALS

Candidates who do not appear on a preliminary ballot

The pre-election report is due Oct. 25, covering Jan. 1 to Oct. 15
(Nov. 2 election)

Candidates who appear on a preliminary ballot

Sept. 14 Preliminary Report: Due Sept. 7, covering Jan. 1 to Aug. 27

Sept. 21 Preliminary Report: Due Sept. 13, covering Jan. 1 to Sept. 3

Sept. 28 Preliminary Report: Due. Sept. 20, covering Jan. 1 to Sept. 10

Oct. 5 Preliminary Report: Due Sept. 27, covering Jan. 1 to Sept. 17

- Candidates who file pre-preliminary reports also file pre-election reports, due Oct. 25 (win or lose). The reporting period is the day after the ending date of the pre-preliminary report until Oct. 15.
- Candidates use the M102 form to file their reports: FORM.
- Local election officials must post completed campaign finance reports to their municipal websites within 30 days of a filing deadline, if a report exceeds \$1,000 in activity. OCPF highly recommends posting all reports to the municipal website.

**All city and town candidates, except mayoral candidates, and city council candidates in cities with more than 65,000 residents.*

CITY COUNCIL

Cities of more than 65,000 residents

BOSTON / BROCKTON / CAMBRIDGE / FALL RIVER
FRAMINGHAM / LAWRENCE / LOWELL / LYNN
NEW BEDFORD / NEWTON / QUINCY / SOMERVILLE
SPRINGFIELD / WORCESTER

- There are more than 300 “on ballot” city council candidates in the state’s 14 largest cities.
- They e-file a deposit report with OCPF after making a deposit at the bank, disclosing contributions.
- On a monthly schedule, banks file reports disclosing expenditures. Bank reports are due by the 5th of each month (if the 5th falls on a holiday or weekend, the bank reports are due the next business day).
- [CLICK HERE](#) to view reports for city council candidates on the 2021 municipal ballots.

Note: According to the 2020 census, Haverhill, Malden and Waltham recently exceeded the 65,000-in-population threshold. Candidates on the 2021 ballot in those cities will proceed with filing with their local election officials, and will begin filing with OCPF at some point after the Nov. 2 election.



Late Contribution Reporting Dates

(OCPF filers only)

Preliminary Election Late Contribution Periods

Sept. 14 Preliminary: Aug. 28 - Sept. 10

Sept. 21 Preliminary: Sept. 4 - Sept. 17

Sept. 28 Preliminary: Sept. 11 - Sept. 24

Oct. 5 Preliminary: Sept. 18 - Oct. 1

Nov. 2 General Election Late Contribution Period

Oct. 16 - Oct. 29

REQUIREMENT: "Late contributions" are contributions of \$500 or more that are received and deposited during the late contribution reporting period. Late contributions are disclosed by filing a deposit report within 72 hours of deposit. [Click here for a tutorial on how to disclose late contributions.](#)

A candidate must only disclose pre-preliminary late contributions during the period if his or her name appears on the preliminary ballot.

An in-kind contribution that takes place during the late contribution reporting period should be deemed to involve a "deposit" for the purposes of the late contribution reporting requirements, as of the date the in-kind contribution is received. The committee has 72 hours from the receipt of the in-kind contribution to file the report. [Click here for a tutorial on how to disclose a late in-kind contribution.](#)

Late contributions are disclosed by municipal candidates who e-file with OCPF, not by candidates who file with their local election officials.

REIMBURSEMENTS: LOCAL FILERS

Local filers, such as school committee candidates, and city council candidates in cities with fewer than 65,000 residents, can reimburse individuals for personal funds spent on behalf of the campaign.

Please click here for a short tutorial on how local filers make reimbursements.

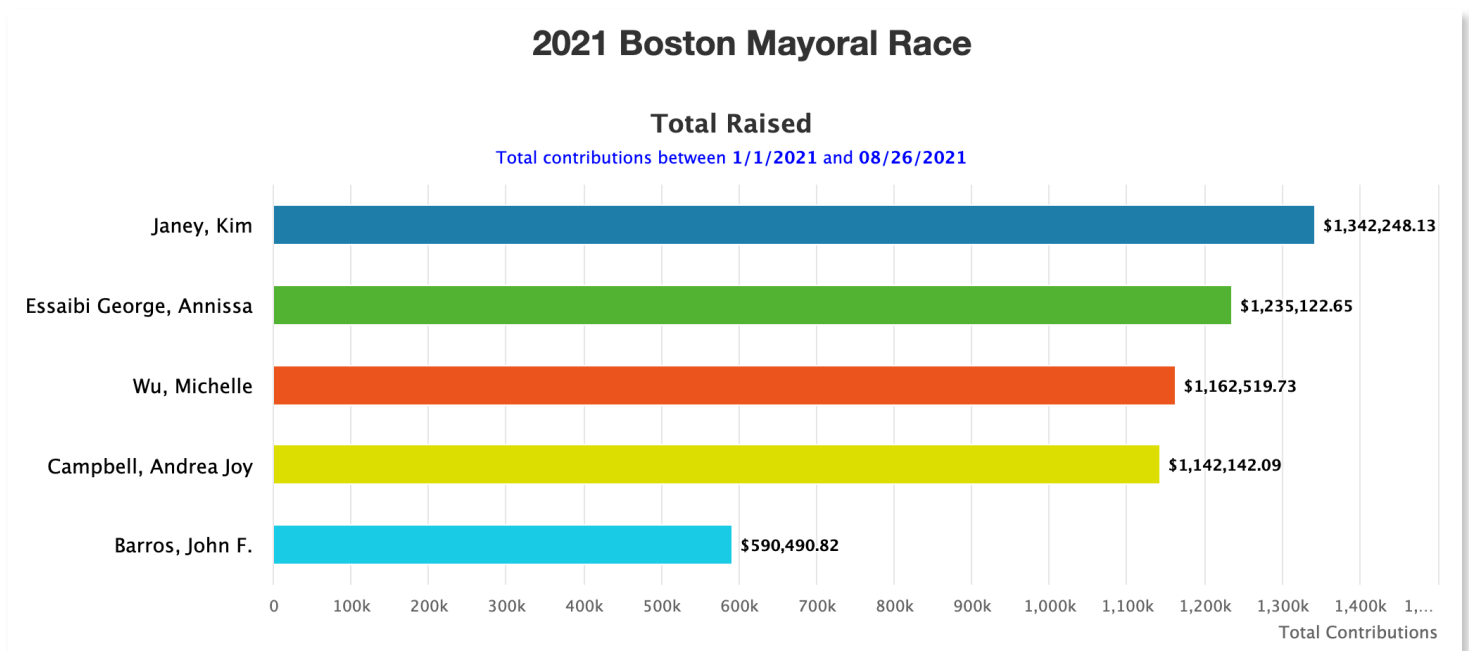
Reminder: Depository candidates should avoid reimbursements. Please see these restrictions: [Memo](#).

PLEASE UPLOAD A PHOTOGRAPH OF YOUR CANDIDATE FOR THE OCPF WEBSITE (OCPF FILERS ONLY)

1. LOG INTO REPORTER 7
2. SELECT THE "TOOLS" TILE
3. SELECT THE PURPLE "FILER INFORMATION" TILE
4. CLICK THE "UPLOAD FILER PHOTO" BUTTON
5. UPLOAD THE PHOTO

[CLICK HERE FOR A SHORT DEMO](#)

Interested in the Boston mayoral race this year? Click [here](#) to view OCPF's campaign finance charts.



Independent expenditure PACs, also known as **Super PACs, are active in 2021's municipal elections.**

Click [here](#) for IEPAC disclosure reports.

IEPACs may raise and spend unlimited amounts of money to support or oppose candidates, but may not coordinate their efforts with candidates.