

# *Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance*

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## **More than \$9 million spent on statewide ballot questions in 2012**

More than \$9 million was spent to influence three questions put before the voters on the 2012 statewide ballot, according to disclosure reports filed by ballot question committees with the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

OCPF's review of ballot question committee activity showed a total of \$9,304,909 spent by 13 committees on questions concerning automobile repair, physician assisted suicide and medical marijuana.

**Question 2**, Prescribing Medication to End Life, had the highest amount of spending – \$5,868,797 by seven committees. The question failed.

**Question 1**, Availability of Motor Vehicle Repair Information, had \$2,304,999 in expenditures. The question passed.

**Question 3**, Medical use of Marijuana, had \$1,131,113 in expenditures. The question passed.

The Committee Against Physician Assisted Suicide reported the highest amount of expenditures for any ballot question committee, \$4,027,098, in a successful effort to defeat Question 2. The largest donors to the committee were the Boston Catholic Television Center, \$1 million; St. John's Seminary Corporation, \$1 million; Knights of Columbus, \$450,000; and The Catholic Association, \$420,000.

The Massachusetts Right to Repair Committee reported the second highest amount of expenditures, \$1,936,320, to successfully support Question 1. The committee's largest donors were the Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association, \$957,500; and the Coalition for Automotive Repair Equality, \$210,000. Four automobile parts companies each gave \$150,000.

The Committee for Compassionate Medicine reported the third highest amount of expenditures, \$1,125,647, to support Question 3, which passed. Its largest donor was retired insurance company executive Peter Lewis of Mayfield Village, Ohio, who contributed \$1,097,000.

Receipt and expenditure details for each of the 13 ballot question committees are itemized in the attached charts.

In 12 state elections since 1988, there have been three questions on the ballot six times. Of those six elections, expenditures in 2012 ranked fourth highest. Three questions appeared on the ballot in 2010, with reported expenditures of \$9,098,307 – \$206,000 less than 2012's total.

The highest amount of expenditures for any year was in 1992, when \$16,139,661 was spent to influence eight questions.

In addition to the receipts and expenditures reported by 13 ballot question committees in 2012, they also reported a total of \$1,113,867 in in-kind contributions.

Independent from the ballot question committees, six organizations made expenditures to oppose questions 2 and 3, and reported those expenditures electronically with OCPF. The Massachusetts Family Institute, The Trustees of Emmanuel College, Stonehill College, Anna Maria College, College of the Holy Cross and the Trustees of Boston College spent \$48,264 opposing Question 2. An individual also reported spending \$2,373 opposing the same question.

The Massachusetts Family Institute reported spending \$6,505 opposing Question 3.

Reports filed by each of the committees may be found on OCPF's Electronic Filing System, a searchable database accessible on the office's website at [www.mass.gov/ocpf](http://www.mass.gov/ocpf). Reports filed by individuals and organizations are available at <http://ocpf.cloudapp.net/Reports/Cpf22s>.

*A breakdown of activity for each question follows*

## *Campaign Finance Activity for the 2012 Statewide Ballot Questions*

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### **Question 1: Right to Repair (Approved)**

Committee	Receipts	Expenditures	In-Kind Contributions	Liabilities
	<i>Support</i>			
Massachusetts Right to Repair Committee	\$1,936,320	\$1,933,624	0	0
Vote Yes on Question 1 Repair ... Anywhere	\$300,050	\$163,042	\$46,396	\$12,879
Yes on 1 Free to Choose	0	0	0	0
<i>Total expenditures in favor</i>	<b>\$2,096,666</b>			
	<i>Oppose</i>			
Citizens Committee for Safe and Fair Repair	\$307,979	\$208,333	\$134,471	0
<i>Total expenditures in opposition</i>	<b>\$208,333</b>			
<b><i>Question 1 Totals</i></b>	<b>\$2,544,349</b>	<b>\$2,304,999</b>	<b>\$180,867</b>	<b>\$12,879</b>

## Question 2: Death with Dignity (Defeated)

Committee	Receipts	Expenditures	In-Kind Contributions	Liabilities
	<b><i>Support</i></b>			
Dignity 2012	\$595,276	\$592,685	\$663,299	\$720
MA Compassion and Choices Dignity 2012	\$529,236	\$521,047	\$108,069	0
<b><i>Total expenditures in favor</i></b>	<b>\$1,113,732</b>			
	<b><i>Oppose</i></b>			
Massachusetts Against Doctor Prescribed Suicide – No on 2	\$709,383	\$707,095	\$5,937	0
Second Thoughts: People with Disabilities opposing the Legalization of Assisted Suicide	\$23,699	\$20,763	\$992	0
The Committee Against Physician Assisted Suicide	\$4,128,775	\$4,027,098	\$121,189	\$451,643
Choice is an Illusion d/b/a Mass Against Assisted Suicide	0	0	0	0
Life with Dignity – No on 2	\$220	\$109	\$81	0
<b><i>Total expenditures in opposition</i></b>	<b>\$4,755,065</b>			
<b><i>Question 2 Totals</i></b>	<b>\$5,986,589</b>	<b>\$5,868,797</b>	<b>\$899,567</b>	<b>\$452,363</b>

### Question 3: Medical Marijuana (Approved)

Committee	Receipts	Expenditures	In-Kind Contributions	Liabilities
	<b><i>Support</i></b>			
Committee for Compassionate Medicine	\$1,147,012	\$1,125,647	\$29,297	\$172,423
<b><i>Total expenditures in favor</i></b>	<b>\$1,125,647</b>			
	<b><i>Oppose</i></b>			
Vote No on Question 3	\$5,950	\$5,466	\$4,136	\$850
<b><i>Total expenditures in opposition</i></b>	<b>\$5,466</b>			
<b><i>Question 3 Total</i></b>	<b>\$1,152,962</b>	<b>\$1,131,113</b>	<b>\$33,433</b>	<b>\$173,273</b>

# Statewide Ballot Question Expenditures

## 1988 – 2012

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Questions</i>	<i>Number of Committees</i>	<i>Total spent</i>
1988	4	18	\$13,317,952
1990	6	20	\$5,661,062
1992	4	8	\$16,139,661
1994	9	23	\$11,155,835
1996	1	3	\$1,210,777
1998	3	9	\$9,999,283
2000	8	16	\$15,340,199
2002	3	6	\$2,332,880
2006	3	6	\$15,320,327
2008	3	7	\$11,516,215
2010	3	9	\$9,098,307
2012	3	13	\$9,554,909

Note: There were no questions on the statewide ballot in 2004.

**## End ##**