

Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance

2022 Campaign Finance Activity by Candidates for the Massachusetts General Court

House and Senate

INTRODUCTION

This study examines campaign finance activity undertaken by candidates for the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives (known collectively as The General Court) in calendar year 2022. The Office of Campaign and Political Finance has issued a report of this type after every state election since 1990.

The information contained in this legislative study is based on data compiled from campaign finance reports electronically filed by candidates and treasurers of political committees organized on behalf of candidates for the Massachusetts Senate and House. In 2022, 350 candidates sought legislative office and filed disclosure reports with OCPF: 76 running for 40 Senate seats, and 274 seeking one of 160 House seats.

Legislative candidates and their committees are in the depository system of reporting. Candidates file deposit reports with OCPF to disclose receipts (contributions). A bank files monthly reports showing total receipts, and itemizes expenditures based on check and debit card activity.

The Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) is an independent state agency that administers Massachusetts General Law Chapter 55, the campaign finance law. The law provides for disclosure and regulation of campaign finance activity on the state, county and municipal levels. The reports filed by state and county candidates and committees are available on the office's web site at ocpf.us.

This study was compiled and written based on information filed by candidates, committees and banks. Those seeking further information on the study or any other facet of the Massachusetts campaign finance law may contact the Office of Campaign and Political Finance by calling 617-979-8300.

September 2023

A table of campaign finance activity by all Senate and House candidates is available by clicking here.

OVERVIEW

Receipts and expenditures for legislative candidates increased in 2022 compared to the previous state election in 2020.

Total fundraising for the 350 legislative candidates in 2022 reached \$14.6 million (\$41,627 per candidate). The record for total receipts was set in 2004, when 390 candidates reported raising \$17,275,537 (\$44,296 per candidate).

Expenditure totals in 2022 increased to \$15.4 million (\$43,982 per candidate). The record for total expenditures was set in 2004, when 390 candidates reported spending \$17,640,644 (\$45,232 per candidate).

AGGREGATE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES BY LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES 2010 – 2022

	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Number of candidates	433	346	372	337	377	316	350
Receipts	\$14,994,001	\$11,533,612	\$12,185,713	\$12,899,777	\$14,839,395	\$11,033,014	\$14,569,362
Expenditures	\$16,873,190	\$11,902,207	\$12,425,073	\$12,211,196	\$14,729,770	\$10,597,571	\$15,393,587

Of the 350 legislative candidates in 2022, 76 were seeking one of 40 Senate seats and 274 were running for the 160-seat House.

One record was reached in 2022: Sen. Barry Finegold of Andover reported \$622,149 in spending, a new record for Senate candidates. Former Senate President Therese Murray of Plymouth previously held the record, topping the expenditure list in 2012 with \$513,164.

The number of candidates increased from 316 in 2020 to 350 in 2022. The lowest total ever recorded in OCPF studies, which have been compiled after each election since 1990, was 311 in 2008. The highest number of legislative candidates recorded in an OCPF study was 507 in 1990.

Twenty-seven new legislators were elected in 2022. The new legislators include five in the Senate and 22 in the House.

The findings for each of the two chambers of the Legislature are broken down in each of the two sections that follow this introduction.

SECTION I: THE SENATE

Average receipt totals in 2022 increased compared to the 2020 election. Senate candidates on average raised \$72,741 in 2022, up from \$62,556 in 2020. The record receipts average for Senate candidates is \$93,370, set in 2004.

Average 2022 expenditures increased to \$84,782, up from \$57,392 in 2020. The highest expenditure average was \$94,082, set in 2004.

OVERVIEW OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY FOR SENATE CANDIDATES

	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Number of candidates	75	69	76	56	76
Total receipts	\$4,272,990	\$4,648,172	\$5,250,469	\$3,503,173	\$5,528,301
Average receipts per candidate	\$56,973	\$67,364	\$69,085	\$62,556	\$72,741
Total expenditures	\$4,347,182	\$4,472,623	\$5,040,313	\$3,213,997	\$6,443,402
Average expenditures per candidate	\$57,962	\$64,820	\$66,319	\$57,392	\$84,782
Total on hand at end	\$3,113,278	\$3,916,553	\$4,399,221	\$5,215,437	\$4,838,284

Expenditures do not include debts incurred that had not been paid at the end of 2022.

Overall totals in both receipts and expenditures increased significantly in 2022, compared to the 2020 election season, held during the COVID 19 emergency.

A total of 76 candidates ran for the Senate in 2022, an increase of 20 from 2020. The Senate that was seated in January 2023 was made up of 37 Democrats and three Republicans.

The findings in greater detail:

I. Success of Campaigns

Winning candidates spent more money than their opponents. On average, Senate winners outspent unsuccessful candidates \$113,582 to \$52,781.

The candidate who spent the most and lost was Sean Dooley of Norfolk, who reported \$366,278 in expenditures.

The winning candidate who spent the least amount of money, and was opposed, was Sen. John Keenan of Quincy, who reported \$20,463 in expenditures.

SENATE CANDIDATES' RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES BY SUCCESS OF CAMPAIGNS 2022

	Successful (40)	Unsuccessful (36)
Total Receipts	\$3,833,309	\$1,694,992
Average Receipts	\$95,833	\$47,083
Total Expenditures	\$4,543,276	\$1,900,125
Average Expenditures	\$113,582	\$52,781

II. Party Affiliation

Democrats had higher average receipt and expenditure totals than Republican candidates.

There were 49 Democrats on the ballot in 2022, accounting for 64 percent of all Senate candidates. Democrats accounted for 79 percent of expenditures in 2022, and 78 percent of all receipts in 2022.

SENATE CANDIDATES' RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES BY PARTY AFFILIATION 2022

	Democrats (49)	Republicans (21)	Unenrolled or Other (6)
Total receipts	\$4,361,650	\$1,132,069	\$34,581
Average receipts	\$89,013	\$53,908	\$5,764
Total expenditures	\$5,138,325	\$1,270,307	\$34,770
Average expenditures	\$104,864	\$60,491	\$5,795

III. Contested and Uncontested Races

The 61 opposed candidates reported higher expenditures and receipts on average in 2022.

In the 24 contested Senate races, the candidate who spent the most money won in 19 races.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES BY SENATE CANDIDATES OPPOSED AND UNOPPOSED 2022

	Opposed (61)	Unopposed (15)
Total Receipts	\$4,704,760	\$823,541
Average receipts	\$77,127	\$54,903
Total Expenditures	\$5,402,547	\$1,040,855
Average Expenditures	\$88,566	\$69,390

The **five open seats** in 2022, with no incumbent running for re-election:

District	Previous Incumbent	Winner
Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin	Adam Hinds, Pittsfield	Paul Mark, Becket
and Hampshire		
Hampden, Hampshire and	Eric Lesser,	Jake Oliveira, Ludlow
Worcester	Longmeadow	
2 nd Suffolk	Sonia Chang-Diaz,	Elizabeth Miranda,
	Boston	Boston
1st Worcesteer	Harriette Chandler,	Robyn Kennedy,
	Worcester	Worcester
1st Essex	Diana DiZoglio,	Pavel Payano, Lawrence
	Methuen	

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¹ This study considered a race "contested" if there were two or more candidates for the seat, regardless of the outcome or the level of campaign finance activity.

IV. Most Active Candidates and Races

CONTESTED SENATE RACES WITH THE HIGHEST EXPENDITURES IN 2022

	District	Total spent	Number of candidates	Winner
1.	2 nd Essex & Middlesex	\$746,469	2	Barry Finegold, Andover
2.	2 nd Suffolk (O)	\$721,647	5	Elizabeth Miranda, Boston
3.	Norfolk, Worcester & Middlesex	\$671,030	2	Rebecca Rausch, Needham
4.	Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester (O)	\$340,771	3	Jacob Oliveira, Ludlow
5.	1st Worcester (O)	\$339,088	3	Robyn Kennedy, Worcester
6.	Cape & Islands	\$257,842	3	Julian Andre Cyr, Truro
7.	Hampden & Hampshire	\$224,522	2	John Christopher Velis, Westfield
8.	Norfolk, Plymouth & Bristol	\$198,128	3	Walter Timilty, Milton
9.	1st Plymouth & Norfolk	\$191,676	3	Patrick O'Connor, Weymouth
10.	1st Essex (O)	\$181,390	3	Pavel Payano, Lawrence

O=Open seat

The highest amount ever spent for a Senate race was \$809,637 in 2002, when three candidates were vying for an open seat in the Middlesex, Suffolk and Essex District. The winner was Jarrett Barrios of Cambridge.

TOP FUNDRAISERS

The top fundraiser in 2022 was Barry Finegold of Andover, who reported \$350,569 in receipts. He had one opponent.

The highest amount ever raised by any Senate candidate in an election year was \$1.358 million in 2000 by Thomas Birmingham, who ran unopposed.

SENATE CANDIDATES RAISING THE MOST MONEY IN 2022

	Candidate	City or Town	Receipts	Opposed	Winner
1.	Barry Finegold	Andover	\$350,569	Yes	Yes
2.	Rebecca Rausch	Needham	\$285,941	Yes	Yes
3.	Elizabeth Miranda	Boston	\$279,733	Yes	Yes
4.	Shawn Dooley	Norfolk	\$237,766	Yes	No
5.	Karen Spilka	Ashland	\$226,730	No	Yes
6.	Michael Rodrigues	Westport	\$194,753	Yes	Yes
7.	Julian Andre Cyr	Truro	\$178,608	Yes	Yes
8.	Nika Carlene Elugardo	Jamaica Plain	\$175,634	Yes	No
9.	Miniard Culpepper	Dorchester	\$174,189	Yes	No
10.	Nicholas Collins	South Boston	\$160,213	No	Yes

The winning candidate who raised the least in 2022 was Mark Montigny of New Bedford, who reported \$1,579 in receipts. He was unopposed in 2022.

TOP EXPENDITURE TOTALS

Sen. Barry Finegold of Andover topped the expenditure list, reporting \$622,149 in spending, a new record. Senate President Therese Murray of Plymouth previously held the record, topping the expenditure list in 2012 with \$513,164.

Expenditures were reported by all but one Senate candidate, Robert Stephens of Hanson. He was unsuccessful.

SENATE CANDIDATES WITH THE HIGHEST EXPENDITURE TOTALS IN 2022

	Candidate	City or Town	Expenditures	Opposed	Elected
1.	Barry Finegold (I)	Andover	\$622,149	Yes	Yes
2.	Shawn Dooley	Norfolk	\$366,278	Yes	No
3.	Karen Spilka (I)	Ashland	\$334,423	No	Yes
4.	Elizabeth Miranda	Boston	\$314,303	Yes	Yes
5.	Rebecca Rausch (I)	Needham	\$304,752	Yes	Yes
6.	Julian Andre Cyr (I)	Truro	\$210,163	Yes	Yes
7.	Nicholas Collins (I)	Boston	\$191,825	No	Yes
8.	Nika Carlene Elugardo	Boston	\$191,252	Yes	No
9.	John Christopher Velis (I)	Westfield	\$190,491	Yes	Yes
10.	Patrick O'Connor (I)	Weymouth	\$183,333	Yes	Yes

I = Incumbent

The record amount spent by all Senate candidates was \$7,620,649 in 2004.

V. Ending Balances

Candidates for the Senate reported ending 2022 with \$4,838,284 in cash on hand.

The candidate with the greatest amount of money on hand at the end of 2022 was Sen. Mark Montigny of New Bedford with a total of \$802,647. The record of \$2.2 million was held by former Senate President Thomas Birmingham in 2000.

As was the case in every election year since 1998, the candidates with the ten highest ending balances in 2022 were all incumbents (cash on hand as of Dec. 31, 2022).

SENATE CANDIDATES WITH THE HIGHEST CASH ON HAND 2022

	Candidate*	District	Balance**	Opposed	Winner
1.	Mark Montigny	2 nd Bristol and Plymouth	\$802,647	No	Yes
2.	Michael Rodrigues	1st Bristol and Plymouth	\$595,858	Yes	Yes
3.	Bruce Tarr	1st Essex and Middlesex	\$465,814	Yes	Yes
4.	Karen Spilka	Middlesex and Norfolk	\$340,184	No	Yes
5.	James Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester	\$226,031	Yes	Yes
6.	William Brownsberger	Suffolk and Middlesex	\$212,710	No	Yes
7.	Julian Andre Cyr	Cape and Islands	\$208,048	Yes	Yes
8.	Ryan Fattman	Worcester and Hampden	\$183,955	No	Yes
9.	Michael Barrett	3 rd Middlesex	\$156,485	No	Yes
10.	Marc Pacheco	3 rd Bristol and Plymouth	\$154,864	Yes	Yes

^{*}All 10 are incumbents

Four Senate candidates reported having no money at the end of the election year.

^{**}Cash on hand as of Dec. 31, 2022, including savings balances.

SECTION II: THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The number of state representative candidates increased from 260 in 2020 to 274 in 2022.

A total of 274 candidates sought election to the House in 2022 – 187 Democrats, 69 Republicans and 18 unenrolled or another party. The largest number of House candidates recorded in an OCPF study was 401 in 1990.

The new House that took office in January 2023 was composed of 22 new representatives – 20 Democrats, one Republican and one unenrolled.

OVERVIEW OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY FOR HOUSE CANDIDATES

	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Number of candidates	297	268	301	260	274
Total receipts	\$7,912,723	\$8,251,605	\$9,588,925	\$7,529,841	\$9,041,061
Average receipts per candidate	\$26,642	\$30,789	\$31,856	\$28,960	\$32,997
Total expenditures	\$8,077,891	\$7,738,573	\$9,689,456	\$7,383,574	\$8,950,186
Average expenditures per candidate	\$27,198	\$28,875	\$32,190	\$28,398	\$32,665
Total on hand at end	\$4,763,029	\$6,658,564	\$6,744,387	\$6,947,806	\$8,486,384

Expenditures do not include debts incurred that had not been paid.

Total receipts increased in 2022, from \$7.5 million in 2020 to \$9 million. Expenditures also increased, from \$7.4 million in 2020 to \$8.9 million in 2022.

The findings in greater detail:

I. Success of Campaigns

Winning candidates comprised 58 percent of the field and accounted for 70 percent of spending.

Ten candidates were outspent in 2022 but still won their races.

HOUSE CANDIDATES' RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES BY SUCCESS OF CAMPAIGNS 2022

	Successful (160)	Unsuccessful (114)
Total Receipts	\$6,588,853	\$2,452,208
Average Receipts	\$41,180	\$21,511
Total Expenditures	\$6,335,237	\$2,614,949
Average Expenditures	\$39,595	\$22,938

22 new state representatives took office in January, 2022:

Chris Flanagan (D) of Dennis Dawne Shand (D) of Newburyport Estela Reyes (D) of Lawrence Manny Cruz (D) of Salem Jenny Armini (D) of Marblehead Adrianne Ramos (D) of North Andover Ryan Hamilton (D) of Methuen Francisco Paulino (D) of Methuen Aaron Saunders (D) of Belchertown Shirley Arriaga (D) of Chicopee Priscila Sousa (D) of Framingham James Arena-DeRosa (D) of Holliston Simon Cataldo (D) of Concord Rodney Elliott (D) of Lowell Marcus Vaughn (R) of Wrentham Rita Mendes (D) of Brockton Christopher Worrell (U) of Boston Judith Garcia (D) of Chelsea Samantha Montano (D) of Boston Kate Donaghue (D) of Westborough Margaret Scarsdale (D) of Pepperell Kristin Kassner (D) of Hamilton

II. Party Affiliation

Democrats were the dominant party in terms of expenditures in 2022. The 187 Democrats represented 81 percent of all expenditures.

The 69 Republicans running in 2022 accounted for 16 percent of the total expenditures.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES BY PARTY AFFILIATION 2022

	Democrats (187)	Republicans (69)	Unenrolled or	
			minor party (18)	
Total Receipts	\$7,489,619	\$1,357,683	\$193,759	
Average Receipts	\$40,051	\$19,677	\$10,764	
Total Expenditures	\$7,291,802	\$1,471,150	\$187,234	
Average Expenditures	\$38,994	\$21,321	\$10,402	

Of the 18 unenrolled or minor party candidates, two won – Susannah Whipps of Athol and Christopher Worrell of Boston.

III. Contested and Uncontested Races

There were 82 House races in 2022 that featured unopposed candidates. The 102 unopposed races in 2008 was the highest number recorded since OCPF began studying legislative campaign finance activity in 1990.

The remaining races in 2022 were contested, featuring two or more candidates.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES BY HOUSE CANDIDATES OPPOSED AND UNOPPOSED 2022

	Opposed (192)	Unopposed (82)
Total Receipts	\$6,216,252	\$2,824,809
Average receipts	\$32,376	\$34,449
Total Expenditures	\$6,595,837	\$2,354,349
Average Expenditures	\$34,353	\$28,712

Candidates who were opposed in 2022 outspent unopposed candidates as a group.

In the 78 contested House races in 2022, the candidate who spent the most money won 68 times, a success rate of 87 percent.

Winning candidates who were outspent by at least one other candidate in 2022

Christopher Flanagan (D) of Dennis Port
Carol Doherty (D) of Taunton
Dawne Shand (D) of Newburyport
Jennifer Armini (D) of Marblehead
Margaret Scarsdale (D) of Pepperell
Rodney Elliott (D) of Lowell
Colleen Garry (D) of Dracut
David DeCoste (R) of Norwell
Angelo D'Emilia (R) of Bridgewater
Natalie Marie Higgins (D) of Leominster

IV. Most Active Candidates and Races

While 78 of the 160 seats in the House were contested in the 2022 election, each election varied in factors such as the level of competition and campaign finance activity.

CONTESTED HOUSE RACES WITH THE HIGHEST EXPENDITURE TOTALS 2022

			Number of	
	District	Total spent	candidates	Winner
1.	8 th Essex	\$397,626	6	Jennifer Armini, Marblehead
2.	15 th Norfolk	\$366,870	2	Thomas Vitolo, Brookline (I)
3.	14 th Middlesex	\$262,213	4	Simon Cataldo, Concord
4.	11 th Suffolk	\$240,976	4	Judith Garcia, Chelsea
5.	35 th Middlesex	\$213,242	2	Paul Donato, Medford (I)
6.	5 th Bristol	\$190,155	2	David Decoste, Norwell (I)
7.	10 th Bristol	\$172,806	4	William Straus, Mattapoisett (I)
8.	1st Barnstable	\$167,931	3	Christopher Flanagan, Dennis Port
9.	3 rd Bristol	\$156,548	2	Carol Doherty, Taunton
10.	4 th Barnstable	\$154,252	2	Sarah Peake, Provincetown (I)

I = Incumbent.

TOP FUNDRAISERS AND SPENDERS

Rep. Aaron Michlewitz of Boston topped the fundraising list, raising \$471,619 in 2022. Former House Speaker Robert DeLeo set the fundraising record in 2016, with \$569,200.

Seven House candidates reported no receipts in 2022.

HOUSE CANDIDATES RAISING THE MOST MONEY IN 2022

	Candidate	City/Town	Total	Opposed	Elected
1.	Aaron Michlewitz (I)	Boston	\$471,619	No	Yes
2.	Ronald Mariano (I)	Quincy	\$201,130	No	Yes
3.	Douglas Thompson	Swampscott	\$132,181	Yes	No
4.	Kate Donaghue	Westborough	\$127,730	Yes	Yes
5.	Sarah Peake (I)	Provincetown	\$126,604	Yes	Yes
6.	Thomas Vitolo	Brookline	\$125,379	Yes	Yes
7.	Simon Cataldo	Concord	\$124,760	Yes	Yes
8.	Raul Fernandez	Brookline	\$117,546	Yes	No
9.	Tristan Smith	Swampscott	\$115,007	Yes	No
10.	Emmanuel Dockter	Hanover	\$113,840	Yes	No

I = Incumbent.

TOP FUNDRAISERS BY YEAR

2022	Aaron Michlewitz of Boston	\$471,619
2020	Jon Santiago of Boston	\$155,070
2018	Robert DeLeo of Winthrop	\$510,814
2016	Robert DeLeo of Winthrop	\$569,200*
2014	Robert DeLeo of Winthrop	\$465,281
2012	Robert DeLeo of Winthrop	\$383,340
2010	Robert DeLeo of Winthrop	\$462,596
2008	Salvatore DiMasi of Boston	\$312,174
2006	Salvatore DiMasi of Boston	\$353,202
*Record		

HOUSE CANDIDATES WITH THE HIGHEST EXPENDITURE TOTALS IN 2022

	Candidate	City/Town	Total	Opposed	Elected
1.	Ronald Mariano (I)	Quincy	\$283,706	No	Yes
2.	Aaron Michlewitz (I)	Boston	\$267,314	No	Yes
3.	Thomas Vitolo (I)	Brookline	\$209,672	Yes	Yes
4.	Simon Cataldo	Concord	\$197,264	Yes	Yes
5.	Raul Fernandez	Brookline	\$157,198	Yes	No
6.	Paul Donato (I)	Medford	\$147,739	Yes	Yes
7.	William Straus (I)	Mattapoisett	\$133,405	Yes	Yes
8.	Emmanuel Dockter	Hanover	\$132,570	Yes	No
9.	Douglas Thompson	Swampscott	\$131,824	Yes	No
10.	Michael Moran (I)	Brighton	\$128,772	No	Yes

I = Incumbent

House Speaker Ronald Mariano reported the highest expenditure total in 2022 at \$283,706. Former House Speaker Robert DeLeo holds the spending record, \$537,357, set in 2014.

V. Ending Balances

Candidates for the House in 2022 reported a total ending balance of \$8,471,670.

The 82 unopposed candidates in 2022 were all incumbents, and ended the election year with \$5,212,385 in cash on hand. Opposed candidates reported \$3,273,999 in cash on hand as of Dec. 31, 2022.

HOUSE CANDIDATES WITH THE HIGHEST CASH ON HAND 2022

	Candidate	City/Town	Balance*	Opposed	Elected
1.	Aaron Michlewitz	Boston	\$914,335	No	Yes
2.	Ronald Mariano	Quincy	\$548,921	No	Yes
3.	Tackey Chan	Quincy	\$386,510	Yes	Yes
4.	Bradley Jones	Reading	\$239,431	No	Yes
5.	Angelo Puppolo	Springfield	\$231,589	Yes	Yes
6.	Tram Nguyen	Andover	\$229,150	Yes	Yes
7.	Jon Santiago	Boston	\$187,873	No	Yes
8.	Jeffrey Roy	Franklin	\$178,165	Yes	Yes
9.	Antonio Cabral	New Bedford	\$173,449	No	Yes
10.	David Muradian	Grafton	\$140,580	No	Yes

Note: All are incumbents

^{*}Cash on hand as of Dec. 31,2022, including savings.