

Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance

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Statewide ballot question committees report record \$65.8 million in expenditures in 2022

Fourteen ballot question committees spent \$65,810,494 million on four propositions in 2022, the highest total ever recorded, according to an OCPF review of ballot question fundraising and spending.

The previous overall spending record of \$60.3 million was set in 2020 when two questions appeared on the ballot for motor vehicle mechanical data and ranked choice voting.

Question 1, concerning additional tax on income over \$1 million, accounted for 65 percent of all statewide ballot question spending in 2022 – \$42.8 million. The question passed.

One other record was broken.

Fair Share Massachusetts, which supported the Question 1 tax increase, reported \$27.9 million in spending, breaking the record set for a single ballot question committee. The previous record of \$26.4 million was set in 2020 by the Coalition for Safe and Secure Data, which opposed a question concerning motor vehicle data.

OCPF's review of ballot question activity covered fundraising and spending in 2021-22 for four questions that appeared on the 2022 statewide ballot:

Question 1: Additional Tax on Income Over One Million Dollars (passed)

Question 2: Regulation on Dental Insurance (passed)

Question 3: Expanded Availability of Licenses for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages (failed)

Question 4: An Act Relative to Work & Family Mobility (passed)

The five committees organized for **Question 1** – three in support and two in opposition – reported a total of \$42.9 million in receipts and \$42.8 million in expenditures. Money was also raised and spent in 2019 and 2020, but not included in this study.

Teacher and education associations were the primary donors to the Fair Share Massachusetts Ballot Question Committee, which supported the question.

The primary committee in opposition to the tax question, the Coalition to Stop the Tax Hike Amendment, raised \$14.7 million. Its top donors were businesses and individuals.

The question passed, 1,267,132 to 1,158,225. The average spent per vote in support was \$22.30, and \$12.55 for every vote in opposition.

Question 2 had the second largest fundraising and spending totals in 2022, from five committees – three in support and two in opposition.

The Massachusetts Dental Care Providers for Better Dental Benefits Committee spent the most in support, \$7 million. A dental association was the largest donor.

The Committee to Protect Access to Quality Dental Care reported spending \$7.2 million in opposition, topping all five committees. A dental service group was the top donor to the committee.

The question passed 1,720,406 to 681,703. The average cost was \$5.63 for each vote in support, and \$13.07 in opposition.

Question 3 concerned expanding the availability of licenses for the sale of alcohol. It was the only question to fail.

The committee in opposition spent no money. The committee in support reported \$991,300 in spending.

The question failed, 1,070,761 to 1,314,972. The committee in support spent, on average, 92.5 cents per vote.

Question 4, concerning drivers licenses for undocumented immigrants, passed 1,299,960 to 1,110,386.

The Vote YES for Work and Family Mobility Committee reported spending \$3,227,226 in support of the question, averaging \$2.48 per vote. Its primary funders were unions.

The committee in opposition, Fair and Secure Massachusetts, spent \$194,565, an average of 17.5 cents per vote. Individuals and businesses were the top contributors.

The figures in this study are based on reports filed by committees covering activity through Dec. 31, 2022, and are subject to change due to any subsequent corrections, deletions or

additions made as a result of any review conducted by OCPF or amendments filed by committees.

In addition to the fundraising and spending reported by ballot question committees, businesses and other entities reported a total of \$2.8 million in spending that was independent of any ballot question committee.

Reports filed by each of the committees may be found on OCPF's website at www.ocpf.us.

A breakdown of activity for each question follows.

Campaign Finance Activity for the 2022 Statewide Ballot Questions

Totals include receipts and expenditures by each ballot question committee organized with OCPF for 2021 and 2022.

Question 1: Additional Tax on Income Over One Million Dollars – Passed

Committee (OCPF ID)	Receipts	Expenditures	In-Kind Contributions
<i>Support</i>			
Coalition for Social Justice Fair Share 2021-2022 Ballot Committee (95479)	\$143,240	\$143,240	\$245
Fair Share Massachusetts # (95463)	\$27,838,096	\$27,869,758*	\$3,685,075
Vote Yes on Fair Share 2022 (95490)	\$250,000	\$247,200	0
<i>Totals in favor</i>	\$28,231,336	\$28,260,198	\$3,685,320
<i>Oppose</i>			
Coalition to Stop the Tax Hike Amendment (95487)	\$14,697,703	\$14,537,441	\$30,360
Don't Kill the Goose (95503)	0	0	0
<i>Totals in opposition</i>	\$14,697,703	\$14,537,441	\$30,360
Question 1 Totals	\$42,929,039	\$42,797,639	\$3,715,680

#Also reported \$474,492 in receipts and \$432,124 in expenditures in 2019 and 2020, and a total of \$180,887 in in-kind contributions during that period.

*The highest total ever reported by a single ballot question committee. The previous record was set in 2020 by the Coalition for Safe and Secure Data (\$26.4 million).

Vote Count

Yes: 1,267,132 (spent per vote: \$22.30)

No: 1,158,225 (spent per vote: \$12.55)

Question 2: Regulation of Dental Insurance – Passed

Committee (OCPF ID)	Receipts	Expenditures	In-Kind Contributions
<i>Support</i>			
Fair Share for Dental Care (95497)	\$100,000	\$100,000	0
Committee on Dental Insurance Quality (95485)	\$2,598,077	\$2,598,266	\$295,000
Massachusetts Dental Care Providers for Better Dental Benefits (95494)	\$7,035,542	\$6,990,802	\$127,129
<i>Totals in favor</i>	\$9,733,619	\$9,689,068	\$422,129
<i>Oppose</i>			
Committee to Protect Access to Quality Dental Care (95489)	\$7,582,185	\$7,230,646	\$68,693
Committee For Competitive Dental Plans for Consumers (95501)	\$1,680,050	\$1,680,050	\$195,737
<i>Totals in opposition</i>	\$9,262,235	\$8,910,696	\$264,430
<i>Question 2 Totals</i>	\$18,995,854	\$18,599,764	\$686,559

Vote Count

Yes: 1,720,406 (spent per vote: \$5.63)

No: 681,703 (spent per vote: \$13.07)

Question 3: Expanded Availability of Licenses for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages – Failed

Committee (OCPF ID)	Receipts	Expenditures	In-Kind Contributions
<i>Support</i>			
21 st Century Alcohol Retail Reform Committee (95484)	\$991,300	\$991,300	\$139,955
<i>Totals in favor</i>	\$991,300	\$991,300	\$139,955
<i>Oppose</i>			
Food Stores for Consumer Choice (95498)	0	0	\$13
<i>Totals in opposition</i>	0	0	\$13
<i>Question 3 Total</i>	\$991,300	\$991,300	\$139,968

Vote Count

Yes: 1,070,761 (spent per vote: 92.5 cents)

No: 1,314,972 (spent per vote: 0)

Question 4: An Act Relative to Work & Family Mobility – Passed

Committee (OCPF ID)	Receipts	Expenditures	In-Kind Contributions
<i>Support</i>			
Vote YES for Work and Family Mobility (95493)	\$3,236,142	\$3,227,226	\$443,726
<i>Totals in favor</i>	\$3,236,142	\$3,227,226	\$443,726
<i>Oppose</i>			
Fair And Secure Massachusetts (95491)	\$199,835	\$194,565	\$24,736
<i>Totals in opposition</i>	\$199,835	\$194,565	\$24,736
<i>Question 4 Totals</i>	\$3,435,977	\$3,421,791	\$468,462

Vote Count

Yes: 1,299,960 (spent per vote: \$2.48)

No: 1,110,386 (spent per vote: 17.5 cents)

Statewide Ballot Question Expenditures

1988 – 2022

<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
2014	4	13	\$30,193,266
2016	4	15	\$57,477,775
2018	3	7	\$42,640,899
2020	2	4	\$60,336,052
2022	4	14	\$65,810,494

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