



Massachusetts Office of
Campaign and Political Finance
2025 Mayoral Spending Study

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INTRODUCTION

This study examines campaign finance activity by candidates for mayor in municipal elections throughout Massachusetts in 2025. The Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) began issuing mayoral studies after the 1997 city elections. OCPF devotes considerable attention to municipal races, both by providing guidance and workshops to candidates and working closely with local election officials to help ensure compliance with the campaign finance law.

All mayoral candidates in the state e-filed campaign finance reports with OCPF in 2025. The data in this study includes activity from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31.

The information contained in this study is based on data compiled from campaign finance reports filed by 57 mayoral candidates in the 34 cities that held mayoral elections in 2025. **The study is limited to those candidates who were on the ballot in the November elections in cities and does not include those who were eliminated in preliminary elections.**

Mayoral candidates have campaign finance accounts with banks that file reports directly with OCPF monthly.

Some mayoral candidates in this report may have also held another elected office, such as city councilor, and activity by their committees may also include activity related to that office.

OCPF has taken steps to ensure that the information contained in this report is accurate as of the time of its compilation. The information used for this report does not reflect amendments filed by candidates subsequent to the original filings.

OCPF is an independent state agency that administers Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 55, which provides for disclosure and regulation of campaign finance activity by candidates for state, county and municipal office.

February 2026

FINDINGS

Voters in 34 cities in Massachusetts went to the polls to elect their mayors in 2025. Of the 34 races, 14 were not contested (candidates in Agawam, Attleboro, Boston, Chicopee, Fitchburg, Holyoke, Leominster, Lynn, Marlborough, Medford, Salem, Westfield, Weymouth and Woburn ran unopposed). In Boston, incumbent Mayor Michelle Wu was contested in the primary, but not the general election. In 2023, 31 of 33 mayoral finals were contested.¹

Of the contested races, two featured contests for open seats in Brockton and Newton (no incumbent running). The incumbent lost in the preliminary election in Somerville.

A total of 57 candidates were on the ballot in November, including 31 incumbents. A write-in candidate in Attleboro who received 1,473 votes is not included in this study.

The mayors who won election in November 2025 were 29 returning incumbents and five newcomers. Two incumbents were defeated in the general election – Gregory Verga of Gloucester and Carlo DeMaria of Everett. The mayor of Somerville, Katjana Ballantyne, lost in the preliminary election. In 2023, there were 23 returning incumbents and 10 newcomers.

The mayoral campaign finance activity in brief:

- The 57 mayoral candidates raised \$5,270,280 and spent \$4,760,570 in 2025. In 2023, 67 mayoral candidates raised \$3,925,740 and spent \$4,951,079. The records in both categories were set in 2021, a Boston mayoral election year, when 66 candidates raised \$9,195,468 and spent \$10,043,240.
- With 57 candidates on the ballot in a mayoral final, 2025 broke the record for the fewest number of mayoral candidates in an OCPF study (the previous record of 58 candidates was set in 2017). OCPF began issuing mayoral studies in 1997.
- Six candidates raised more than \$100,000 in 2025, the same number as in 2023. Eight candidates spent more than \$100,000 in 2025, three fewer than in 2023.
- The top spender in the 20 contested elections won 16 times in 2025. Four candidates outspent their opponents and lost in Easthampton, Everett, Gloucester and Taunton. In 14 cities, candidates ran unopposed.
- The contested race with the highest spending in 2025 was in Everett, where incumbent Mayor Carlo DeMaria lost re-election to Robert Van Campen. They spent a total of

¹ Mayors of two cities, Cambridge and Lowell, are elected as city councilors and are chosen by their fellow members to serve as mayor. Because those candidates never appear on the ballot for mayor, they are not included in this study. The mayor of Worcester is a city councilor-at-large but is also elected by voters separately as mayor. That race is included in this report.

\$816,010. The race with the highest spending in 2023 was in Quincy, where Mayor Thomas Koch and his challenger Anne Mahoney reported \$1,078,592 in expenditures for the calendar year. The most expensive race ever was in 2013 in Boston, when former Mayor Martin Walsh and former Boston City Councilor John Connolly reported total expenditures of \$6,020,548.

- The top fundraiser among mayoral candidates in 2025 was Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, who faced challengers in the preliminary election but ran unopposed in the general election. She raised \$2,236,403. Wu faced Josh Kraft in the preliminary election. He raised \$6.9 million, which included contributions from himself, but did not appear on the general election ballot and his totals are not included in this study. The fundraising record was set in 2013 when Martin Walsh raised \$3,004,406 as a Boston mayoral candidate.
- Mayor Michelle Wu topped the spending list in 2025, reporting \$1,833,012. Wu holds the spending record, \$3,047,256, set in 2021. The previous record was set in 2013, when Martin Walsh reported \$3,015,209 in expenditures.
- The average amount spent per vote by a candidate in 2025 was \$13.68. The record amount spent per vote was in 2021, \$24.13.

Comparisons to figures from other years are difficult, due to such factors as turnover of candidates, staggered terms, and the fact that not all cities hold mayoral elections every two years.

A significant factor in any study of mayoral spending is whether Boston is included. The largest city in the state, Boston elects its mayor every four years and has generated the greatest amount of campaign finance activity by far each time it is included in this study.

Campaign Finance Activity by Mayoral Candidates in Municipal General Elections 1997-2025

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of candidates</i>	<i>Receipts</i>		<i>Expenditures</i>		
		<i>Total</i>	<i>Median</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Median</i>	<i>Average spent per vote</i>
1997	66	\$3,708,975	\$28,157	\$3,835,055	\$27,127	\$6.63
1999	69	\$3,198,736	\$32,289	\$3,284,268	\$23,388	\$7.44
2001	76	\$4,546,947	\$32,644	\$5,852,880	\$33,040	\$11.70
2003	70	\$3,587,911	\$31,586	\$3,949,051	\$27,672	\$11.03
2005	71	\$5,778,781	\$30,021	\$6,209,404	\$27,621	\$14.18
2007	69	\$3,577,819	\$29,122	\$3,914,462	\$25,339	\$12.23
2009	73	\$5,549,845	\$30,523	\$7,542,006	\$28,924	\$16.52
2011	71	\$3,386,403	\$30,218	\$3,549,375	\$27,469	\$11.01
2013	63	\$8,508,820	\$34,626	\$8,839,321	\$32,964	\$20.96
2015	61	\$3,692,411	\$34,895	\$3,786,953	\$30,782	\$12.93
2017	58	\$5,959,743	\$37,439	\$6,092,517	\$30,988	\$15.48
2019	64	\$3,351,435	\$36,614	\$3,591,596	\$27,742	\$12.07
2021	66	\$9,195,478	\$43,888	\$10,043,240	\$37,277	\$24.13
2023	67	\$3,925,740	\$33,762	\$4,951,079	\$45,974	\$13.42
2025	57	\$5,270,280	\$37,596	\$4,760,570	\$32,905	\$13.68

The totals here are for candidates in the general election only and do not include candidates who were eliminated in a preliminary election.

The findings in more detail:

Most Active Races

The mayoral race with the greatest amount of spending in 2025 was in Boston, where Mayor Michelle Wu reported \$1,833,012 in expenditures.

The record for a race was set in 2013 in Boston, when former Mayor Martin Walsh and former City Councilor John Connolly reported spending a total of \$6,020,548.

Highest Total Expenditures by Mayoral Race 2025

	City	Total Expenditures	Population*
1)	Boston	\$1,833,012	675,647
2)	Everett	\$816,405	49,075
3)	Somerville	\$251,845	81,045
4)	Lawrence	\$221,673	89,143
5)	Taunton	\$186,007	59,408
6)	Brockton	\$166,682	105,643
7)	Framingham	\$146,389	72,362
8)	Gloucester	\$143,645	29,729
9)	Worcester	\$137,401	206,518
10)	Newton	\$108,171	88,923

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2020)

Note: Boston mayoral candidate Josh Kraft reported spending \$6,569,520, but did not appear on the November ballot and is not included in this study.

Haverhill, with a population of 67,787, had the least amount of spending (\$4,589) in cities with contested mayoral elections.

Top Fundraisers

Mayor Michelle Wu of Boston was the top fundraiser in 2025, reporting \$2.2 million. Mayor Thomas Koch of Quincy was the top fundraiser in 2023, reporting \$619,677.

The fundraising record was set in 2013 by former Boston Mayor Martin Walsh, who raised \$3,004,406.

Top Mayoral Campaign Fundraisers 2025

	<i>Candidate</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Won/Lost</i>
1)	Michell Wu (I)	Boston	\$2,236,403	Yes
2)	Carlo DeMaria (I)	Everett	\$786,432*	No
3)	Jacob Wilson	Somerville	\$161,231	Yes
4)	Robert Van Campen	Everett	\$138,999	Yes
5)	Brian DePena (I)	Lawrence	\$133,360	Yes
6)	Moises Rodrigues	Brockton	\$121,847	Yes
7)	Estele Borges	Taunton	\$87,777	No
8)	Willie Burnley	Somerville	\$84,741	No
9)	Joseph Petty (I)	Worcester	\$83,784	Yes
10)	Shaunna O'Connell (I)	Taunton	\$83,031	Yes

(I) = Incumbent

*The receipts total for Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria includes funds received as a result of prior litigation.

Note: Boston mayoral candidate Josh Kraft reported raising \$6,846,023 in 2025, but did not advance to the general election.

The winning and opposed candidate who reported the least amount of money raised in 2025 was incumbent Melinda Barrett of Haverhill (\$10,904).

Top Spenders

Mayor Michelle Wu of Boston topped the spending list at \$1.8 million in 2025. Mayor Thomas Koch of Quincy topped the spending list at \$962,040 in 2023.

In 2021, a record was set by Michelle Wu of Boston, at \$3,047,256 in expenditures. The previous record was set in 2013 when former Boston Mayor Martin Walsh reported \$3,015,209 in expenditures.

Top Expenditures by Mayoral Campaigns in 2025

	<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Won/Lost</i>
1)	Michelle Wu (I)	Boston	\$1,833,012	Yes
2)	Carlo DeMaria (I)	Everett	\$714,648	No
3)	Jacob Wilson	Somerville	\$160,310	Yes
4)	Brian DePena (I)	Lawrence	\$157,914	Yes
5)	Marc Laredo	Newton	\$104,916	Yes
6)	Charlie Sisitsky (I)	Framingham	\$103,768	Yes
7)	Estele Borges	Taunton	\$101,936	No
8)	Robert Van Campen	Everett	\$101,757	Yes
9)	Moises Rodrigues	Brockton	\$92,196	Yes
10)	Willie Burnley	Somerville	\$91,534	No

(I) = Incumbent

Note: Boston mayoral candidate Josh Kraft reported spending \$6,569,520 in 2025, but did not advance to the general election and is not included in this study.

The opposed candidate who spent the least and won was Mayor Melinda Barrett of Haverhill (\$2,651).

Per-Vote Spending

Mayoral candidates on average spent \$13.68 per vote in 2025. The record was set in 2021, when \$24.13 was spent per vote.

Incumbent Mayor Carlo DeMaria of Everett had the highest per-vote average in 2025, \$205.65, a new record. The previous record was set in 2021 by DeMaria, \$113 per vote.

Per-Vote Expenditures by Mayoral Candidates 2025

	<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Won/ Lost</i>
1.	Carlo DeMaria (I)	Everett	\$205.65	No
2.	Brian DePena (I)	Lawrence	\$25.86	Yes
3.	Robert Van Campen	Everett	\$24.60	Yes
4.	Michelle Wu (I)	Boston	\$23.39	Yes
5.	Gregory Verga (I)	Gloucester	\$21.08	No
6.	Sean Reardon (I)	Newburyport	\$20.43	Yes
7.	Estele Borges	Taunton	\$20.09	No
8.	Charlie Sisitsky (I)	Framingham	\$19.37	Yes
9.	Michael Nicholson (I)	Gardner	\$15.28	Yes
10.	Jason Tirrell	Easthampton	\$15.19	No

(I) = Incumbent

Five Winning and Opposed Candidates with the Lowest Per-Vote Average in 2023

Melinda Barrett of Haverhill, 43 cents
Edward Bettencourt of Peabody, \$2.55
Salem Derby of Easthampton, \$4.23
Marc Laredo of Newton, \$5.88
Paul Coogan of Fall River, \$6.27

Boston recorded the greatest number of votes cast for mayor, 78,384, in 2025. The city with the fewest number of votes in a contested election was North Adams, with 2,927 votes cast in 2025.

Success Rate for Top Spenders

The top spender in the 20 contested elections won 16 times in 2025. Four candidates outspent their opponents and lost in Easthampton, Everett, Gloucester and Taunton. In 14 cities, candidates ran unopposed.

Top Spender Winning Percentages in Contested Elections:

- 2025: The top spender won 80 percent of the time (16 of 20)
- 2023: The top spender won 71 percent of the time (22 of 31)
- 2021: The top spender won 71 percent of the time (20 of 28)
- 2019: The top spender won 86 percent of the time (24 of 28)
- 2017: The top spender won 87 percent of the time (20 of 23)
- 2015: The top spender won 75 percent of the time (18 of 24)
- 2013: The top spender won 80 percent of the time (20 of 25)
- 2011: The top spender won 86 percent of the time (26 of 31)
- 2009: The top spender won 71 percent of the time (22 of 31)
- 2007: The top spender won 64 percent of the time (18 of 28)
- 2005: The top spender won 72 percent of the time (21 of 29)
- 2003: The top spender won 68 percent of the time (21 of 31)
- 2001: The top spender won 79 percent of the time (27 of 34)

Winners

Typically, winning candidates as a whole raise and spend more than those who lose.

On average, winning candidates raised \$113,006, compared to \$62,090 for unsuccessful candidates in 2025. The average winning candidate spent \$99,272, compared to \$60,230 for unsuccessful candidates.

Receipts and Expenditures by Winning and Losing Mayoral Candidates 2025

	Raised	Spent
<i>Winners (34)</i>		
Total	\$3,842,208	\$3,375,279
Average	\$113,006	\$99,272
<i>Unsuccessful (23)</i>		
Total	\$1,428,071	\$1,385,291
Average	\$62,090	\$60,230

Open seats

A total of two contests in 2025 featured open seats in Brockton and Newton. The interim mayor in Weymouth, Michael Molisse, did not face an opponent. A total of five contests in 2023 featured open seats in Agawam, Haverhill, Marlborough, Melrose and Pittsfield.

Incumbents

In 2025, 31 of the 57 candidates were incumbents. Three incumbents were defeated in 2025, in Everett, Gloucester and Somerville.

Four incumbents were defeated in 2023 in Braintree, Fitchburg, Greenfield and Woburn.

Five new mayors took office in January, 2026 (Moises Rodrigues of Brockton, Robert Van Campen of Everett, Paul Lundberg of Gloucester, Mark Laredo of Newton and Jacob Wilson of Somerville).

Ten new mayors took office in January, 2024 (Christopher Johnson of Agawam, Erin Joyce of Braintree, Samantha Squailia of Fitchburg, Virginia DeSorgher of Greenfield, Melinda Barrett of Haverhill, Christian Dumais of Marlborough, Jennifer Grigoraitis of Melrose, Peter Marchetti of Pittsfield, Patrick Keefe of Revere, and Michael Concannon of Woburn).

Mayoral Campaign Receipts and Expenditures by Incumbency 2025

	Raised	Spent
<i>Incumbents (31)</i>		
Totals	\$4,125,137	\$3,634,900
Average	\$133,068	\$117,254
<i>Non-Incumbents (26)</i>		
Totals	\$1,145,142	\$1,125,669
Average	\$44,043	\$42,294

Table of all candidates follows.

2025 MAYORAL CANDIDATE TOTALS

Candidate	City	Incumbent	2025 Receipts	2025 Expenditures	Balance As of 12/31/25	Winner	Votes	Spending Average Per Vote	Top Spender Won
Christopher Johnson	Agawam	Yes	\$675.00	\$200.00	\$3,419.33	Yes	3,122	\$0.06	Unopposed
Cathleen DeSimone	Attleboro	Yes	\$2,390.63	\$3,286.89	\$33.38	Yes	4,608	\$0.71	Unopposed
Michael Cahill	Beverly	Yes	\$54,587.40	\$45,115.24	\$29,897.60	Yes	6,266	\$7.20	Yes
Brendan Sweeney	Beverly	No	\$25,657.56	\$27,672.73	\$711.81	No	4,327	\$6.40	Yes
Michelle Wu	Boston*	Yes	\$2,236,403.30	\$1,833,012.30	\$2,132,594.81	Yes	78,384	\$23.39	Unopposed
Moises Rodrigues	Brockton	No	\$121,847.05	\$92,196.64	\$43,564.52	Yes	6,705	\$13.75	Yes
Jean B. Derenoncourt	Brockton	No	\$73,916.68	\$74,485.70	\$2,072.39	No	6,446	\$11.56	Yes
John Vieau	Chicopee	Yes	\$8,675.26	\$2,692.93	\$15,200.61	Yes	4,820	\$0.56	Unopposed
Jason Tirrell	Easthampton	No	\$22,750.43	\$22,845.24	\$5.19	No	1,504	\$15.19	No
Lindsi Sekula	Easthampton	No	\$15,056.73	\$15,056.73	\$0.00	No	1,968	\$7.65	No
Salem Derby	Easthampton	Yes	\$12,611.15	\$9,855.01	\$2,756.14	Yes	2,332	\$4.23	No
Carlo DeMaria	Everett	Yes	\$786,858.50	\$714,648.10	\$79,711.69	No	3,475	\$205.65	No
Robert Van Campen	Everett	No	\$138,999.70	\$101,757.50	\$52,562.74	Yes	4,136	\$24.60	No
Paul Coogan	Fall River	Yes	\$46,025.00	\$36,685.82	\$58,499.86	Yes	5,848	\$6.27	Yes
Gabriel Amaral	Fall River	No	\$27,790.96	\$27,790.18	\$0.78	No	5,629	\$4.94	Yes
Samantha Squailia	Fitchburg	Yes	\$11,062.51	\$2,846.16	\$39,748.57	Yes	3,391	\$0.84	Unopposed
Charlie Sisitsky	Framingham	Yes	\$54,751.79	\$103,768.20	\$7,459.91	Yes	5,358	\$19.37	Yes
Geoffrey Epstein	Framingham	No	\$43,719.33	\$42,621.79	\$1,114.55	No	4,146	\$10.28	Yes
Michael Nicholson	Gardner	Yes	\$32,870.12	\$36,847.46	\$7,260.67	Yes	2,412	\$15.28	Yes
Kimberly Blake	Gardner	No	\$3,096.90	\$3,225.31	-\$32.11	No	1,379	\$2.34	Yes
Gregory Verga	Gloucester	Yes	\$68,005.85	\$73,900.53	\$5,405.50	No	3,505	\$21.08	No
Paul Lundberg	Gloucester	No	\$70,818.43	\$69,744.81	\$2,536.69	Yes	4,731	\$14.74	No
Melinda Barrett	Haverhill	Yes	\$10,904.99	\$2,651.67	\$31,435.99	Yes	6,134	\$0.43	Yes
Brandon Burns	Haverhill	No	\$2,335.35	\$1,938.21	\$397.14	No	3,271	\$0.59	Yes
Joshua Garcia	Holyoke	Yes	\$53,501.39	\$45,221.29	\$22,679.72	Yes	3,800	\$11.90	Unopposed

Candidate	City	Incumbent	2025 Receipts	2025 Expenditures	Balance As of 12/31/25	Winner	Votes	Spending Average Per Vote	Top Spender Won
Brian DePena	Lawrence	Yes	\$133,360.66	\$157,914.58	\$856.20	Yes	6,106	\$25.86	Yes
Juan Manuel Gonzalez	Lawrence	No	\$63,908.30	\$63,758.45	\$149.85	No	5,173	\$12.33	Yes
Dean Mazzarella	Leominster	Yes	\$48,429.29	\$31,742.71	\$65,945.76	Yes	4,401	\$7.21	Unopposed
Jared Nicholson	Lynn	Yes	\$54,694.40	\$30,668.85	\$128,910.63	Yes	6,091	\$5.04	Unopposed
Christian Dumais	Marlborough	Yes	\$245.79	\$6,964.90	\$3,200.09	Yes	4,027	\$1.73	Unopposed
Breanna Lungo-Koehn	Medford	Yes	\$16,397.92	\$6,526.90	\$29,461.94	Yes	8,956	\$0.73	Unopposed
David Beauregard	Methuen	Yes	\$38,827.93	\$39,058.16	\$2,924.09	Yes	4,479	\$8.72	Yes
Barbara Stobel	Methuen	No	\$1,836.27	\$1,836.27	\$0.00	No	1,081	\$1.70	Yes
Sean Reardon	Newburyport	Yes	\$37,752.30	\$71,889.09	\$14,793.64	Yes	3,519	\$20.43	Yes
James McCauley	Newburyport	No	\$36,209.71	\$36,209.71	\$0.00	No	3,212	\$11.27	Yes
Marc Laredo	Newton	No	\$79,039.00	\$104,916.87	\$55,977.15	Yes	17,833	\$5.88	Yes
Albert Cecchinelli	Newton	No	\$2,311.19	\$3,254.99	\$138.44	No	3,111	\$1.05	Yes
Jennifer Macksey	North Adams	Yes	\$21,229.40	\$23,336.38	\$14,023.20	Yes	2,024	\$11.53	Yes
Scott Berglund	North Adams	No	\$6,263.64	\$6,228.28	\$63.31	No	903	\$6.90	Yes
Gina-Louise Sciarra	Northampton	Yes	\$28,988.44	\$43,348.21	\$4,217.23	Yes	4,640	\$9.34	Yes
Jillian Duclos	Northampton	No	\$19,990.90	\$18,962.53	\$1,054.92	No	4,561	\$4.16	Yes
Edward Bettencourt	Peabody	Yes	\$17,694.00	\$16,618.31	\$88,532.37	Yes	6,523	\$2.55	Yes
Rochelle Agneta	Peabody	No	\$300.00	\$569.62	\$123.38	No	1,526	\$0.37	Yes
Dominick Pangallo	Salem	Yes	\$79,467.29	\$30,764.81	\$111,401.58	Yes	4,973	\$6.19	Unopposed
Jacob Wilson	Somerville	No	\$161,231.16	\$160,310.98	\$8,641.19	Yes	11,294	\$14.19	Yes
Willie Burnley	Somerville	No	\$84,741.19	\$91,534.59	\$1,091.59	No	9,144	\$10.01	Yes
Estele Borges	Taunton	No	\$87,777.10	\$101,936.63	\$2,615.02	No	5,073	\$20.09	No
Shaunna O'Connell	Taunton	Yes	\$83,031.60	\$84,070.55	\$5,281.48	Yes	5,686	\$14.79	No
William Reichelt	West Springfield	Yes	\$44,007.09	\$59,373.90	\$213,503.40	Yes	4,706	\$12.62	Yes
Daniel O'Brien	West Springfield	No	\$6,613.25	\$6,513.25	\$100.00	No	1,818	\$3.58	Yes
Michael McCabe	Westfield	Yes	\$12,657.72	\$10,429.13	\$12,922.01	Yes	4,002	\$2.61	Unopposed

Candidate	City	Incumbent	2025 Receipts	2025 Expenditures	Balance As of 12/31/25	Winner	Votes	Spending Average Per Vote	Top Spender Won
Michael Molisse	Weymouth	Yes	\$43,246.13	\$24,197.46	\$20,056.89	Yes	6,699	\$3.61	Unopposed
Michael Concannon	Woburn	Yes	\$2,000.00	\$166.50	\$10,005.66	Yes	3,521	\$0.05	Unopposed
Joseph Petty	Worcester	Yes	\$83,784.33	\$87,098.91	\$13,791.64	Yes	13,753	\$6.33	Yes
Khrystian King	Worcester	No	\$41,995.92	\$43,934.83	\$1,288.89	No	8,489	\$5.18	Yes
Owura-Kwaku Sarkodieh	Worcester	No	\$6,121.17	\$5,305.24	\$1,215.93	No	1,746	\$3.04	Yes
Edson Montero	Worcester	No	\$815.00	\$1,062.55	\$299.74	No	1,188	\$0.89	Yes
Totals			\$5,270,280.00	\$4,760,570.00	\$3,351,624.00		347,955	\$13.68	
*The runner-up in the preliminary election dropped out of the race. This study only includes candidates who appeared on the general election ballot.									