



**State of Vermont
Office of the Secretary of State**

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**Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Secretary of State
S. Lauren Hibbert, Deputy Secretary**

**Elections Division
Seán Sheehan, Director**

March 26, 2025

**To: Hon. Peter Conlon, Chair
House Committee on Education**

**From: Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Secretary of State
S. Lauren Hibbert, Deputy Secretary of State
Sean Sheehan, Director, Elections and Campaign Finance**

Re: Following up on campaign finance question in committee

Dear House Committee on Education,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning. We wanted to follow up on the question of campaign spending in state senate races.

First, we want to reiterate that there will be notable differences between senate races and the proposed school board races. Perhaps most significantly, the non-partisan school board candidates would only spend in advance of the November election, while senate candidates can face challenges in the August primary and/or November general election.

Second, we want to underscore – as you will see in the data below – that there is significant variation in spending across senate races.

With those caveats, here are spending data from the 2024 election cycle:

- Total reported expenditure across state senate races = \$1,118,305
 - This equates to an average of \$37,277 spent per seat (30)
- 69 named candidates ran for senate in either the primary and/or general election
 - 47 candidates ran in both the August primary and November general election
 - 11 ran only in the August primary
 - 11 ran only in the November general election
- 54 candidates reported in the campaign finance system
 - The average spend was \$20,709 while the median was \$16,112
 - Ten candidates spent over \$40,000, with the highest spending \$81,592
 - 15 reported spending under \$5,000
 - 15 others did not file, meaning that they either spent under \$500 or violated campaign finance law

Of the 54 state senate candidates who reported in the VTSOS campaign finance system:	
Total Spending	\$ 1,118,305
Average (Mean)	\$ 20,709
Median	\$ 16,112
Highest	\$ 81,592

