

Campaign Finance Database Methodology

Historically, Vermont's campaign finance reports have been filed according to what might be called an honor system. The figures used in our database are those supplied by the candidates in their required reports, but the quality of the reporting has varied over the years.

Campaign finance reporting dates also have changed over time. For data consistency, we used the 10 day post-primary reports for state elections (which became the 40 day pre-general reports in 1988) and we used the 10 day post-general reports from 1972 on (before 1972, there were no general election reporting requirements). For congressional elections, we used the reports filed closest to the conclusion of the primary or general election. With many campaigns remaining open after the election, a common ending point was necessary to gain an understanding of contributions or expenditures related to a specific race.

The original campaign finance reports, including breakdowns of contributions and expenses, can be viewed at the State Archives. Some campaign finance reports can also be found online on the [Elections Division](#) web site.