

Legislative campaign costs high

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Eastern Idaho legislative candidates spend about \$145,000 in the 1982 elections, records from the campaign contribution reports filed with the secretary of state showed Tuesday.

This is aside from the countless hours of campaigning expended by the candidates and their supports.

The reports were due in November but some were not received until two weeks ago, reported Deputy Secretary of State Penny Ysursa.

In many cases, the amount they spend exceeded the \$7,500 they earn annually for the serving in the Legislature, but they are elected for two year terms, meaning spending this money for an office which pays about \$15,000 for the two years.

Thirty-three sought legislative offices but only 18 could win in the six legislative districts embracing the 10 east Idaho counties. That includes one state senator and two state representatives for each of the six legislative districts.

Six were unopposed in either the primary or general election and thus spent less comparatively little. They were Sen. Vearl C. Crystal, R-Rigby; and Reps. Gary L. Paxman, R-Idaho Falls; John O. Sessions, R-Driggs; Ray E. Infanger, R-Salmon; Melvin Hammond, D-Rexburg, and Rich Orme, R-St. Anthony.

Candidates in District 30 which embraces the central section of Idaho Falls, and the east half of Shelley, spent the largest amount in eastern Idaho.

The largest spender — going by the case of past elections — was Rep. John Watkins, R-Idaho Falls, followed by his defeat John Combo, \$10,745.

The next highest were the contenders for state representative in the same district, Republican J. F. Chadband, with \$10,567, followed by his defeated opponent, Democrat Anne Voilleque, with \$9,166.

The winners in these District 30 races spent the most money but that wasn't true in some other contest.

In District 27, most of Bingham County, Democrat Sen. Israel Merrill, Blackfoot, spent \$7,299 to beat Republican R. C. "Bob" Welker, Shelley, who shelled out \$7,911; Republican Rep. Raymond Parks, Blackfoot, spent \$3,819 to defeat Democrat Gloria LaRoque Dillard, Blackfoot, who reported expending \$4,393; and Republican Rep. D. Cornell Thomas, Pingree, spent \$2,706 to beat Democrat Jerry Wellard, Blackfoot, who reported a price tag of \$3,674 for his unsuccessful effort, with a third contender, Libertarian Peter B. Hull, Blackfoot, spending \$1,041.

The Welker and Merrill costs were the next highest to Watkins, Combo, Chadband and Mrs. Voilleque in east Idaho.

In District 29, west Bonneville and Butte, Republican Sen. J. Marsden Williams spent \$2,464 to vanquish for the third time Democrat Larry D. Reynolds, Arco, \$5,226; Republican Rep. Martin Trillhaasse, Idaho Falls, forked over \$2,019 to again beat Democrat Wendell Miller, Idaho Falls \$3,753; and Republican Rep. Kurt L. Johnson, Idaho Falls, spent only \$915 to easily beat Democrat Rue T. Stears, \$2,468.

In District 31, east Bonneville and Teton, Republican Sen. William L. Floyd, Idaho Falls, listed a cost of \$2,495 to win a tight race from Democrat William A. Storer, \$5,187; and Republican Rep. Linden B. Bateson, Tena, spent only \$905 to turn back Democrat Woody Woodbury, Idaho Falls, \$1,338.

In District 20 made up of Jefferson, Clark, Lemhi and Custer counties, Joan E. Wood, Rigby Republican, won the state representative contest, by spending \$3,377 to oust Llody R. Hicks, who paid \$3,331 in the Republican primary, and then beat Democrat Joe Bodell, Rigby, \$2,192.

The two unopposed candidates, Crystal spent \$204 and Infanger \$292.

In District 27, the primary losers, Republicans Owen Jones spent \$1,823, and Michael King \$44.30, and Democrats Gregg C. Goodwin \$923 and Ray Alexander \$316.

In District 28 made up of Madison and Fremont counties, Republican Sen. Mark G. Ricks, Rexburg, listed a cost of \$2,259 to win re-election over Democrat Darrell H. Moss, Sugar City, \$2068. The two unopposed state representatives, Hammond spent \$350 and Orme \$343.

In District 30, the Republican primary losers to Chadband included K. Dale Leatham whose cost was listed at \$1,723 and George J. Bever \$1,565.

For those unopposed, Paxman spent \$52 in District 30, and Sessions \$1,091 in District 31.

However, The Idaho Falls contenders were pikers compared with the \$269,000 spend by 50 candidates in eight districts in the Boise area.

Leading the costs in the state was Boise Republican Dean Sorenson with \$43,200 in District 17 but he was beaten by Democrat Gail Bray who spent \$21,400, the fourth largest amount in the state.

Other high spenders included Sen. Gary Chapman, R-Boise, third highest with \$21,543; Rep. Rachel Gilbert, R-Boise, \$9,468; Sen. Bill Ringert, R-Boise, the second highest with \$23,048; and Rep. Larry Harris, R-Boise, \$9,428.