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# Bing raised big, spent big in Detroit mayoral race

## Cash may give Cockrel an advantage

BY ZACHARY GORCHOW • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • FEBRUARY 4, 2009

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Dave Bing raised big money for his Detroit mayoral bid, but he's also spent big, potentially costing him the financial edge he expected as the campaign heads into its critical final weeks.

With donations from a Who's Who of metro Detroiters, like [Ford Motor Co.](#) Executive Chairman Bill Ford Jr. and PVS Chemicals chief executive officer Jim Nicholson, Bing hauled in \$505,923 through Dec. 31, according to campaign finance reports.

But he spent \$430,354, leaving him with \$75,572. Bing raised almost double the \$269,080 reported by Mayor Ken Cockrel Jr., but Cockrel has a decisive edge in cash on hand as of Dec. 31 with \$220,356 in the bank. That gives Cockrel a clear advantage in the race, said Victoria Mantzopoulos, chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of Detroit Mercy.

"With the last couple weeks, who has the most money can pull out front," she said. "A lot of people don't pay too much attention until it gets close."

On Monday, candidates reported their fund-raising and spending activity through Dec. 31.

The top two finishers in the Feb. 24 special election primary will advance to the May 5 general election.

Bing spokesman Cliff Russell said the campaign has spent what was needed.

"We ... had to spend money to build an organization and get his message out," he said.

Cockrel campaign manager Jim Edmondson said of the reports, "We feel as if we are in a position to be competitive by being able to [communicate](#) directly with voters as the campaign comes to a close because of how well we've managed our resources."

Freman Hendrix, Detroit's deputy mayor under Dennis Archer, reported raising \$80,900, with \$58,190 in the bank. Warren Evans' campaign said it raised \$193,325 and has \$85,505 left.

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



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