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# New Haven Mayor John DeStefano handily outspends his challenger in September

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By Abbe Smith, Register Staff

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NEW HAVEN — In September, Mayor John DeStefano Jr. spent ten times more on the campaign than his challenger, Jeffrey Kerekes.

DeStefano's campaign spent \$212,507 last month, while Kerekes spent \$22,067 in roughly the same period. Campaigns are required to file finance reports 30 days following a primary.

DeStefano's camp also out-fundraised Kerekes by a huge sum. DeStefano raised \$101,325 in September, including \$95,325 in contributions from individuals. By comparison, Kerekes raised \$3,785 in roughly the same period. All of that money came from individual donations.

DeStefano received donations from five political action committees totaling \$6,000. They are: Roofers Political Educational Legislative Fund, Sheet Metal Workers Local 40, SEIU State Council, The Connecticut Association of Optometrists and Ironworkers Local 424. Still, the bulk of his donations came from individuals, which included lawyers, builders, developers, doctors and real estate employees, some of whom gave as high as \$1,000.

Kerekes' individual donations came in smaller amounts, mostly \$200 and less, and from a variety of sources, though occupations and employers were not listed for all donors. Of his expenditures, \$3,350 went for billboards, \$8,600 for mailings and \$2,500 for advertising with WTNH and \$3,800 for advertising on Comcast.

DeStefano's campaign, on the other hand, spent more than \$100,000 on TV ads and \$14,000 on polling. The campaign employed more than 200 people on Sept. 13, primary day, most of whom received between \$60 and \$100.

DeStefano campaign spokesman Danny Kedem said the workers help canvass and turn out the vote. He said the finance report reflects that the campaign remains active into the final stretch.

"Without a doubt, we are committed to fighting every inch that we need to, to make sure Mayor DeStefano remains the mayor of New Haven," he said.

Kerekes said he, too, is committed to campaigning hard in the final weeks.

"This is David versus Goliath," he said.

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