

St. Albans Messenger

GOP senate candidates outspend incumbents
Written By Michelle Monroe
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Brock has largest campaign war chest

ST. ALBANS CITY — Republican challengers Bill Rowell and Randy Brock have raised significantly more funds in the Franklin County Senate race than Democratic incumbents Sen. Sara Kittell and Sen. Don Collins.

Brock, a former state auditor, has raised \$13,910 so far in this election, while also rolling over \$6,297.94 from his 2006 re-election campaign for state auditor. He has spent nearly \$10,000 to date, according to his Sept. 25 campaign finance filings.

Rowell has raised \$3,850 thus far, with \$2,750 of that total coming in September. Rowell also loaned \$4,000 of his own funds to his campaign, and has spent \$5,909.38 so far in the campaign, although \$2,000 of that was to repay a portion of the loan.

Collins, in contrast, has raised \$1,680 so far, spending \$42 on his campaign in September.

Kittell's September filing was not on file with Franklin County Superior Court. When contacted by phone she reported having raised \$3,130 to date. According to her August campaign finance statement, Kittell also rolled over \$493.93 in funds remaining from her 2006 campaign.

Ninety-eight separate individuals have contributed to Brock's campaign. However, \$8,600 of the \$13,210 Brock raised in September came from 23 contributors who gave more than \$100 each. Eight of those donors are from out of state, with Brock's out-of-state donations totaling \$4,300.

In contrast, Brock raised \$1,400 in large donations from inside Franklin County. With five of his 23 large donors coming from inside the county.

The rest of Brock's large donors, the 10 people and businesses, which donated \$7,510, are Vermonters from outside Franklin County.

Brock's expenditures, too, have occurred outside Franklin County. His list of campaign expenditures revealed that signs, Web design services, buttons and printing services were all purchased from out of state. Brock did spend \$1,110.13 on printing and mailing services from a Montpelier firm, and another \$248.04 for printing services from within Vermont, but outside Franklin County.

Brock also paid \$1,388 to Westaff, which places professionals in temporary positions, for an assistant on five separate occasions.

Many of Rowell's large donations have come through his connections in the dairy industry. He has received \$200 donations from both Dairylea and Dairy Farmers of America, dairy co-operatives based in Syracuse, N.Y. Another \$500 came from Premier Dairy Service of Argyle, N.Y., and \$1,000 from Neagley and Chase Construction of South Burlington.

In September, Rowell spent funds on postage, mailing supplies, and repaying half of the \$4,000 loan he and his wife made to his campaign. In August he spent funds on printing services purchased in Franklin County, and \$2442.67 on signs purchased from a company in Bethel, Vt. and \$882 to Spectrum Marketing in New Hampshire for palm cards and pins.

Collins received two donations of over \$100 in September, both for \$200, one from Connor Contracting and one from Caremark Rx, of Phoenix, Ariz., which also contributed \$200 to Bill Rowell's campaign.

Kittell said she believed all of her funds have been raised from donations of under \$100.

Kittell said she has spent \$1,445.29 so far in the campaign, primarily on postage and printing services, which were purchased in Franklin County.