

Table B: Total Cost of Gubernatorial Elections: 1977–2015 (in thousands of dollars)

Year	Number of races	Total campaign costs		Average cost per state (2014\$)(b)
		Actual \$	2014\$ (a)	
1977	2	\$12,312	\$47,336	\$23,668
1978	36 (c)	102,342	365,638	10,157
1979	3	32,744	105,050	35,017
1980	13	35,634	100,746	7,750
1981	2	24,648	63,168	31,584
1982	36	181,832	438,890	12,191
1983	3	39,966	93,466	31,155
1984	13	47,156	105,731	8,133
1985	2	18,859	40,829	20,415
1986	36	270,605	575,143	15,976
1987	3	40,212	82,452	27,484
1988	12 (d)	52,208	102,812	8,568
1989	2	47,902	89,991	44,995
1990	36	345,493	615,742	17,104
1991	3	34,564	59,114	19,705
1992	12	60,278	100,080	8,340
1993	2	36,195	58,351	29,175
1994	36	417,873	656,826	18,245
1995	3	35,693	54,560	18,187
1996	11 (e)	68,610	101,871	9,261
1997	2	44,823	65,055	32,528
1998	36	470,326	672,182	18,672
1999	3	16,276	22,757	7,586
2000	11	97,098	131,125	11,920
2001	3	70,400	92,607	30,869
2002	36	841,427	1,089,649	30,268
2003	4 (f)	69,939	88,564	22,141
2004	11	112,625	138,889	12,626
2005	2	131,996	157,438	78,719
2006	36	727,552	840,712	23,353
2007	3	93,803	105,385	35,128
2008	11	118,912	128,651	11,696
2009	2	92,911	100,001	50,000
2010	37 (g)	920,735	983,586	26,583
2011	4 (h)	45,934	47,570	11,893
2012	12 (i)	144,044	146,149	12,179
2013	2	84,746	84,746	42,373
2014	36	704,300	704,300	19,564
2015 (j)	3	48,764	48,764	16,255

Sources: Thad Beyle, Jennifer Jensen and The Council of State Governments.

Key:

(a) Developed from the table “Historic Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U),” created by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the U.S. Department of Labor. Each year’s expenditures are converted into the 2014\$ value of the dollar by dividing those \$ expenditures by the percent of that year’s CPI-U value to control for the effect of inflation or recession over the period.

(b) Average cost per state is the result of dividing the 2014\$ total campaign expenditures by the number of elections held that year.

(c) The expenditure data of 1978 are a particular problem as the two sources compiling data on this year’s elections did so in differing ways that excluded some candidates. The result is that the numbers for 1978 under-represent the actual costs of these elections by some unknown amount. The sources are: Rhodes Cook and Stacy West, “1978 Advantage,” *CQ Weekly Report*, (1979): 1757–1758, and *The Great Louisiana Spendathon* (Baton Rouge: Public Affairs Research Council, March 1980).

(d) As of the 1986 election, Arkansas switched to a four-year term for the governor, hence the drop from 13 to 12 for this off-year.

(e) As of the 1994 election, Rhode Island switched to a four-year term for the governor, hence the drop from 12 to 11 for this off-year.

(f) In 2003, there was a special recall and replacement election held in California in which voters elected to recall incumbent Gov. Gray Davis (D) from office and replace him with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R), hence the fourth election in this off-year instead of the normal three.

(g) In 2010, Utah held a special election to elect Gov. Gary Herbert (R) to the position which he had been appointed to in 2009. In 2009, then Lt. Gov. Herbert succeeded to the office of governor after Jon Huntsman (R) left to become U.S. ambassador to China. Under Utah law, voters must agree that a succeeding governor can hold the role until the next regularly scheduled election.

(h) In 2011, West Virginia held a special election to elect Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin (D) to the position he had been appointed to in 2010. Tomblin was appointed governor upon the resignation of Gov. Joe Manchin (D), who won a seat in the U.S. Senate. West Virginia law requires a special election must be held in the case of a gubernatorial succession.

(i) In 2012, Wisconsin held a special recall and replacement election focused on Gov. Scott Walker (R). Walker received 53 percent of the vote and was not recalled. In North Dakota, the law has been changed so that candidates no longer have to report the amount of \$ expenditures made in the campaign.

(j) Amounts for 2015 gubernatorial elections are in 2015\$.