



ELEC *tronic*

An Election Law Enforcement Commission Newsletter

ISSUE 107 • MAY 2018

Comments from the Chairman

Eric H. Jaso

The Commission will hold a public hearing on the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program at its May 15th meeting.

The hearing, to start at 11:00 am, will allow the members of the Commission to listen to the views of gubernatorial candidates, staff, and members of the public.

Following each gubernatorial election cycle, the Commission holds this special public hearing. It is during these hearings that Commissioners and staff members receive feedback on the administration of the program and suggestions for improvement.

New Jersey's Gubernatorial Public Financing Program has been cited as a national model. One reason for this is the stability of the program. The basic tenets have remained intact since its inception. A second explanation is that through the years practical changes have been made to the program. Reforms, such as requiring qualified gubernatorial candidates to participate in two debates, and compelling

candidates for Lieutenant Governor to participate in a third, have strengthened public financing.

The gubernatorial program was established in the aftermath of Watergate. In 1977, New Jersey became the first state to conduct a gubernatorial general election with public funds. Four years later, it was expanded to include the primary election.

What has made the program successful is that it allows campaigns to be supported by a mix of private and public dollars. This aspect permits candidates to adequately communicate their message to the voters, and eliminates undue influence from the process.

Moreover, it permits qualified candidates of limited personal wealth to run for the State's highest office.

The program matches two public dollars for every one dollar raised privately. By statute, thresholds and limits change by a campaign inflation index every four years. The Legislature enacted this law in 1989 to account for inflation and to keep the program current.

In order for a candidate to have qualified for matching funds in 2017, he or she had to raise \$430,000 in private funds. Once qualified, a candidate could receive a maximum of \$4 million in public funds in the primary and \$9.3 million in the general election.

Participating candidates were subject to a limit on contributions of \$4,300 (as were non-participating candidates) and expenditure limits of \$6.4 million and \$13.8 million in the primary and general elections, respectively.

Participating candidates in this primary and general election received approximately \$19.7 million.

While we are proud of our Public Financing staff, its professionalism and its effectiveness in administering the program, as Commissioners, we are always eager to hear suggestions as to how the program can be improved even further.

This public hearing is being conducted as part of the Commission's review and analysis of the program and it is important that individuals who have experienced the program as well as members of the public provide commentary containing recommendations for statutory and regulatory change.

"Furthering the Interest of an Informed Citizenry"

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COMMISSIONERS:

Eric H. Jaso, Chairman
 Stephen M. Holden, Commissioner
 Marguerite T. Simon, Commissioner
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Executive Director's Thoughts

Jeff Brindle

Marijuana Legalization Issue Could Drive Up Lobbying Spending in 2018

Reprinted from InsiderNJ.com

An analysis issued by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) revealed that over \$90 million was spent on lobbying in 2017.

Driving expenditures were Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey and PSE&G, along with a bevy of other heavy hitters.

This year promises to be no different. With many of last year's issues still lingering, and with new issues front and center, spending by lobbyists in 2018 will equal, if not exceed, 2017 totals.

One issue sure to arouse interest involves marijuana use. Should its use be legalized? As a compromise should it be decriminalized? Or, should the issue be put to the vote of the people?

These are the battle lines that have been drawn.

State Senator Nicholas P. Scutari (D-Union) introduced legislation to legalize the possession of marijuana for personal and recreational use. The bill creates a Division of marijuana Enforcement and Licensing. In the

Assembly, Reed Gusciora (D-Mercer) introduced a companion bill.

In an effort to forge a compromise acceptable to supporters and opponents of legalization, State Senators Ronald Rice (D-Essex and Robert Singer R-Ocean) introduced legislation to decriminalize the use of Marijuana.

Under the bill, penalties would be issued based on the amount of marijuana in possession.

A third option includes placing a referendum on the ballot to allow voters to decide the issue.

Within the Legislature and among legislative leaders there is no consensus. Supporters and opponents of marijuana legalization are lining up on both sides of the political aisle. Many remain undecided.

One leader, however, is unequivocal in his support for legalization, Governor Phil Murphy.

With the above as back story, the crystallization of marijuana legalization into a major and potentially contentious issue, is certain. Equally predictable is that the issue will bring with it intense lobbying activity.

Already numerous interests have signaled their participation in advocating for and against legalization. At this juncture, about 14 groups and individuals have positioned themselves for or against legalization.

Included among the advocacy groups are the New Jersey Cannabis Industry

Association, New Jersey CannaBusiness Association, Drug Policy Alliance, and Compassionate Sciences.

Counted among those opposed are New Jersey Responsible Approaches to Marijuana Policy, Automobile Association of America (AAA) and Insurance Council of New Jersey.

The writing is on the wall. The effort to legalize marijuana will generate significant spending activity by special interests on both sides of the issue.

Annual reports filed for 2017 indicate that early skirmishing on the issue already has generated about \$250,000 in fees paid to professional lobbyists.

In eight other States where marijuana legalization has been considered, mostly through passage of ballot questions, lobbying on the issue alone has witnessed about \$82 million in spending.

It is likely, then, that adding Marijuana to the issue mix in New Jersey could drive special interests spending on traditional lobbying and issue advocacy to record levels in 2018, perhaps \$100 million.

Legislative Election 2015 Offers more Proof that Independent Groups are Dominating New Jersey Elections

Heavy independent spending in the 2015 legislative election helped spur an unexpected shakeup in the state Assembly and offers more evidence that such “freelancing” by special interest groups is playing an ever-larger role in New Jersey politics, according to a new report by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

“Independent special interest spending in New Jersey has risen relentlessly in statewide elections during the last decade. It really took off after a landmark 2010 U.S. Supreme Court case let corporations and unions spend unlimited sums if they avoid coordination with parties or candidates,” said Joseph Donohue, ELEC’s Deputy Director.

Donohue authored the report entitled [White Paper 27: “Legislative Election 2015- Big Independent Spending, Big Assembly Shakeup.”](#)

“At the same time the nation’s high court declared the legality of independent spending in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, it also strongly upheld the right to require these groups to fully disclose their contributions,” he said.

“Regrettably, New Jersey’s anemically weak law mandates no such disclosure.”

Donohue said it is encouraging that members of both parties have introduced legislation based on ELEC recommendations that would require independent groups to identify their donors- just as political parties, candidates and political action committees have done for decades.

“Since independent spending often is used for some of the most scorching broadsides against candidates, voters have a right to know what persons or groups are behind these advertisements so they can decide whether they are credible,” he said.

parties and candidates (Table 15 in white paper).

The \$10.9 million spent by independent groups in the overall general election represented 32.5 percent of total spending- a new high through that year (Table 19 in white paper).

The large influx of independent spending in the 2015 campaign made it the most expensive general election ever when the 80 Assembly seats alone were on the ballot. Candidates and independent groups spent \$33.5 million.

Election Spending in Years When Assembly Members Ran Without Senate Members on Ballot

YEAR	HOUSE	LEGISLATIVE	INDEPENDENT	TOTAL	TOTAL 2017 DOLLARS
1995	Assembly	\$10,671,042	0	\$10,671,042	\$17,144,725
1999	Assembly	\$10,873,095	0	\$10,873,095	\$15,975,879
2005	Assembly	\$23,713,193	\$ 3,476	\$23,716,669	\$29,950,382
2009	Assembly	\$18,584,098	\$ 15,999	\$18,600,097	\$21,222,649
2015	Assembly	\$22,632,814	\$10,908,983	\$33,541,797	\$34,907,713

“As former Governor Tom Kean once said so eloquently in testimony about secret spending by independent groups: ‘If someone wants to attack you, if someone wants to attack me, that’s fine. Sign your name.’”

Independent groups paid for at least \$5 million in mass media advertisements during the 2015 legislative campaign, including at least \$3.3 million in television ads (Table 25 in white paper).

The three legislative districts where the majority Democratic party picked up 4 Assembly seats – its biggest one-year gain in 12 years- attracted at least \$2.3 million in independent spending along with spending by

“In the fall of 2009 before the U.S. Supreme Court ruling sparked a national surge of independent spending, independent groups spent just \$15,999 on the 2009 Assembly election. The \$10.9 million spent in 2015 was a staggering 682 times higher,” Donohue said.

Donohue said other factors also influenced the outcome in the 2015 Assembly campaign, including changing demographics and a historically low turnout.

“But given that the largest infusion of independent spending targeted the three districts where four Assembly seats changed hands, it would be hard to claim it had no impact,” he said.

Independent groups also spent \$2.1 million in the second legislative district, which has had some of the closest margins in the state the past 15 years and has drawn the most spending (Tables 15 and 18 in white paper). In 2015, each of the two major parties successfully defended an incumbent Assembly member.

The \$5.2 million in total spending in the second district (\$5.4 million with inflation) was second only to the 2005 campaign in the same district using inflation-adjusted numbers. The 2005 race, which drew the equivalent of \$5.6 million in spending, ranks as the most expensive all-time race where just Assembly members were on the ballot (Table 17 in white paper).

Copies of White Paper 27 are available at this link: www.elec.state.nj.us/aboutelec/whitepapers.htm. A summary of ELEC’s top five legislative recommendations is available here: www.elec.state.nj.us/pdf/files/5Priority_ELEC_Recommend.pdf.

Public Hearing: 2017 Gubernatorial Public Financing Program

May 15, 2018 -11:00 am

A public hearing will be conducted on May 15, 2018 at 11:00 am as part of the Commission’s review and analysis of the New Jersey Gubernatorial Public Financing Program. The hearing is intended to solicit public comment concerning experiences with the program and recommendations for statutory and regulatory changes. Testimony and comment is anticipated from former gubernatorial candidates, campaign treasurers, political party officials and other interested citizens. All testimony and comments will be considered by the Commission in making recommendations for legislative action and proposing changes to regulations.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the hearing and up to seven days following the hearing date. You may also reserve time to speak by calling the Compliance staff at (609) 282-8700.

Please forward any written comments no later than May 22, 2018 to:

Stephanie A. Olivo, Esq.
Compliance Director
Election Law Enforcement
Commission
P.O. Box 185
Trenton, NJ 08625-0185

Training Seminars Reminder

For more information, please visit ELEC’s website at www.elec.state.nj.us/.

CAMPAIGN TRAINING SEMINAR	
September 12, 2018	10:00 a.m.
October 2, 2018	10:00 a.m.
PAC (CPC/PPC) TRAINING SEMINAR	
June 14, 2018	10:00 a.m.
September 25, 2018	10:00 a.m.
October 4, 2018	10:00 a.m.
REFS (R-1) ELECTRONIC FILING) TRAINING SEMINAR	
July 19, 2018	10:00 a.m.

Big Six 1st Quarter 2018

A one-time outlay related to the gubernatorial inaugural pushed first quarter fund-raising and spending for “Big Six” committees to a decade-long high, according to disclosure reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Reports filed by the two state parties and four legislative leadership committees show they jointly raised \$1.9 million for the three months ending March 31, 2018. They spent \$1.8 million during the same period.

“This spike in campaign finance activity was unusual. The Big Six committees typically are tapped out after a big election year,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director. New Jersey in 2017 elected a new governor and filled all 120 legislative seats.

TABLE 1
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY “BIG SIX”
AT END OF 1ST QUARTER BY YEAR

BOTH PARTIES	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH	STATE ELECTIONS
2007	\$1,667,146	\$ 880,509	\$5,365,847	\$5,181,835	Senate and Assembly
2008	\$1,799,469	\$1,010,346	\$1,166,446	\$ 180,217	
2009	\$1,741,580	\$ 754,923	\$2,844,159	\$2,649,177	Governor and Assembly
2010	\$ 885,123	\$ 694,309	\$1,474,272	\$1,290,437	
2011	\$1,738,239	\$ 777,847	\$2,500,926	\$2,191,738	Senate and Assembly
2012	\$1,293,649	\$1,617,192	\$ 704,601	\$ 503,541	
2013	\$1,464,033	\$ 583,756	\$2,564,802	\$2,421,411	Governor and Both Houses
2014	\$ 600,526	\$ 694,221	\$ 750,904	\$ 443,050	
2015	\$ 973,494	\$1,017,051	\$1,623,550	\$ 994,137	Assembly
2016	\$ 673,038	\$ 555,175	\$1,097,091	\$ 415,590	
2017	\$1,076,186	\$ 544,948	\$2,198,343	\$2,064,647	Governor and Both Houses
2018	\$1,902,503	\$1,832,307	\$ 814,754	\$ 730,251	

Brindle said the main reason for the surge was that the Democratic State Committee raised and spent \$990,000 on Democratic Governor Phil Murphy’s January 16, 2018 inaugural. A 2005 Commission advisory opinion permitted state parties to help pay for inaugurals.

Former Governor Chris Christie, who served two terms, didn’t use his state party to raise funds for his two inaugurals. The Democratic State Committee contributed \$250,000 directly to Governor Jon Corzine’s inaugural in 2006 and indirectly spent another \$40,704, its quarterly report shows.

“If you subtract the \$1 million spent on the inaugural, combined spending would have been closer to the much smaller quarterly total four years ago after the 2013 election,” Brindle said.

Due largely to its inaugural outlay, the Democratic State Committee spent nearly \$1.4 million during the quarter. The other five committees spent a combined total of \$444,545.

One sign of how busy Democratic state party members were during the post-election quarter- they received 27 checks worth \$25,000 each, the annual maximum per donor for a Big Six committee. The five other committees together received just five \$25,000 checks.

TABLE 2
FUNDRAISING BY "BIG SIX" COMMITTEES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2018

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT**	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 85,065	\$ 90,860	\$ 96,994	\$ 96,994
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 48,000	\$ 67,708	\$ 47,477	\$ 47,477
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 64,100	\$ 48,341	\$106,078	\$106,078
Sub-Total- Republicans	\$ 197,165	\$ 206,909	\$250,549	\$250,549
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$1,459,997	\$1,387,762	\$458,431	\$424,367
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 50,298	\$ 60,579	\$ 60,926	\$ 40,926
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 195,043	\$ 177,057	\$ 44,848	\$ 14,409
Sub-Total- Democrats	\$1,705,338	\$1,625,398	\$564,205	\$479,702
Total- Both Parties	\$1,902,503	\$1,832,307	\$814,754	\$730,251

*Net worth is cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the committee.

**Some spending totals exceed fundraising totals because the committee dipped into reserve or incurred debt.

"One decent quarter can't mask the fact that overall party fundraising and spending has declined sharply since the early 2000s," said Brindle. "We continue to hope the legislature and governor will support ELEC-recommended legislation that would try to reverse this slide."

"Reinvigorating parties is important because party committees are more accountable and transparent than many of the independent groups that now dominate state and national elections," he said.

ELEC recommendations include streamlining so-called "pay-to-play" contribution restrictions by adopting a single law, letting public contractors make larger contributions to parties though with full disclosure, raising contribution limits that apply to other contributors to offset inflation, and making independent special interest groups abide by the same disclosure laws as parties and candidates.

State parties and legislative leadership committees are required to report their financial activity to the Commission on a quarterly basis. The reports are available on ELEC's website at www.elec.state.nj.us. ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/elecnj).

Pay-To-Play 2017

Contributions by public contractors in 2017 surged for the first time in four years as major state elections for governor and all 120 legislative seats brought out the checkbooks, according to a new analysis by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Annual disclosure reports filed by contractors show they forked over \$9.4 million in campaign cash last year, a 4 percent increase from 2016, which had no state elections. Contributions decreased each of the three previous years.

Table 1
Campaign Contributions Reported by Public Contractors in Annual Disclosure Reports

YEAR	AMOUNT	CHANGE-%	YEAR	AMOUNT	CHANGE-%
2017*	\$ 9,368,608	4%	2011	\$ 9,982,696	3%
2016	\$ 8,999,838	-2%	2010	\$ 9,725,922	-12%
2015	\$ 9,215,463	-6%	2009	\$11,078,713	-9%
2014	\$ 9,843,769	-8%	2008	\$12,120,923	-26%
2013	\$10,713,401	34%	2007	\$16,436,039	8%
2012	\$ 7,988,882	-20%	2006	\$15,157,941	

*Preliminary

“It is clear the 2017 contest to replace Governor Chris Christie after eight years in office and historic spending in the third legislative district created huge stakes for all contributors, including public contractors,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director.

“Even with more incentive to give last year, contributions from contractors are down 43 percent from the peak year of 2007,” he said. “Party coffers have fallen off almost as sharply, and this trend has given a big edge to special interest groups operating independently of parties and candidates.”

“We hope the new Murphy administration and the Legislature will take up ELEC-recommended legislation this year that would greatly simplify pay-to-play laws, increase the amount contractors can give, and allow parties to accept more than just token donations from contractors,” Brindle added.

The top ten contractors ranked by their contributions gave \$2.6 million in 2017, about 28 percent of all contributions.

Most years, engineering firms dominate the top ten and this year was no exception as the top five donors all are engineering firms. Rounding out the list are three law firms and two construction firms.

Table 2
Business Entities that Made Most Contributions in 2017

BUSINESS NAME	AMOUNT
Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc.	\$512,550
T&M Associates	\$366,880
Alaimo Group	\$345,500
Pennoni Associates Inc	\$317,729
CME Associates	\$316,710
J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc./Creamer Sanzari-Joint Venture	\$156,950
Capehart Scatchard PA	\$153,865
Archer & Greiner PC	\$152,240
Weiner Law Group LLP	\$151,265
Hesse Construction Co. Inc.	\$147,200

Following another trend, the biggest recipients of contractor contributions were county-level candidates, including five of the top ten.

Topping the list was Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-3), whose reelection campaign appears to be the most expensive legislative district race in U.S. history with combined spending of nearly \$18.7 million.

Two federal independent spending-only committees that backed him also received contractor support- General Majority PAC (\$47,500) and New Jerseyans for a Better Tomorrow (\$41,750).

**Table 3
Top Ten Recipients of Contractor Contributions in 2017**

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
Stephen Sweeney for Senate / EFO Stephen Sweeney, John Burzichelli and Adam Taliaferro	\$179,680
Heather Simmons, Lyman Barnes & Jim Jefferson for Freeholder (Gloucester County)	\$166,500
Constructors for Good Government PAC	\$148,249
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$121,500
Shanti Narra for Freeholder (Middlesex County)	\$117,450
Phil Murphy for Governor	\$114,252
Leslie Koppel for Freeholder (Middlesex County)	\$112,350
Charles Tomaro for Freeholder (Middlesex County)	\$111,350
Kevin Hoagland for Surrogate (Middlesex County)	\$103,950
Blue PAC	\$ 99,000

The campaign for governor also attracted considerable spending by public contractors. Contractors reported giving candidates for governor or the national committees that took part in the race received at least \$275,727.

Governor Phil Murphy received the most (\$114,002) while his challenger, former Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno, received \$64,775.

**Table 4
Contractor Contributions to Gubernatorial
Candidates or Groups Active in Campaign**

CANDIDATE OR COMMITTEE	AMOUNT
Phil Murphy for Governor	\$ 114,002
Kim Guadagno for Governor	\$ 64,775
Democratic Governors Association	\$ 60,900
Republican Governors Association	\$ 26,000
Jack Ciattarelli for Governor	\$ 9,200
John Wisniewski Governor	\$ 600
Jim Johnson for Governor	\$ 250
Grand Total	\$ 275,727

Last year’s gubernatorial and legislative showdowns also led to more contractor checks going not only to independent groups but also to traditional continuing political committees, better known as political action committees (PACs).

Unlike independent-spending only committees, PACs are subject to contribution limits. Neither are subject to pay-to-play contribution limits. The chart below includes contributions to both types of committees.

Table 5
Contributions to PACs and Independent Groups

YEAR	AMOUNT	CHANGE-%	% OF TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
2017	\$1,364,538	6%	15%
2016	\$1,286,280	-1%	16%
2015	\$1,300,622	-30%	14%
2014	\$1,863,693	16%	19%
2013	\$1,604,014	58%	15%
2012	\$1,017,353	-42%	13%
2011	\$1,746,947		18%

For the sixth consecutive year, contract totals rose to \$10.3 billion- an 18 percent jump.

It is only the second time since contractors began filing annual reports in 2006 that the value of contracts topped the \$10 billion mark.

Table 6
Total Value of Contracts Reported Annually by Business Entities

YEAR	AMOUNT	CHANGE-%
2017*	\$ 10,297,143,942	18%
2016	\$ 8,743,744,352	6%
2015	\$ 8,280,639,442	19%
2014	\$ 6,982,725,369	3%
2013	\$ 6,752,690,921	13%
2012	\$ 5,954,013,939	8%
2011	\$ 5,509,000,868	-6%
2010	\$ 5,831,430,755	-4%
2009	\$ 6,061,413,903	21%
2008	\$ 5,003,469,665	-12%
2007	\$ 5,686,393,016	-45%
2006	\$ 10,396,758,835	

*Preliminary

While the value of contracts was up substantially, the number of contracts actually fell 11 percent to the third lowest number (18,909) since 2006. The number of business entities fell 13 percent to the second lowest number ever (1,900).

Table 7
Total Number of Contracts Reported Annually by Business Entities Subject to Pay-To-Play Law

YEAR	NUMBER	CHANGE-%
2017*	18,909	-11%
2016	21,230	12%
2015	18,886	-3%
2014	19,550	-5%
2013	20,560	-1%
2012	20,857	-16%
2011	24,704	32%
2010	18,673	-13%
2009	21,444	-6%
2008	22,832	1%
2007	22,588	-9%
2006	24,935	

*Preliminary

Table 8
Total Number of Business Entities

YEAR	NUMBER	CHANGE-%
2017*	1,900	-13%
2016	2,172	1%
2015	2,156	-3%
2014	2,233	0.9%
2013	2,213	-1%
2012	2,237	2%
2011	2,184	-0.1%
2010	2,186	4%
2009	2,096	12%
2008	1,873	-7%
2007	2,019	-14%
2006	2,339	

*Preliminary

The numbers in this report reflect information available to the Commission through April 5, 2018 and should be considered preliminary. Some contractors are likely to submit reports or amendments after that date that could change the totals. Numbers earlier than 2017 reflect these revisions and could differ from those reported in prior press releases. All reports are available at ELEC’s website at www.elec.state.nj.us.

Under pay-to-play laws, all businesses that have received \$50,000 or more through public contracts must indicate whether they have made any reportable contributions and if so, must disclose contracts and contributions to ELEC by March 30th for the previous calendar year.

With some exceptions, most firms with state contracts in excess of \$17,500 are barred from contributing more than \$300 to gubernatorial candidates, other candidates, state political parties, legislative leadership committees, county political parties and municipal political party committees. Firms that exceed this limit must seek refunds of excess contributions within a necessary time period or relinquish their contracts for four years.

The average contribution made by contractors in 2016 was \$1,162- up 5 percent. The largest average of \$1,222 occurred in both 2006 and 2007.

Three health insurance companies that service the state and/or other governmental entities in New Jersey topped the list of contract recipients. The list also includes two banks, a natural gas utility, a telecommunications firm, a life insurance firm and two construction firms.

Table 9
Top Ten Business Entities that Reported
Largest Contract Totals in 2017

BUSINESS NAME	AMOUNT
Horizon Healthcare of NJ Inc	\$5,025,200,657
Amerigroup New Jersey, Inc.	\$1,231,152,693
Aetna Life Insurance Company	\$ 676,412,492
South State, Inc.	\$ 326,068,851
South Jersey Energy	\$ 129,843,015
Spencer Savings Bank, SLA	\$ 113,811,401
Unity Bank	\$ 99,609,462
Verizon New Jersey Inc.	\$ 93,851,804
Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company (VALIC)	\$ 91,450,335
George Harms Construction Co., Inc.	\$ 80,826,601

State government again was the largest source of contracts in 2017. Municipalities, school boards, independent authorities, counties, colleges and universities, and fire districts follow in descending order.

Table 10
Contracts by Public Entity Type in 2017

PUBLIC ENTITY TYPE	AMOUNT	PERCENT
State of New Jersey	\$ 7,339,518,985	71%
Municipality	\$ 978,609,698	10%
School Board	\$ 776,953,188	8%
Independent Authority	\$ 754,240,079	7%
County	\$ 369,251,198	4%
College/University	\$ 67,378,840	0.7%
Fire District	\$ 10,410,080	0.1%
No information/Uncertain	\$ 781,874	0.01%
Grand Total	\$ 10,297,143,942	100%

As usual, contract awards by the state Department of Human Services dwarfed those of other public entities.

Table 11
Top Ten Contracting Agencies in 2017

CONTRACTING AGENCY	AMOUNT
New Jersey Department of Human Services	\$6,186,545,330
New Jersey Department of Transportation	\$ 677,937,639
New Jersey Department of Treasury	\$ 389,176,159
New Jersey Turnpike Authority	\$ 229,955,731
Port Authority of NY and NJ	\$ 115,620,487
Newark Public Schools	\$ 103,695,819
Elizabeth Board of Education	\$ 70,993,001
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services	\$ 54,312,772
New Jersey Transit	\$ 53,682,080
Bergen County	\$ 47,543,041

Upcoming - Reporting Dates

	INCLUSION DATES	REPORT DUE DATE
MAY MUNICIPAL - MAY 8, 2018		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* - 4/6/2018	4/9/2018
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	4/7/2018 - 4/24/2018	4/27/2018
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	4/25/2018 - 5/25/2018	5/29/2018
48-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 4/25/2018 through 5/8/2018		
RUNOFF (JUNE) ** - JUNE 12, 2018		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	4/25/2018 - 5/29/2018	6/1/2018
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	5/30/2018 - 6/29/2018	7/2/2018
48-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 5/30/2018 through 6/12/2018		
PRIMARY (90-DAY START DATE: MARCH 7, 2018)*** - JUNE 5, 2018		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* - 5/4/2018	5/7/2018
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	5/5/2018 - 5/22/2018	5/25/2018
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	5/23/2018 - 6/22/2018	6/25/2018
48-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 5/23/2018 through 6/5/2018		
GENERAL (90-DAY START DATE: AUGUST 8, 2018)*** - NOVEMBER 6, 2018		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	6/23/2018 - 10/5/2018	10/9/2018
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	10/6/2018 - 10/23/2018	10/26/2018
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	10/24/2018 - 11/23/2018	11/26/2018
48-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 10/24/2018 through 11/6/2018		
RUNOFF (DECEMBER)** - DECEMBER 4, 2018		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	10/24/2018 - 11/20/2018	11/23/2018
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	11/21/2018 - 12/21/2018	12/24/2018
48-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 11/21/2018 through 12/4/2018		
PACS, PCFRS & CAMPAIGN QUARTERLY FILERS		
2 nd Quarter	4/1/2018 - 6/30/2018	7/16/2018
3 rd Quarter	7/1/2018 - 9/30/2018	10/15/2018
4 th Quarter	10/1/2018 - 12/31/2018	1/15/2019
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AGENTS (Q-4)		
2 nd Quarter	4/1/2018 - 6/30/2018	7/10/2018
3 rd Quarter	7/1/2018 - 9/30/2018	10/10/2018
4 th Quarter	10/1/2018 - 12/31/2018	1/10/2019

* Inception Date of Campaign (first time filers) or from January 1, 2018 (Quarterly filers).

** A candidate committee or joint candidates committee that is filing in a 2018 Runoff election is not required to file a 20-day postelection report for the corresponding prior election (May Municipal or General).

*** Form PFD-1 is due on April 12, 2018 for Primary Election Candidates and June 15, 2018 for Independent General Election Candidates.

Note: A fourth quarter 2017 filing is needed for Primary 2018 candidates if they started their campaign prior to December 7, 2017. A second quarter 2018 filing is needed by Independent/Non-Partisan General Election candidates if they started their campaign prior to May 9, 2018.

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