



ELEC tronic

An Election Law Enforcement Commission Newsletter

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Comments from the Chairman Eric H. Jaso

In last month’s newsletter I discussed plans for the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission to remain open for business as it navigates the uncharted waters of COVID-19.

I am pleased to report that the work of the Commission has continued with minimum disruption. ELEC’s staff has been working remotely from home.

Even with our staff working remotely, telephone assistance to the public has remained steady. As always, the Commission’s receptionists personally answer calls from the public, and then direct the caller to the appropriate staff member for a response.

Over the past several weeks that the Commission has been operating remotely, more than 700 phone calls have been received by the Commission and handled by staff.

Almost daily, we post new messages on the Commission’s website. Among other things, ELEC has kept the filing community apprised of postponements of elections due to the coronavirus which have resulted in the adjustment of filing deadlines.

For example, the April School Board and May Municipal and Run-off elections were changed. Not insignificantly, the June primary was postponed to July 7.

Resulting changes to the 29 and 11-day pre-election and the 20-day post-election disclosure deadlines are posted on the Commission’s website and included in this newsletter.

In April, public contractors filed reports with the Commission disclosing the amount of money they received in public contracts and the amount in contributions they made to candidates and political party committees.

This information is available on the Commission’s website and has been summarized in ELEC’s annual pay-to-play analytical press release. In addition, the Commission published its analytical press release involving the “Big Six” financial activity in the first quarter 2020.

Also in April, the Commission conducted its first public meeting since the outbreak of the pandemic. Though the meeting took place via video conference, the public was able to view and/or participate in the ELEC meeting in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Though we are all enduring the challenges of COVID-19, we can assure the public that ELEC’s Commissioners and staff continue to carry out our regulatory and enforcement missions vigorously and effectively.

While we eagerly await a return to a semblance of normalcy, all of us at ELEC wish our fellow New Jerseyans safety and good health.

“Furthering the Interest of an Informed Citizenry”

IN THIS ISSUE

Comments from the Chairman	1
Executive Director’s Thoughts	2
Permanent Injunction Blocks Enforcement of “Dark Money” Bill but Permits Efforts to Enact Revised Legislation	3
Former Superior Court Judge and ELEC Commissioner Theodore Z. Davis has Died	4
Webinars	4
Public Contractors Report Second Fewest Contributions Since 2006	5
Post-Election Fundraising Lull for “Big Six” Committees	9
2020 Reporting Dates	11

COMMISSIONERS:

Eric H. Jaso, Chairman
 Stephen M. Holden, Commissioner
 Marguerite T. Simon, Commissioner
 Edwin R. Matthews, Legal Counsel

Executive Director's Thoughts

Jeff Brindle

In his column our Chairman, Eric Jaso, has been updating the public on the Commission's successful efforts to continue operating during these unusual times.

With my message today, I would like to dove-tail with the Chairman's efforts by commending our staff on their cooperation and diligence during this difficult period.

Many staff members have school age children so they are juggling the Commission's work with virtual home schooling.

While the public and private school teachers are doing their level best to sustain their student's education, this less than optimum situation has placed an additional responsibility on working parents.

It's noteworthy that these staff members, who share this situation with many in society, are managing to pursue ELEC's work, school work and home chores all at the same time.

Knowing that I can't mention everyone who deserves to be mentioned, there are certain staff members that require mentioning for their key roles in keeping the Commission functioning.

When we learned of a possible state shut down, I knew immediately of whom I needed to turn to organize a work-at-home plan: Chris Mistichelli, Finance and Administration Director.

Many people helped, yet lead by Mr. Mistichelli and his staff, our employees were mobilized and in a matter of days they put together a workable plan for employees to work at home.

An essential part of this plan included establishing a system whereby the public could continue to phone the Commission and receive answers to filing and other important questions.

Our receptionists, Samantha Schutzbank and Cheryl Lippincott, along with volunteers Tamika McCoy, Aracelis Brown and Christine Clevenger, have been invaluable in terms of fielding hundreds of phone calls and directing them to the appropriate staff member for response.

I would be remiss in not mentioning IT Director Anthony Giancarli, who, along with his staff, has kept the Commission afloat technologically as it navigates the uncharted waters of the pandemic.

Mr. Giancarli's efforts have enabled staff to work from home and have been responsible for providing the opportunity for the Commission to conduct a virtual Commission meeting with public participation.

ELEC's Compliance Director, Stephanie Olivo, combined working at home with periodic visits to the office to ensure reports are disclosed, mailings are sent, new filing dates are set, and plans are moving forward for the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program.

While practicing social distancing, Shreve Marshall, Director of Review and Investigation, and Titus Kamal, Compliance, have been coming to the office to make sure the work in their area gets done. Mr. Marshall has been pitching in wherever needed.

During the course of this virus interregnum, meetings between staff have continued telephonically.

Instrumental in those meetings, which involved regulatory planning and Commission meeting planning, have been Legal Director Demery Roberts and Deputy Legal Director Amanda Haines.

The Legal Director and staff, while working remotely have continued to work on the various cases before the Commission in preparation for Commission meetings.

Finally, Joe Donohue, Deputy Director, sheltering at home, has continued working with the press and drafting various analytical reports and press releases so valuable to the work of the Commission.

In a word, I apologize to any staff member who feels they may have been overlooked as key to this successful effort to keep the Commission moving forward. However, since all of our employees are critical to our ongoing efforts it is really difficult to mention them all.

Permanent Injunction Blocks Enforcement of “Dark Money” Bill But Permits Efforts to Enact Revised Legislation

By Joe Donohue

U.S. District Judge Brian Martinotti in mid-March made permanent an injunction that prevents enforcement of P.L.2019, c 124 (S-150) due to concerns that its attempt to force so-called “dark money” groups to disclose their donors went too far constitutionally.

The order does not stop staff of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) from seeking a revised bill by working with state lawmakers and members of Governor Phil Murphy’s administration.

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said the agency in April 2010 first issued a bipartisan call for legislation requiring independent spenders to disclose their political donors.

It was less than four months after the U.S. Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010) permitted corporations and unions to engage in unlimited independent spending in political elections.

Since that ruling, these independent spenders, also called “dark money” groups or outside spenders, have become the dominance influence in New Jersey elections.

Yet existing New Jersey campaign finance law requires no donor disclosure by them though some disclose voluntarily.

“We continue to believe that independent spenders taking part in New Jersey elections, many of which operate with little or no disclosure, should publicly identify their backers,” said Brindle. “Candidates, parties and traditional political action committees have done this for decades. There is no reason independent spenders shouldn’t be just as transparent.”

Brindle pointed out that the U.S. Supreme Court has a long history of upholding disclosure laws involving elections.

For instance, groups that use issued-oriented advertisements to promote or oppose candidates- also called electioneering ads- are required to disclose their donors in federal campaigns and in about 23 states. Bills introduced by members of both parties are pending in New Jersey that would adopt similar disclosure rules here.

While the so-called dark money bill (S-150) won overwhelming bipartisan support in both legislative houses last year, Governor Phil Murphy said he was reluctant to sign it on June 17, 2019.

One of his main concerns was that S-150 mandated disclosure not just in elections but also when independent groups work to oppose or support legislation or regulations. That issue was among those raised in the lawsuits.

Legal challenges seeking to block the law’s enforcement were filed by 501c4 non-profit groups, which normally are not required to disclose their contributions: Americans for Prosperity (AFP), American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and ACLU of New Jersey, and Illinois Opportunity Project (IOP). Among other arguments, the groups contended that donor disclosure could expose contributors to serious harassment, cripple fund-raising and chill free speech.

Judge Martinotti issued a preliminary injunction on October 2, 2019 after a hearing.

In March, he made the injunction permanent in *Americans for Prosperity v. Grewal*, No. 19-cv-14288(BRM) in an order signed on March 18, 2020, after entering similar permanent injunctions in the related cases of *Illinois Opportunity Project v. Holden*, No. 19-cv-17912(BRM) and *American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey and American Civil Liberties Union Inc. v. Grewal*, No. 19-cv-17807 (BRM), in orders signed on March 11, 2020.

Former Superior Court Judge and ELEC Commissioner Theodore Z. Davis has Died

By Joe Donohue



Retired Superior Court Judge Theodore Z. Davis, who served on the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) in 2004 and 2005, has died. He was 86.

According to a Philadelphia Inquirer story, Davis fell victim on April 12, 2020 to complications from a stroke at Cooper University Hospital.

Current ELEC Commissioner Stephen M. Holden also resides in Camden County and previously served as a Superior Court Judge. He said he knew Davis well.

“He was a wonderful man. A gentleman’s gentleman, a lawyer’s lawyer, and a judge’s judge. The planet is less rich without him on it. I hope his journey home was peaceful. God rest his soul,” said Holden.

A statement issued by state Supreme Court Chief Justice Stuart J. Rabner said Davis had “ a profound effect on the New Jersey Judiciary. His legacy will endure for generations.”

Davis chaired a state Supreme Court task force that in 1992 found extensive discrimination against minorities within the New Jersey court system.

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, worked with Davis when he served on the Commission and agreed he deserved much praise. “He was a gentleman, a straight shooter and a man of great integrity,” he said.

Born in Camden and a lifelong resident, Davis was one of only four (out of 31) ELEC commissioners to hail from Southern New Jersey. Nominated by Governor Jim McGreevey, he joined the commission in 2004 after retiring from the Superior Court in 2003.

After leaving the Commission, Davis was named in 2007 by Governor Jon Corzine as chief operating officer of his hometown. The post capped on a long and varied career.

Within his city and county, he previously had served as assistant city solicitor, a municipal court judge, and assistant Camden County prosecutor.

After serving in private practice, including sometimes working as a sports agent for NFL players, Davis was nominated to Superior Court in 1981 by Governor Brendan Byrne. In 1991, he became presiding judge of the Chancery Division-General Equity.

Davis graduated from Camden High School in 1951, then served in the Army in Alaska during the Korean War. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Temple University and his Juris Doctor from its law school.

Webinars

Introducing ELEC’s new web-based Electronic File Filing System. Please register for one of the following Webinars.

R-1 WEBINARS	5/12/2020	2pm
	6/16/2020	10am
	9/22/2020	2pm
	10/1/2020	10am
R-3 WEBINARS	5/26/2020	2pm
	6/9/2020	10am
	7/6/2020	2pm
	9/17/2020	10am
	10/8/2020	2pm

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Should you need assistance please call (609) 292-8700 or visit https://www.elec.nj.gov/seminar_train/SeminarsTraining.html.

Public Contractors Report Second Fewest Contributions Since 2006 Tame Election Year in 2019 Plus Current Virus Crisis May Be Cause

Public contractors have reported making 17 percent fewer contributions in 2019 than in 2018, the biggest year-to-year decline since 2012, according to annual disclosure reports filed with the NJ Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Contractors so far have reported making just \$8.1 million in political donations last year. That is the lowest total since 2012, when contributions dipped 20 percent to just under \$8 million.

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said the current viral pandemic definitely is one factor in the current falloff. Several contractors have asked for delays in filing their annual reports due to the crisis. Through April 23, 2020, ELEC had received 2,109 reports- a 5.4 percent drop-off from the 2,229 reports received through the same date in 2019.

“The fact that last year’s Assembly-only election was one of the more low-key state elections of the last decade also might be a factor,” Brindle said. “Past numbers show contractors gave 34 percent more in 2013 and 15 percent more in 2017. Both years featured high-profile gubernatorial and legislative elections. Contributions topped \$10 million in each year.”

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

YEAR	AMOUNT	CHANGE-%	YEAR	AMOUNT	CHANGE-%
2019	\$ 8,122,684	-17%	2012	\$ 7,988,882	-20%
2018	\$ 9,811,647	-6%	2011	\$ 9,982,696	3%
2017	\$10,453,554	15%	2010	\$ 9,725,922	-12%
2016	\$ 9,083,938	-1%	2009	\$11,078,713	-9%
2015	\$ 9,215,463	-6%	2008	\$12,120,923	-26%
2014	\$ 9,843,769	-8%	2007	\$16,436,039	8%
2013	\$10,713,401	34%	2006	\$15,157,941	

Among firms making the most contributions, Remington & Vernick, based in Camden County and one of the state’s largest engineering firms with 219 reported public contracts in 2019, reclaimed the top spot after a one-year hiatus.

Table 2
Business Entities that Made Most Contributions in 2019

BUSINESS ENTITIES	AMOUNT	CONTRACTS
Remington & Vernick Engineers	\$556,550	\$44,855,582
CME Associates	\$408,075	\$43,860,104
T&M Associates	\$378,958	\$34,763,972
Pennoni Associates Inc.	\$267,650	\$13,863,201
Richard A. Alaimo Business Entities ¹	\$246,075	\$ 8,727,226
French and Parrello Associates PA	\$177,245	\$ 7,300,133
Fairview Insurance Agency Associates Inc.	\$148,400	\$ 1,719,434
Allergan USA Inc. ²	\$139,375	\$ 5,872,038
Neglia Engineering Associates	\$139,005	\$ 8,931,639
Archer & Greiner, P.C.	\$134,000	\$ 3,627,534

¹ The Alaimo Group Inc., Richard A. Alaimo Associates, Richard A. Alaimo Association of Engineers, Richard A. Alaimo Engineering Associates, Richard A. Alaimo Engineering Company.

² \$124,325 came from executive Robert Hugin, who ran unsuccessfully for U.S. Senate in 2018.

Engineering firms traditionally have been active donors in New Jersey politics. Since ELEC began analyzing pay-to-play reports in 2009, engineering firms have topped the contribution list nine out of 11 years.

Firms on the current top ten list made a total of \$2.6 million in contributions- 32 percent of all contributions reported by public contractors. They reported a combined \$173.5 million in contracts- just 2 percent of the total.

The top recipient of contractor contributions is General Majority PAC.

It is a federal political fund-raising committee that supports Democrats but operates independently of parties and candidates. It has been one of the leading spenders on recent legislative elections.

In 2019, it spent \$2.8 million and was the top “outside” spender in the race. The \$234,800 provided by contractors comprised about 8.4 percent of its warchest.

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
General Majority PAC	\$234,800
Frank DiMarco & Dan Christy for Freeholder (Gloucester County)	\$152,150
Claribel Azcona-Barber for Freeholder (Middlesex County)	\$147,639
Mildred Scott for Sheriff (Middlesex County)	\$121,150
Charles Kenny for Freeholder (Middlesex County)	\$115,450
Kenneth Armwood for Freeholder (Middlesex County)	\$111,350
EFO Steve Sweeney for Senate	\$ 94,100
Constructors for Good Government (UTCA)	\$ 88,172
Shaun Golden for Sheriff (Monmouth County)	\$ 68,780
Blue PAC	\$ 64,600

Six of the top ten recipients of contractor contributions were committees supporting county freeholder or sheriff candidates.

Contributions by public contractors were down not just overall but also to traditional political action committees, which are subject to contribution limits, and independent groups, which are not.

PACs and independent groups received \$1.2 million in 2019- a 30 percent drop, and 15 percent of all contractor donations. It was the lowest amount since 2012, when contractors gave just \$1 million to such committees.

YEAR	AMOUNT	CHANGE-%	% OF TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
2019	\$1,212,441	-30%	15%
2018	\$1,731,839	27%	19%
2017	\$1,364,528	6%	13%
2016	\$1,286,280	-1%	14%
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%

Contractors reported \$9.5 billion in contracts during 2019- a 4 percent drop.

YEAR	AMOUNT	CHANGE-%	YEAR	AMOUNT	CHANGE-%
2019	\$ 9,528,358,432	-4%	2012	\$ 5,954,013,939	8%
2018	\$ 9,915,068,587	-5%	2011	\$ 5,509,000,868	-6%
2017	\$10,383,217,280	19%	2010	\$ 5,831,430,755	-4%
2016	\$ 8,747,203,681	6%	2009	\$ 6,061,413,903	21%
2015	\$ 8,280,639,442	19%	2008	\$ 5,003,469,665	-12%
2014	\$ 6,982,725,369	3%	2007	\$ 5,686,393,016	-45%
2013	\$ 6,752,690,921	13%	2006	\$10,396,758,835	

The number of contracts for 2019 is 15,448, down 20 percent. The total number of business entities filing reports is 1,849- 12 percent fewer than in 2018.

Numbers in this report reflect information available to the Commission through April 23, 2020 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 2019 reflect similar 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 2019 was \$1,063- down 13 percent from a year earlier. The largest average of \$1,222 occurred in both 2006 and 2007.

Two health insurance companies that service the state and/or other governmental entities in New Jersey dwarfed all other contract recipients.

The list also includes two banks, five firms or joint ventures involved in the construction business, and an energy firm. The top ten contractors received \$7.5 billion worth of contracts- 79 percent of the reported total -while making \$108,654 in contributions- just one percent.

**Table 6
Top Ten Business Entities That Reported
Largest Contract Totals in 2019***

BUSINESS ENTITY	CONTRACTS	CONTRIBUTIONS
Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield Affiliates ³	\$5,298,019,992	\$30,800
AMERIGROUP New Jersey, Inc.	\$1,226,771,527	\$ 500
South State, Inc.	\$ 241,370,706	\$12,887
J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc./ Creamer Sanzari- Joint Venture	\$ 134,698,294	\$16,850
Unity Bank	\$ 123,313,201	\$ 1,500
George Harms Construction Co., Inc.	\$ 107,985,268	\$14,800
Earle Asphalt/ The Walter R. Earle Corp.	\$ 99,302,099	\$14,307
Direct Energy Business LLC/Direct Energy Business Marketing LLC	\$ 94,124,380	\$ 1,000
Schifano Construction Corp.	\$ 88,996,071	\$ 6,140
Magyar Bank	\$ 78,070,317	\$ 9,870

*Only lists public contractors that made reportable political contributions.

State government as usual was the largest source of contracts in 2019. The New Jersey Department of Human Services was the top contracting agency.

**Table 7
Contracts by Public Entity Type in 2019**

PUBLIC ENTITY TYPE	AMOUNT	PERCENT
State	\$7,328,338,756	77%
Independent Authority	\$ 814,402,331	9%
Municipality	\$ 745,284,438	8%
County	\$ 328,852,265	3%
School Board	\$ 200,025,311	2%
No Information/Uncertain	\$ 55,590,896	1%
College/University	\$ 50,487,194	1%
Multiple jurisdictions	\$ 2,683,877	0.03%
Fire District	\$ 2,512,094	0.03%
Legislature	\$ 166,644	0.002%
Federal	\$ 14,624	0.0002%
Grand Total	\$9,528,358,432	100%

**Table 8
Top Ten Contracting Agencies in 2019**

CONTRACTING AGENCY	AMOUNT
New Jersey Department of Human Services	\$6,545,985,688
New Jersey Department of Transportation	\$ 636,096,440
New Jersey Turnpike Authority	\$ 295,408,854
Port Authority of NY and NJ	\$ 124,460,917
New Jersey Department of Treasury	\$ 100,831,697
Cape May County	\$ 48,789,988
New Jersey Transit Corporation	\$ 47,193,591
Philadelphia Regional Port Authority	\$ 43,043,404
Middlesex County	\$ 37,435,789
Monmouth County	\$ 32,546,599

³ Horizon Healthcare of NJ Inc., Horizon Insurance Co., Horizon Casualty Services Inc., and Horizon Healthcare Dental Inc.

Post-Election Fundraising Lull For “Big Six” Committees

Fundraising by the two state parties and four legislative leadership PACs was subdued during the first quarter of 2020, with a combined haul of just \$819,384, according to reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said “first quarter blues” typically occur after an election.

“This is not unusual. The so-called “Big Six” committees are just starting to replenish their reserves after an election when all 80 Assembly members ran for office. Plus, there was a special state Senate election in the first legislative district and numerous local elections,” said Brindle.

While fundraising was not robust, it still was better than the first quarter, post-election hauls in 2014 and 2016, he noted.

“The big questions is whether the COVID-19 pandemic, which really didn’t strike with a vengeance until mid-March, will hurt fundraising by these and other political committees in the state going forward,” Brindle said. “ELEC will be closely watching to see if an even deeper than normal fundraising slump emerges.”

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
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	
2019	\$ 981,798	\$ 634,650	\$1,868,717	\$1,728,640	Assembly
2020	\$ 819,384	\$ 679,768	\$ 799,682	\$ 719,825	

Democrats, who control the governor’s seat and both legislative houses, retained their fundraising dominance and reported larger reserves during the quarter.

TABLE 2
FUNDRAISING BY “BIG SIX” COMMITTEES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2020

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT**	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$181,249	\$ 43,973	\$ 272,796	\$272,796
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 37,500	\$ 33,544	\$ 32,780	\$ 32,780
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 72,679	\$ 56,983	\$ 56,479	\$ 56,479
Sub-Total- Republicans	\$291,428	\$134,500	\$ 362,055	\$362,055
Versus First Quarter 2016 (Dollars)	\$ 73,161	\$ (6,213)	\$(356,473)	\$168,124
Versus First Quarter 2016 (Percent)	34%	-4%	-50%	87%
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$370,195	\$338,571	\$ 65,642	\$ 36,224
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 31,811	\$ 69,239	\$ 352,147	\$332,147
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$125,950	\$137,458	\$ 19,838	\$ (10,601)
Sub-Total- Democrats	\$527,956	\$545,268	\$ 437,627	\$357,770
Versus First Quarter 2016 (Dollars)	\$ 73,175	\$130,806	\$ 59,064	\$136,111
Versus First Quarter 2016 (Percent)	16%	32%	16%	61%
	\$ 73,175	\$130,806	\$ 59,064	\$136,111
Total- Both Parties	\$819,384	\$679,768	\$ 799,682	\$719,825
Versus First Quarter 2016 (Dollars)	\$146,336	\$124,593	\$(297,409)	\$ (57,820)
Versus First Quarter 2016 (Percent)	22%	22%	-27%	-14%

*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 reserves or incurred debt.

Compared to the same quarter in 2016, both parties reported better fundraising, and Democrats spent more.

Brindle said even if the virus crisis doesn't further depress party fundraising, current coffers are far less than they were a decade ago, in part because of tight limits on public contractor contributions and fundraising competition from independent special interest groups that have choked off many contributions that used to fill party warchests.

“ELEC continues to believe that legislative changes can help reverse this trend, which is important because party committees are more accountable and transparent than so-called “outside” spenders,” Brindle said. “We will continue to work with lawmakers to secure passage of new laws that will hopefully redirect more funds back into party coffers.”

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).

2020 Reporting Dates

Please refer to ELEC's website for up-to-date revised dates

www.elec.nj.gov/pdf/files/reporting_dates/REVISED_2020_Reporting_Dates.pdf

	INCLUSION DATES	REPORT DUE DATE
FIRE COMMISSIONER – FEBRUARY 15, 2020		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 1/14/2020	1/17/2020
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	1/15/2020 – 2/1/2020	2/4/2020
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	2/2/2020 – 3/3/2020	3/6/2020
48-Hour Notice Reports Start on 2/2/2020 through 2/15/2020		
APRIL SCHOOL BOARD – May 12, 2020		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 4/10/2020	4/13/2020
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	4/11/2020 – 4/28/2020	5/1/2020
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	4/29/2020 – 5/29/2020	6/1/2020
48-Hour Notice Reports Start on 4/29/2020 through 5/12/2020		
MAY MUNICIPAL – MAY 12, 2020		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 4/10/2020	4/13/2020
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	4/11/2020 – 4/28/2020	5/1/2020
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	4/29/2020 – 5/29/2020	6/1/2020
48-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 4/29/2020 through 5/12/2020		
RUNOFF (JUNE) ** – JULY 7, 2020		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	4/29/2020 – 6/23/2020	6/26/2020
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	6/24/2020 – 7/24/2020	7/27/2020
48-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 6/24/2020 through 7/7/2020		
PRIMARY (90-DAY START DATE: MARCH 4, 2020) *** – JULY 7, 2020 (See Executive Order No. 120)		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 6/5/2020	6/8/2020
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	6/6/2020 – 6/23/2020	6/26/2020
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	6/24/2020 – 7/24/2020	7/27/2020
48-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 6/24/2020 through 7/7/2020		
GENERAL (90-DAY START DATE: AUGUST 5, 2020) – NOVEMBER 3, 2020		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	7/25/2020 – 10/2/2020	10/5/2020
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	10/3/2020 – 10/20/2020	10/23/2020
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	10/21/2020 – 11/20/2020	11/23/2020
48-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 10/21/2020 through 11/3/2020		
RUNOFF (DECEMBER)** – DECEMBER 8, 2020		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	10/21/2020 – 11/24/2020	11/27/2020
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	11/25/2020 – 12/25/2020	12/28/2020
48-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 11/25/2020 through 12/8/2020		

PACs, PCFRs & CAMPAIGN QUARTERLY FILERS

1 st Quarter	1/1/2020 – 3/31/2020	4/15/2020
2 nd Quarter	4/1/2020 – 6/30/2020	7/15/2020
3 rd Quarter	7/1/2020 – 9/30/2020	10/15/2020
4 th Quarter	10/1/2020 – 12/31/2020	1/15/2021

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AGENTS (Q-4)

1 st Quarter	1/1/2020 – 3/31/2020	4/13/2020
2 nd Quarter	4/1/2020 – 6/30/2020	7/10/2020
3 rd Quarter	7/1/2020 – 9/30/2020	10/13/2020
4 th Quarter	10/1/2020 – 12/31/2020	1/11/2021

*Inception Date of Campaign (first time filers) or January 1, 2020 (Quarterly filers)

**A candidate committee or joint candidates committee that is filing in a 2020 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 9, 2020 for the Primary Election Candidates and July 17, 2020 for the Independent General Election Candidates.

Note: A fourth quarter 2019 filing is needed for the Primary 2020 candidates if they started their campaign prior to December 4, 2019.
A second quarter is needed by Independent/Non-Partisan General Election candidates if they started their campaign prior to May 5, 2020.

HOW TO CONTACT ELEC

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