



Newsletter

ELECtronic

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AN ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION NEWSLETTER
"Furthering the Interest of an Informed Citizenry"

Comments from the Chairman Eric H. Jaso

ELEC Ensures Transparency in Lobbying

"Ten people who speak make more noise than ten thousand who are silent" – Napoleon Bonaparte

Every February 15, Governmental Affairs Agents and Represented Entities (lobbyists) must file reports with ELEC summarizing their financial activity for the previous calendar year.

Lobbyists must disclose any financial activity conducted for the purpose of communicating with or providing benefits to a member of the Legislature, legislative staff, the Governor, his or her staff, or an officer or staff member of the executive branch. The reporting law does not cover lobbying at the local level.

Under the law, reporting is required when lobbying is undertaken for the purpose of influencing legislation, regulations, or governmental processes.

Governmental processes include contracts, grants, permits, rate setting, executive orders, fines and penalties, and procedures for purchasing.

Any Governmental Affairs Agent or Represented Entity that receives or expends more than \$2,500 in the previous calendar year is required to disclose financial activity with the Commission.

The reporting law also covers "grassroots" lobbying. Any individual or group (regardless of whether they are registered lobbyists) spending in excess of \$2,500 to communicate with the public for the purpose of influencing legislation or regulation must disclose this activity to the Commission.

The financial reports submitted by the lobbying community provide information involving five general categories: in-house salaries,

compensation to contract lobbying firms, communication, support personnel, and travel and lodging.

In its annual report to the Legislature, ELEC has recommended that the law be extended to cover lobbying at the local level of government. This would require reporting of lobbying local government entities by paid government affairs agents.

In March, the Commission will publish an analysis of lobbying activity undertaken in 2022.

This analysis will report the top ten lobbyists in terms of communication spending, the top ten special interest groups in terms of total spending, and the top ten contract lobbying firms in terms of total receipts.

The report will provide the public with a comprehensive view of lobbying activity at the State level.

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COMMISSIONERS

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

Executive Director's Thoughts

Jeff Brindle

Fixing the 'Broken Windows' of Political Parties Could Ease Today's Political Divide

Reprinted from insidernj.com
Updated 2/2023

Stronger political parties may calm the turbulence engulfing politics and government today.

The uncertainty and distrust on both sides which surrounds the presidential election of 2020 made even rockier the road politics and government has taken in recent years.

This recent and deepening wave of cynicism should be of grave concern no matter the side.

There is always going to be some level of political tension between presidents and Congress, governors and state legislatures, or within legislative bodies.

When polarization runs so deep that it undermines trust in elections, it takes on a whole new -and worrisome- dimension.

How can the nation escape this civic morass?

In policing, there is the broken windows theory first described in 1982 by social scientists James Wilson and George Kelling. Supported by some, disparaged by others, the theory holds that if a window in a building remains broken

and is not repaired, more damage will follow.

"One unrepaired broken window is a signal that no one cares, and so breaking more windows costs nothing," the scientists wrote in *The Atlantic*. Conversely, if a window is repaired, it will impede further damage to the building and even lead to improving its overall quality.

Applying the same theory to politics, leaving parties broken may lead to further damage to the political climate. Fixing parties could improve it.

According to Pew Research in 1960 over 70 percent of the people identified with one party or the other. Likewise, a similar percentage indicated that they trusted government.

By 2015, however, Pew Research found that party identification had declined to 52 percent while trust in government decreased to about 20 percent of the population.

Stronger parties may give a boost to politics and government by reversing the downward trends in party identification and trust.

Not that it is an easy fix.

Unquestionably, skepticism toward political parties has been part of the nation's political culture from the beginning of the republic.

Factionalism between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson within the Washington administration prompted the nation's first president to warn against parties in his farewell address to the nation.

To many, political parties are bastions of corruption headed by party bosses whose selfish interests lead them to dole out patronage, public contracts, and no-show jobs in return for the loyal support from those who benefitted from the largess of the party.

Tammany Hall, "Boardwalk Empire" and other historic examples may make this seem like the norm. Fortunately, the vast majority of party officials are dedicated people who are NOT corrupt. Parties functioning properly truly benefit society.

Noting that political parties are central to our electoral and governmental systems, Professor Marjorie Random Hershey writes in "Party Politics in America" . . . Both major American parties can trace their histories more than 150 years . . . The parties are there as points of reference year after year, election after election, and candidate after candidate, giving continually to the choices Americans face and the issues they debate."

Most importantly, in terms of the current polarization that plagues our politics, a stronger party system can help to soften the divisions that exist today. By virtue of party discipline, they can organize majorities in government that are crucial to governing.

In addition to providing a training ground for leadership, these historical institutions help to build relationships, even across party lines, so critical for bringing people together for the common good.

“Big Six” Fund-raising Committees Begin 2023 Flusher Than Usual

With both legislative houses facing reelection this year, the “Big Six” fund-raising committees- the two state political parties and four legislative leadership committees- have entered 2023 with larger-than usual cash reserves, according to year-end reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

The two parties combined have \$2.8 million stockpiled for the coming showdown- the largest in a decade and 107 percent above average.

The three Democratic committees jointly reported \$2.2 million- the highest in a decade and 175 percent above the party average. Republican counterparts reported \$624,898 in the bank- 11 percent above average and the highest since 2016.

Table 1
Year-End Big Six Cash-on-Hand Totals 2012-2022

YEAR	BOTH PARTIES	DEMOCRATS	REPUBLICANS
2012	\$1,684,525	\$ 727,028	\$ 957,497
2013	\$ 841,599	\$ 332,288	\$ 509,311
2014	\$1,662,052	\$ 667,584	\$ 994,468
2015	\$ 979,220	\$ 338,245	\$ 640,975
2016	\$1,667,465	\$ 624,725	\$1,042,740
2017	\$ 738,454	\$ 484,264	\$ 254,190
2018	\$1,546,522	\$1,069,437	\$ 477,085
2019	\$ 660,067	\$ 454,940	\$ 205,127
2020	\$1,378,385	\$ 996,336	\$ 382,049
2021	\$1,017,094	\$ 895,341	\$ 121,753
2022	\$2,820,447	\$2,195,548	\$ 624,898
2012-2022 Average	\$1,363,257	\$ 798,703	\$ 564,554
Versus 2022	107%	175%	11%

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said the relatively large cash totals could reflect the importance of this year’s legislative elections.

Republicans have not controlled both legislative houses since 2001. But during the past two legislative elections, Democrats have lost two seats in the Senate and eight seats in the Assembly.

Democrats still hold a 24-to-16 margin in the state Senate and a 46-to-34 margin in the state Assembly.

“Money isn’t everything. But having more money means you can afford more on media buys, direct mail, get-out-the-vote and other campaign purposes,” Brindle said.

“Naturally, the majority wants to retain control while the minority wants to win it back. Both parties this year have an incentive to stash away as much cash as possible.”

Compared to four years ago, Democratic fundraising and spending totals are down though cash reserves are higher. Republican fundraising is up, spending is down while cash reserves are plumper.

Table 2
Campaign Finance Activity by "Big Six" Committees for 2022 Versus 2018

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 797,968	\$ 830,702	\$ 21,682	\$ 21,682
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 429,277	\$ 246,861	\$ 191,491	\$ 191,491
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 507,673	\$ 154,210	\$ 411,726	\$ 411,726
Total – Republicans – 2022	\$1,734,918	\$1,231,772	\$ 624,898	\$ 624,898
2018 Totals	\$1,495,886	\$1,279,094	\$ 477,085	\$ 477,085
Versus 2018 (Percent)	14%	-4%	24%	24%
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$1,797,876	\$2,066,240	\$ 220,889	\$ 206,921
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 989,659	\$ 237,487	\$1,002,675	\$1,002,675
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$1,349,561	\$ 536,102	\$ 971,984	\$ 941,545
Total – Democrats – 2022	\$4,137,096	\$2,839,829	\$2,195,548	\$2,151,141
2018 Totals	\$4,698,746	\$4,114,075	\$1,069,437	\$ 953,276
Versus 2018 (Percent)	-14%	-45%	51%	56%
BOTH PARTIES				
Total Both Parties– 2022	\$5,872,014	\$4,071,602	\$2,820,447	\$2,776,040
2018 Totals	\$6,194,632	\$5,393,169	\$1,546,522	\$1,430,361
Versus 2018 (Percent)	-5%	-32%	45%	48%

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

Big Six fund-raising and spending tends to be lower in federal election years than state election years. Totals for 2022 followed this trend.

Table 3
Campaign Finance Activity by "Big Six" January 1 through December 31

BOTH PARTIES	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	STATE OR FEDERAL	ELECTION TYPE
2012	\$ 7,063,133	\$ 6,391,757	\$1,684,525	Federal	P/S/H
2013	\$13,885,028	\$14,727,957	\$ 841,599	State	G/S/A
2014	\$ 4,872,907	\$ 4,048,955	\$1,662,052	Federal	S/H
2015	\$ 8,027,793	\$ 8,661,126	\$ 979,220	State	A
2016	\$ 4,518,172	\$ 3,842,223	\$1,667,465	Federal	P/H
2017	\$12,243,328	\$13,348,131	\$ 738,454	State	G/S/A
2018	\$ 6,194,632	\$ 5,393,169	\$1,546,522	Federal	S/H
2019	\$ 7,155,435	\$ 8,016,939	\$ 660,067	State	A
2020	\$ 4,260,928	\$ 3,542,610	\$1,378,385	Federal	P/S/H
2021	\$16,892,473	\$17,046,596	\$1,017,094	State	G/S/A
2022	\$ 5,872,014	\$ 4,071,602	\$2,820,447	Federal	H

P=Presidential; S=US or State Senate; H=House; G=Gubernatorial; A=Assembly

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/elecny).

Training & Seminars • Webinars

PAY-TO-PLAY TRAINING FOR BUSINESS ENTITIES - WEBINARS

February 01, 2023 at 10:00 AM	March 08, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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PAC (CPC/PPC) WEBINARS

R-3 eFile ONLY Program Training	CPC/PPC Compliance Seminar AND eFile Training
January 24, 2023 at 10:00 AM	January 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM
February 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM	February 08, 2023 at 10:00 AM
March 22, 2023 at 10:00 AM	March 15, 2023 at 10:00 AM
April 13, 2023 at 10:00 AM	April 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM
May 18, 2023 at 10:00 AM	May 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM
July 20, 2023 at 10:00 AM	May 17, 2023 at 10:00 AM
September 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM	June 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM
October 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM	July 13, 2023 at 10:00 AM
	August 10, 2023 at 10:00 AM
	September 07, 2023 at 10:00 AM
	October 03, 2023 at 10:00 AM

CANDIDATE WEBINARS

R-1 eFile ONLY Program Training	Campaign Compliance Seminar AND eFile Training
January 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM	January 10, 2023 at 10:00 AM
February 15, 2023 at 10:00 AM	February 07, 2023 at 10:00 AM
March 23, 2023 at 10:00 AM	March 09, 2023 at 10:00 AM
April 04, 2023 at 10:00 AM	March 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM
April 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM	April 05, 2023 at 10:00 AM
May 03, 2023 at 10:00 AM	May 02, 2023 at 10:00 AM
June 22, 2023 at 10:00 AM	May 04, 2023 at 10:00 AM
July 26, 2023 at 10:00 AM	May 10, 2023 at 10:00 AM
September 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM	June 13, 2023 at 10:00 AM
October 05, 2023 at 10:00 AM	July 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM
October 24, 2023 at 10:00 AM	August 08, 2023 at 10:00 AM
	September 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM
	September 26, 2023 at 10:00 AM
	October 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM

If you have any questions concerning ELEC's training program, please contact the staff of the Compliance Division at (609) 292-8700.

*All webinars will run for approximately 2 hours.

2023 Reporting Dates

	INCLUSION DATES	REPORT DUE DATE
FIRE COMMISSIONER – FEBRUARY 18, 2023		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 1/17/2023	1/20/2023
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	1/18/2023 – 2/4/2023	2/7/2023
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	2/5/2023 – 3/7/2023	3/10/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 2/5/2023 through 2/18/2023		
APRIL SCHOOL BOARD – APRIL 25, 2023 – UPDATED PER CHANGE BY THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 3/24/2023	3/27/2023
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	3/25/2023 – 4/11/2023	4/14/2023
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	4/12/2023 – 5/12/2023	5/15/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 4/12/2023 through 4/25/2023		
MAY MUNICIPAL – MAY 9, 2023		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 4/7/2023	4/10/2023
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	4/8/2023 – 4/25/2023	4/28/2023
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	4/26/2023 – 5/26/2023	5/30/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 4/26/2023 through 5/9/2023		
RUNOFF (JUNE)** – JUNE 13, 2023		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	4/26/2023 – 5/30/2023	6/2/2023
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	5/31/2023 – 6/30/2023	7/3/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 5/31/2023 through 6/13/2023		
PRIMARY (90 DAY START DATE: MARCH 8, 2023)*** - JUNE 6, 2023		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 5/5/2023	5/8/2023
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	5/6/2023 -5/23/2023	5/26/2023
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	5/24/2023 – 6/23/2023	6/26/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 5/24/2023 through 6/6/2023		
GENERAL (90 DAY START DATE: AUGUST 9, 2023)*** - NOVEMBER 7, 2023		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	6/24/2023 – 10/6/2023	10/10/2023
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	10/7/2023 – 10/24/2023	10/27/2023
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	10/25/2023 -11/24/2023	11/27/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 10/25/2023 through 11/7/2023		
RUN–OFF (DECEMBER)** – DECEMBER 5, 2023		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	10/25/2023 – 11/21/2023	11/24/2023
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	11/22/2023 – 12/22/2023	12/26/2023
48 Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 11/22/2023 through 12/5/2023		

PACS, PCFRS & CAMPAIGN QUARTERLY FILERS

1 st Quarter	1/1/2023 – 3/31/2023	4/17/2023
2 nd Quarter	4/1/2023 – 6/30/2023	7/17/2023
3 rd Quarter	7/1/2023 – 9/30/2023	10/16/2023
4 th Quarter	10/1/2023 – 12/31/2023	1/16/2024

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AGENTS (Q-4)

1 st Quarter	1/1/2023 – 3/31/2023	4/10/2023
2 nd Quarter	4/1/2023 – 6/30/2023	7/10/2023
3 rd Quarter	7/1/2023 – 9/30/2023	10/10/2023
4 th Quarter	10/1/2023 – 12/31/2023	1/10/2024

*Inception Date of Campaign (first time filers) or from January 1, 2023 (Quarterly filers).

**A candidate committee or joint candidates committee that is filing in a 2023 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 6, 2023 for Primary Election Candidates and June 19, 2023 for Independent General Election Candidates.

Note: A fourth quarter 2022 filing is needed for Primary 2023 candidates if they started their campaign prior to December 8, 2022. A second quarter 2023 filing is needed by Independent/Non-Partisan General Election candidates if they started their campaign prior to May 10, 2023.

HOW TO CONTACT ELEC

www.elec.state.nj.us

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