



# Newsletter

## ELECtronic

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

### ELEC Chairman Chosen New Jersey "Attorney of the Year"

By Joe Donohue



Chair Thomas H. Prol

More than 600 were in attendance.

Prol, an Asbury Park resident, was appointed ELEC's chair on June 14, 2023 by Governor Phil Murphy. Superior Court Judge Janine Allen administered his oath of office on June 19, 2023. His term extends to June 19, 2026.

New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) Chair Thomas H. Prol was selected as the state's "Attorney of the Year" by the New Jersey Law Journal.

An attorney with Sills, Cummis & Gross P.C. in Newark, Prol received the award during the New Jersey Legal Awards ceremonies in East Brunswick on October 29, 2024.

"I am honored by the recognition as NJ Lawyer of the Year from ALM' and the New Jersey Law Journal," said Prol after ELEC's November 19 meeting.

He added, "So many people have supported my work as an advocate and my life purpose to make our society more just and inclusive. I reflect on their involvement in my life as I gratefully acknowledge their contributions in this achievement."

Prol, who was named the New Jersey "Young Lawyer of the Year" by the New Jersey State Bar Association ("NJS-BA") in 2004, reflected on his honor, saying: "We each get a margin of time to spend on this ball of dirt and water flying around that ball of fire in the sky. It is what we do with that opportunity that matters and I am committed to making this world a better place than when I got here through advocacy and activism."

In receiving his award, Prol was recognized for his advocacy on behalf of LGBTQ people in New Jersey.

He co-drafted New Jersey's "Marriage Equality" legislation which revised the State's marriage law to provide equality for all committed couples, regardless of gender, and was signed into law by Governor Murphy on January 10, 2022.

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#### COMMISSIONERS

- Thomas H. Prol, Chairman
- Norma R. Evans, Commissioner
- Ryan Peters, Commissioner
- Jon-Henry Barr, Commissioner
- Edwin R. Matthews, Legal Counsel

## ELEC Chairman Chosen New Jersey “Attorney of the Year” (continued)

As a founding and current executive board member of Garden State Equality, New Jersey’s largest LGBTQ education and advocacy organization, Prol has championed marriage equality and civil rights for over two decades.

He also helped secure enactment of legislation in January 2020 that banned the gay and trans panic defense in New Jersey. The bill passed in both legislative houses with no votes in opposition.

Prol serves on the American Bar Association (ABA) Board of Governors and is one of 43 lawyers who oversee the operations of the largest professional organization for attorneys in the world. Earlier this year, he was recognized for his work supporting passage of the federal “Stop Institutional Child Abuse Act,” earning the **ABA’s** “Advocate of the Month” award in January for that work and his on-going annual lobbying for the Legal Services Corporation.

Prol was the first openly gay leader of the New Jersey State Bar Association, serving as its president in 2016-2017. He championed the resurgent effort to ratify New Jersey native Alice Paul’s Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Prol is admitted to practice law in New Jersey, New York and before several federal courts. He is a Life Fellow of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

A former Peace Corps Volunteer (Nepal 1994-96), Prol earned his law degree from New York Law School and a master’s degree in public health, along with a bachelor’s degree, co-majoring in English, and Human & Natural Ecology from Emory University.

<sup>1</sup> Formerly American Lawyer Media

## Commission Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2025

The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission has announced its meeting schedule for 2025. Unless otherwise indicated in the future, meetings will be held at the Commission’s offices at 25 South Stockton Street, 5th Floor, in Trenton. It is anticipated that meetings will begin at 11:00 a.m., unless otherwise indicated.

January .....	21, 11:00 a.m.
February.....	18, 11:00 a.m.
March.....	18, 11:00 a.m.
April.....	15, 11:00 a.m.
May .....	20, 11:00 a.m.
June.....	17, 11:00 a.m.
July .....	15, 11:00 a.m.
August.....	19, 11:00 a.m. (if necessary)
September .....	16, 11:00 a.m.
October.....	21, 11:00 a.m.
November .....	18, 11:00 a.m.
December .....	16, 11:00 a.m.

## Combined County Party Fundraising Continues to Thrive

County political party committees are raising funds at a healthy clip even during an “off-year” when federal elections are the main focus this fall, according to quarterly reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Combined fundraising for those committees during the first nine months of 2024 totaled \$8.4 million. That figure is 66 percent higher than the average for eight federal election years since 2010.

**Table 1 • Fund-Raising by County Party Committees Through September 30, 2024**

PERIOD	RAISED	SPENT	CASH
2024 (Federal Election Year)	\$8,413,909	\$7,265,304	\$5,026,821
Average for Eight Federal Election Years- 2010-2024	\$5,071,353	\$4,565,470	\$2,928,266
2024 Versus Average	66%	59%	72%

Spending so far has reached nearly \$7.3 million, which beats the average by 59 percent. At \$5 million, cash-on-hand is 72 percent above the trend-line.

**Table 2 • County Party Committee Fund Raising During Eight Federal Election Years**

YEAR	RAISED	SPENT	CASH
2012	\$3,662,456	\$3,189,326	\$1,573,648
2014	\$4,410,348	\$3,764,798	\$1,980,600
2016	\$4,199,012	\$3,625,063	\$2,328,583
2018	\$5,769,747	\$4,793,929	\$3,571,919
2020	\$3,750,559	\$3,723,794	\$2,399,612
2022	\$5,838,502	\$5,768,061	\$4,179,524
2024	\$8,413,909	\$7,265,304	\$5,026,821
2010	\$4,526,290	\$4,393,487	\$2,365,419

County party committees continue to benefit from the enactment last year of the most sweeping overhaul of campaign finance laws since 2004. The new law (P.L. 2023, Chapter 30) was signed April 3, 2023, by Governor Phil Murphy.

The law doubled the maximum annual contribution to county party committees from \$37,500 to \$75,000.

In addition, the law permitted the 42 county parties and two state parties to create new “housekeeping” accounts earmarked solely for administrative expenses. A donor can give \$75,000 to regular campaign accounts plus \$37,500 to the administrative accounts for a total of \$112,500 each year.

So far, county parties have received an extra \$212,500 from contributors who would have been limited to \$37,500 prior to the 2023 legislation.

The new law also ended tight contribution caps on public contractors to party committees. Before the new law, contractors faced the risk of losing public contractors if they made contributions of more than \$300. Contractors now can give up to the \$112,500 maximum just like other contributors. To date, contractors, mainly engineering and law firms, have given \$1,795,119 to county parties.

Along with benefits from the 2023 legislative changes, House candidates have contributed \$243,918 through September 30, while U.S. Senate candidates have given \$91,820.

**Table 3 • Extra Contributions Due to 2023 Legislation or Federal Elections**

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Public Contractors	\$1,795,119
Federal Candidates	\$ 305,738 <sup>2</sup>
Extra Windfall from Contributions Above \$37,500	\$ 212,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,313,357</b>

The \$2.3 million boost represents more than 27 percent of the \$8.4 million in county fund-raising through September 30, 2024.

Eleven Democratic county party committees- Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Passaic, Somerset and Union- reported cash-on-hand totals above \$100,000.

**Table 4 • Campaign Finance Activity of Democratic County Party Committees  
January 1 Through September 30, 2024**

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Atlantic	\$ 84,241	\$ 60,363	\$ 26,226	\$ 26,226
Bergen	\$ 843,927	\$ 383,265	\$ 786,102	\$ 786,102
Burlington	\$ 257,425	\$ 75,391	\$ 236,628	\$ 230,253
Camden	\$ 380,157	\$ 465,831	\$ 196,638	\$ 74,559
Cape May	\$ 38,719	\$ 23,283	\$ 33,140	\$ 33,140
Cumberland	\$ 35,466	\$ 29,351	\$ 24,764	\$ 24,764
Essex	\$ 514,942	\$ 535,396	\$ 228,977	\$ 228,977
Gloucester	\$ 531,802	\$ 266,130	\$ 478,805	\$ 459,969
Hudson	\$ 272,519	\$ 194,000	\$ 107,114	(\$ 45,735)
Hunterdon**	\$ 14,600	\$ 33,760	\$ 6,882	\$ 6,882
Mercer	\$ 38,362	\$ 36,056	\$ 343,021	\$ 342,444
Middlesex	\$ 872,198	\$1,112,331	\$ 118,485	\$ 118,485
Monmouth	\$ 182,157	\$ 160,502	\$ 27,518	\$ 27,518
Morris	\$ 136,770	\$ 155,824	\$ 39,135	\$ 39,134
Ocean	\$ 26,442	\$ 29,155	\$ 34,036	\$ 50,203
Passaic	\$ 889,590	\$ 889,118	\$ 243,356	\$ 243,356
Salem**	\$ 21,098	\$ 41,481	\$ 46,281	\$ 46,281
Somerset	\$ 259,602	\$ 248,772	\$ 238,274	\$ 238,274
Sussex	\$ 76,293	\$ 53,464	\$ 61,839	\$ 61,839
Union	\$ 378,892	\$ 267,821	\$ 510,715	\$ 510,715
Warren***	\$ 2,965	\$ 1,417	\$ 3,365	\$ 2,469
<b>Democrats-Total</b>	<b>\$5,858,166</b>	<b>\$5,062,713</b>	<b>\$3,791,302</b>	<b>\$3,505,855</b>

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

\*\* Second quarter totals.

\*\*\*First quarter totals.

<sup>2</sup> \$335,738 total reduced by \$30,000 to avoid double-counting. The \$30,000 is included in the \$212,500 windfall.

Four Republican county party committees- Cape May, Cumberland, Monmouth, and Ocean- reported cash-on-hand totals above \$100,000.

**Table 5 • Campaign Finance Activity of Republican County Party Committees  
January 1 Through September 30, 2024**

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Atlantic	\$ 117,146	\$ 146,029	\$ 46,750	\$ 46,750
Bergen	\$ 151,250	\$ 103,791	\$ 58,587	\$ 58,587
Burlington	\$ 75,461	\$ 63,453	\$ 29,018	\$ 538,433
Camden	\$ 48,942	\$ 35,999	\$ 21,068	\$ 21,037
Cape May	\$ 160,375	\$ 163,665	\$ 364,446	\$ 364,446
Cumberland	\$ 139,563	\$ 64,458	\$ 117,394	\$ 110,368
Essex	\$ 50,000	\$ 34,488	\$ 18,321	\$ 18,321
Gloucester	\$ 18,665	\$ 2,867	\$ 15,798	\$ 15,798
Hudson**	\$ 0	\$ 725	\$ 0	\$ 0
Hunterdon	\$ 108,884	\$ 112,551	\$ 6,793	(\$ 2,207)
Mercer	\$ 11,110	\$ 7,064	\$ 10,305	\$ 10,305
Middlesex	\$ 67,687	\$ 64,310	\$ 23,711	\$ 23,479
Monmouth	\$ 338,173	\$ 303,080	\$ 143,021	\$ 143,021
Morris	\$ 116,580	\$ 114,925	\$ 24,922	\$ 19,722
Ocean	\$ 523,995	\$ 405,646	\$ 128,574	\$ 128,574
Passaic	\$ 180,045	\$ 169,060	\$ 29,918	\$ 3,149
Salem	\$ 60,725	\$ 39,751	\$ 59,483	\$ 59,483
Somerset	\$ 103,457	\$ 82,083	\$ 40,502	(\$ 5,251)
Sussex	\$ 63,866	\$ 61,915	\$ 13,288	\$ 13,017
Union	\$ 119,801	\$ 124,754	\$ 51,508	\$ 51,508
Warren	\$ 100,018	\$ 101,978	\$ 32,111	\$ 32,111
<b>Republicans-Total</b>	<b>\$2,555,743</b>	<b>\$2,202,591</b>	<b>\$1,235,519</b>	<b>\$1,650,649</b>

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

\*\*First quarter totals.

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by noon October 29, 2024. They have yet to be verified by ELEC staff and should be considered preliminary.

Individual reports can be reviewed on ELEC's website [www.elec.nj.gov](http://www.elec.nj.gov)

## “Big Six” Committees Remain in Second Gear with State Elections Still More Than a Year Away

Campaign finance activity by the two state parties and four legislative leadership committees- the so-called “Big Six”- is running slightly under the six-year average for federal election years, according to disclosure reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Combined, the six committees have raised three percent less and spent eight percent less than the average of the six federal election years since 2014. Using the average for all elections since 2013, fund-raising was 42 percent lower and spending 48 percent less.

However, there still is lots of time to raise funds for the next major state election, which is more than 12 months from now and when voters will select a new governor and fill 80 state Assembly seats.

**Table 1 • Campaign Finance Activity by “Big Six” Through 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter by Years**

YEAR	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	ELECTION TYPE
2013	\$ 7,203,008	\$5,917,331	\$2,970,203	Governor and Both Houses
2014	\$ 2,444,799	\$1,887,661	\$1,388,946	Federal
2015	\$ 3,896,539	\$3,579,018	\$1,984,629	Assembly
2016	\$ 2,195,300	\$1,985,370	\$1,188,706	Federal
2017	\$ 5,835,574	\$5,354,876	\$2,317,953	Governor and Both Houses
2018	\$ 3,846,796	\$3,293,435	\$1,298,934	Federal
2019	\$ 3,767,926	\$3,717,128	\$1,476,354	Assembly
2020	\$ 2,577,166	\$2,173,600	\$1,063,632	Federal
2021	\$10,105,364	\$8,878,871	\$2,597,809	Governor and Both Houses
2022	\$ 3,081,272	\$2,480,441	\$1,620,865	Federal
2023	\$ 9,070,722	\$8,206,918	\$3,624,080	Senate and Assembly
<b>2024</b>	<b>\$ 2,720,563</b>	<b>\$2,145,456</b>	<b>\$2,348,254</b>	<b>Federal</b>
<b>Average-6 Federal Election Years</b>	<b>\$2,810,983</b>	<b>\$2,327,661</b>	<b>\$1,484,890</b>	
<b>Difference- %</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>58%</b>	
<b>Average-12 State and Federal Election Years</b>	<b>\$4,728,752</b>	<b>\$4,135,009</b>	<b>\$1,990,030</b>	
<b>Difference- %</b>	<b>-42%</b>	<b>-48%</b>	<b>18%</b>	

Big Six committees also are sitting on a combined cash reserve of \$2.3 million that is 58 percent higher than the typical campaign stash during a federal election year, and 18 percent above the average for all election years since 2013.

Democrats hold the most seats in both legislative houses along with the governorship.

They have raised more than twice as much and spent four times more as Republicans during the first nine months of 2024.

Perhaps most significantly, Democrats have more than three times more cash in the bank that can be used for future spending.



**Table 2 • Fundraising by “Big Six” Committees  
January 1 Through September 30, 2024**

REPUBLICIANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NETWORTH
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 390,788	\$ 260,835	\$ 157,582	\$ 157,582
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 191,871	\$ 94,407	\$ 171,340	\$ 171,340
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 212,147	\$ 64,592	\$ 218,663	\$ 218,663
<b>Sub-Total- Republicans</b>	<b>\$ 794,807</b>	<b>\$ 419,834</b>	<b>\$ 547,585</b>	<b>\$ 547,585</b>
<b>DEMOCRATS</b>				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$ 835,759	\$ 958,182	\$ 12,114	\$ (18,080)
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 366,175	\$ 234,951	\$1,023,560	\$1,023,560
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 723,822	\$ 532,490	\$ 764,996	\$ 734,557
<b>Sub-Total- Democrats</b>	<b>\$1,925,756</b>	<b>\$1,725,623</b>	<b>\$1,800,669</b>	<b>\$1,740,038</b>
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>\$2,720,563</b>	<b>\$2,145,456</b>	<b>\$2,348,254</b>	<b>\$2,287,623</b>

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

\*\*Some spending totals may exceed fundraising totals because the committee dipped into reserves or incurred debt.

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 [www.elec.nj.gov](http://www.elec.nj.gov). ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook [www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw](https://www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw) and YouTube [www.youtube.com/user/NJELEC](https://www.youtube.com/user/NJELEC)

## 2024 Reporting Dates

	Inclusion Dates	Report Due Date
<b>Fire Commissioner – February 17, 2024</b>		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 01/16/2024	01/19/2024
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	01/17/2024 – 02/03/2024	02/06/2024
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	02/04/2024 – 03/05/2024	03/08/2024
72–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 02/04/2024 through 02/09/2024		
24–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 02/10/2024 through 02/17/2024		
<b>April Schoolboard – April 16, 2024</b>		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 03/15/2024	03/18/2024
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	03/16/2024 – 04/02/2024	04/05/2024
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	04/03/2024 – 05/03/2024	05/06/2024
72–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 04/03/2024 through 04/08/2024		
24–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 04/09/2024 through 04/16/2024		
<b>May Municipal – May 14, 2024</b>		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 04/12/2024	04/15/2024
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	04/13/2024 – 04/30/2024	05/03/2024
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	05/01/2024 – 05/30/2024	06/03/2024
72–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 05/01/2024 through 05/06/2024		
24–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 05/07/2024 through 05/14/2024		
<b>Runoff (June)** – June 11, 2024</b>		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	05/01/2024 – 05/28/2024	05/31/2024
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	05/29/2024 – 06/28/2024	07/01/2024
72–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 05/29/2024 through 06/03/2024		
24–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 06/04/2024 through 06/11/2024		
<b>Primary (90 day start date – March 06, 2024)*** – June 04, 2024</b>		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign – 05/03/2024	05/06/2024
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	05/04/2024 – 05/21/2024	05/24/2024
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	05/22/2024 – 06/21/2024	06/24/2024
72–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 05/22/2024 through 05/27/2024		
24–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 05/28/2024 through 06/04/2024		
<b>General (90 day start date – August 07, 2024)*** – November 05, 2024</b>		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	06/22/2024 – 10/04/2024	10/07/2024
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	10/5/2024 – 10/22/2024	10/25/2024
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	10/23/2024 – 11/22/2024	11/25/2024
72–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 10/23/2024 through 10/28/2024		
24–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 10/29/2024 through 11/05/2024		



	Inclusion Dates	Report Due Date
<b>Run-off (December)** – December 03, 2024</b>		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	10/23/2024 – 11/19/2024	11/22/2024
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	11/20/2024 – 12/20/2024	12/23/2024
72-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 11/20/2024 through 11/25/2024		
24-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 11/26/2024 through 12/03/2024		
<b>PACs, PCFRs &amp; Campaign Quarterly Filers</b>		
1st Quarter	01/01/2024 – 03/31/2024	04/15/2024
2nd Quarter	04/01/2024 – 06/30/2024	07/15/2024
3rd Quarter	07/01/2024 – 09/30/2024	10/15/2024
4th Quarter	10/01/2024 – 12/31/2024	01/15/2025
<b>Governmental Affairs Agents (Q-4)</b>		
1st Quarter	01/01/2024 – 03/31/2024	04/10/2024
2nd Quarter	04/01/2024 – 06/30/2024	07/10/2024
3rd Quarter	07/01/2024 – 09/30/2024	10/10/2024
4th Quarter	10/01/2024 – 12/31/2024	01/10/2025

\*Inception Date of Campaign (first time filers) or from January 01, 2024 (Quarterly filers).

\*\*A candidate committee or joint candidates committee that is filing in a 2024 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 04, 2024 for Primary Election Candidates and June 14, 2024 for Independent General Election Candidates.

Note: A 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2023 filing is needed for Primary 2024 candidates if they started their campaign prior to December 06, 2023. A 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2024 filing is needed by Independent/Non-Partisan General Election candidates if they started their campaign prior to May 07, 2024.

## HOW TO CONTACT ELEC

In Person: 25 South Stockton Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Trenton, NJ  
 By Mail: P.O. Box 185, Trenton, NJ 08625  
 By Telephone: (609) 292-8700  
[www.elec.nj.gov](http://www.elec.nj.gov)

## DIRECTORS

Amanda S. Haines  
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