



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:
September 1, 2010

Nearly \$4 million in donations to municipal political party committees in 2009 now can be easily searched through the website of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), Executive Director Jeff Brindle announced today.

With the addition of the municipal political party contributions to ELEC's larger searchable database, almost \$40 million in donations to local candidates and committees in 2009 is now readily retrievable.

"New Jersey is now one of the few states in the nation to provide online access to municipal donations," Brindle said.

Last November, Brindle announced that ELEC would be moving to provide greater access to local donations made in 2009.

Online lookups can be performed on donations made during school board, May municipal, runoff, primary and general elections. Added to this searchable database are contributions made to municipal political party committees throughout the state. The website address is: (www.elec.state.nj.us/publicinformation/searchdatabase.htm).

Hundreds of millions of dollars in donations to state and county candidates and fundraising committees also can be searched and sorted through the website.

Before the local donor initiative was launched, members of the public, media, candidates and others could view those donations only by printing or electronically viewing paper reports, which can be time-consuming.

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“Ensuring that local donations are searchable is one of my top priorities,” Brindle said. “This achievement was possible only through the dedication and hard work of our data entry and computer staff.”

“Providing the public with expanded access to contribution data for local candidates and committees moves ELEC closer to fulfilling its central mission: namely, to maximize disclosure of campaign financial activity involving state, county and municipal campaigns within New Jersey,” Brindle said.

The latest batch of municipal contribution data includes 5,804 donations totaling \$3.99 million to nearly 200 Republican and Democratic party committees throughout the state.

The following local committees were the top ten largest recipients of campaign donations last year:

MUNICIPAL PARTY COMMITTEE	AMOUNT
North Bergen Democratic Municipal Committee	\$ 668,830
Union City First	\$ 365,912
Edison Democratic Organization	\$ 174,098
West New York Democratic County Committee	\$ 167,355
Hamilton Township Republican Committee	\$ 126,890
Democratic Club of Palisades Park	\$ 110,550
Monroe Township Democratic Organization	\$ 96,763
Hillside Democratic Committee	\$ 90,226
Camden City Regular Democratic Organization	\$ 89,386
Mount Laurel Republican County Committee	\$ 82,209

Collectively statewide, Democratic committees raised more than Republican committees:

PARTY	AMOUNT
Democrat	\$ 3,360,199
Republican	\$ 633,475
Grand Total	\$ 3,993,673

The top ten sources of donations to local party committees were as follows. The totals of four of the top five donors included funding from national organizations, most likely because the Governor's seat and all 80 Assembly seats were up for reelection last year.

SOURCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS	AMOUNT
Democratic Governors Association	\$ 224,200
Laborers Union *	\$ 128,950
Republican National Committee	\$ 103,264
AFSCME Union *	\$ 58,400
Union County Democratic Committee	\$ 57,450
Camden County Democratic Committee	\$ 43,000
Federici & Akin	\$ 40,800
Women For Good Government	\$ 40,000
Essex County Democratic Committee	\$ 37,400
IBEW Union *	\$ 35,250

* Totals combine donations from national and local affiliates.

ELEC staff can help with searches or answer other questions. To reach them, call the toll-free hotline at 1-888-313-3532 (within New Jersey only) or by dialing 609-292-8700.

This press release is a compilation of figures reported to the Commission, and is not intended to express any opinion concerning the accuracy or completeness of any filed report. Further, although the Commission has taken all reasonable precautions to prevent mathematical or typographical errors, the possibility of their existence cannot be entirely eliminated. Copies of reports are available on ELEC's website at www.elec.state.nj.us.

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