



NEWS RELEASE

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As the state's two major political parties gear up for a fall showdown over all 120 legislative seats, the latest reports from their top six fundraising committees show they already have stockpiled a combined \$2.2 million for the campaign.

Reports filed by the two state parties and four Legislative Leadership committees also indicate that Republicans raised and spent more money than Democrats during the quarter. The GOP also ended March 31 with bigger reserves.

Table 1
Fundraising by "Big Six" Committees through March 31, 2011

COMMITTEE	RAISED 31-Mar-11	SPENT 31-Mar-11	CASH-ON-HAND 31-Mar-11	NET WORTH * 31-Mar-11
REPUBLICANS				
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 739,773	\$ 327,384	\$ 587,211	\$ 357,627
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 182,192	\$ 49,301	\$ 740,260	\$ 740,260
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 159,623	\$ 50,699	\$ 402,911	\$ 402,911
Sub Total-Republicans	\$ 1,081,588	\$ 427,384	\$ 1,730,382	\$ 1,500,798
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$ 188,825	\$ 133,732	\$ 49,629	(\$ 29,536)
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 197,845	\$ 102,403	\$ 305,201	\$ 335,201
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 269,981	\$ 114,328	\$ 415,714	\$ 385,275
Sub Total-Democrats	\$ 656,651	\$ 350,463	\$ 770,544	\$ 690,940
Total- Both Parties	\$ 1,738,239	\$ 777,847	\$ 2,500,926	\$ 2,191,738

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

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Compared to four years ago, which was the last time there was a contest for all 120 legislative seats, Republican fundraising has improved while Democratic fundraising has declined.

Table 2
First Quarter Fundraising 2007 versus 2011-
Combined Totals for the “Big Six” Committees of Each Party

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND FOR QUARTER	NET WORTH FOR QUARTER*
1st Quarter 2007	\$ 300,144	\$ 87,496	\$ 1,352,560	\$ 1,237,077
1st Quarter 2011	\$ 1,081,588	\$ 427,384	\$ 1,730,382	\$ 1,500,798
Difference-Dollars	\$ 781,444	\$ 339,888	\$ 377,822	\$ 263,721
Difference-%	260%	388%	28%	21%
DEMOCRATS				
1st Quarter 2007	\$ 1,367,003	\$ 793,013	\$ 4,013,288	\$ 3,944,761
1st Quarter 2011	\$ 656,651	\$ 350,463	\$ 770,544	\$ 690,940
Difference-Dollars	\$ (710,352)	\$ (442,550)	\$ (3,242,744)	\$ (3,253,821)
Difference-%	-52%	-56%	-81%	-82%

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

Due to the increase in Republican fundraising, combined fundraising for both parties was up 4 percent compared to four years ago. However, combined spending, cash-on-hand and net worth all were down.

Table 3
First Quarter Fundraising 2007 versus 2011-
Combined Totals for Both Parties

	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND FOR QUARTER	NET WORTH FOR QUARTER
Both Parties Combined-1st Quarter 2007	\$ 1,667,147	\$ 880,508	\$ 5,365,848	\$ 5,181,837
Both Parties Combined-1st Quarter 2011	\$ 1,738,239	\$ 777,847	\$ 2,500,926	\$ 2,191,738
Difference-Dollars	\$ 71,092	\$ (102,661)	\$ (2,864,922)	\$ (2,990,099)
Difference-%	4%	-12%	-53%	-58%

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said “Big Six” financial activity seems to be influenced by several factors.

Fundraising prospects typically improve when a new party wins the governor’s seat, and, that appears to be the case following Republican Chris Christie’s victory over Democrat Jon Corzine in 2009.

However, Corzine's loss may have hurt Democratic fundraising because the former Governor, previously a major contributor to New Jersey fundraising committees, has curtailed his contribution activity.

Both parties also are confronted with a smaller pool of contributors due to state "pay-to-play" restrictions adopted since 2006, which have led to a sharp reduction in contributions made by state contractors. The recession and its aftermath also could be putting a damper on fundraising.

"While combined fundraising is up slightly from four years ago, it is clear from previous analyses that fundraising for state campaigns has gotten more difficult," said Brindle.

"If contractors still could contribute without restrictions, and the recession hadn't forced some donors out of business or made them curtail their political giving, both parties probably would be raising more funds these days," he said.

State Party Committees 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.

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