



NEWS RELEASE

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With legislative elections looming this fall, the state's two major political parties have amassed a combined war-chest of \$3.3 million, according to their latest reports.

Reports filed by the two state parties and four Legislative Leadership Committees show that Republicans continued to have more success than Democrats during the quarter that ended June 30. They raised and spent more, and have more than twice as much in reserve.

Table 1
Fundraising by "Big Six" Committees
January 1 through June 30, 2011

COMMITTEE	RAISED- JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2011	SPENT- JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2011	CASH-ON-HAND JUNE 30, 2011	NET WORTH* JUNE 30, 2011
REPUBLICANS				
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$1,692,379	\$777,021	\$1,090,179	\$902,096
Senate Republican Majority	\$394,844	\$172,021	\$830,192	\$827,603
Assembly Republican Victory	\$331,168	\$174,866	\$449,788	\$447,200
Sub Total- Republicans	\$2,418,391	\$1,123,908	\$2,370,159	\$2,176,899
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$377,254	\$289,382	\$82,408	\$18,399
Senate Democratic Majority	\$454,239	\$253,575	\$410,423	\$440,423
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$434,583	\$248,155	\$466,488	\$416,049
Sub Total- Democrats	\$1,266,076	\$791,112	\$959,319	\$874,871
Total- Both Parties	\$3,684,467	\$1,915,020	\$3,329,478	\$3,051,770

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

Compared to four years ago, which was the last time there was a contest for all 120 legislative seats, combined fundraising for all "Big Six" committees is down 36 percent and spending down 18 percent. Cash-on-hand and net worth both are down even more.

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Table 2
Fundraising January 1 through June 30
2007 Versus 2011-
Combined Totals for Both Parties

	RAISED- JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30	SPENT- JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30	CASH-ON-HAND THROUGH JUNE 30	NET WORTH THROUGH JUNE 30
Both Parties Combined- 2nd Quarter 2007	\$ 5,776,859	\$ 2,328,316	\$ 8,015,277	\$ 7,911,808
Both Parties Combined- 2nd Quarter 2011	\$ 3,684,467	\$ 1,915,020	\$ 3,329,478	\$ 3,051,770
Difference-Dollars	\$ (2,092,392)	\$ (413,296)	\$ (4,685,799)	\$ (4,860,038)
Difference-%	-36%	-18%	-58%	-61%

Continuing a trend that began following the election of Republican Governor Chris Christie in January 2010, Republican fundraising fortunes have improved steadily while Democratic totals are down compared to four years ago.

Table 3
Fundraising April 1 through June 30
2007 Versus 2011-
Combined Totals for the “Big Six” Committees of Each Party

REPUBLICANS	RAISED- APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30	SPENT- APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30	CASH-ON-HAND THROUGH JUNE 30	NET WORTH THROUGH JUNE 30*
2nd Quarter 2007	\$ 924,705	\$ 448,446	\$ 1,828,364	\$ 1,705,744
2nd Quarter 2011	\$ 1,336,803	\$ 696,525	\$ 2,370,159	\$ 2,176,899
Difference-Dollars	\$ 412,098	\$ 248,079	\$ 541,795	\$ 471,155
Difference-%	45%	55%	30%	28%
DEMOCRATS				
2nd Quarter 2007	\$ 3,185,007	\$ 999,362	\$ 6,186,913	\$ 6,206,064
2nd Quarter 2011	\$ 609,425	\$ 440,650	\$ 959,319	\$ 874,871
Difference-Dollars	\$ (2,575,582)	\$ (558,712)	\$ (5,227,594)	\$ (5,331,193)
Difference-%	-81%	-56%	-84%	-86%

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

It should be noted that separate reports recently filed by individual legislative candidates show that Democrats still enjoy a two-to-one advantage among those candidates. Democrats reported having \$9.5 million in reserves, compared to \$4.2 million for Republicans. Democrats currently control both legislative houses.

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said several factors have had an impact on “Big Six” fundraising trends.

“One is the recession, which has forced some contributors to go out-of-business and caused others to reduce the size of their checks,” he said.

“While Republicans are doing better now compared to four years ago, combined fundraising is down. That may be explained by the fact that state contractors now face tight contribution limits under pay-to-play laws. Many contractors have simply stopped making contributions to all state elections, and that has made fundraising harder for both parties,” he said.

Democrats have lost additional financial support because former Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine, previously a major contributor to New Jersey fundraising committees, has scaled back his activity.

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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