



# NEWS RELEASE

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With just three weeks until the Nov. 8 election, the state's two major political parties have raised a combined \$6.9 million so far this year while spending \$5 million, according to their latest quarterly reports on campaign finance activity.

Reports filed by the two state parties and four Legislative Leadership Committees with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) show that Republican committees continue to raise and spend more than Democratic committees through September 30, and have more than twice the reserves.

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

| COMMITTEE                              | RAISED THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30 | SPENT THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30 | CASH-ON-HAND ON SEPTEMBER 30 | NET WORTH* ON SEPTEMBER 30 |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>REPUBLICANS</b>                     |                             |                            |                              |                            |
| New Jersey Republican State Committee  | \$ 3,172,189                | \$ 2,222,991               | \$ 1,124,019                 | \$ 1,009,019               |
| Senate Republican Majority             | \$ 710,712                  | \$ 415,860                 | \$ 902,220                   | \$ 774,885                 |
| Assembly Republican Victory            | \$ 577,152                  | \$ 454,045                 | \$ 416,594                   | \$ 413,847                 |
| <b>Sub Total- Republicans</b>          | <b>\$ 4,460,053</b>         | <b>\$ 3,092,896</b>        | <b>\$ 2,442,833</b>          | <b>\$ 2,197,751</b>        |
| <b>DEMOCRATS</b>                       |                             |                            |                              |                            |
| New Jersey Democratic State Committee  | \$ 889,450                  | \$ 688,886                 | \$ 195,100                   | \$ 136,247                 |
| Senate Democratic Majority             | \$ 725,638                  | \$ 625,471                 | \$ 309,926                   | \$ 339,926                 |
| Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee | \$ 838,780                  | \$ 618,441                 | \$ 480,400                   | \$ 449,961                 |
| <b>Sub Total- Democrats</b>            | <b>\$ 2,453,868</b>         | <b>\$ 1,932,798</b>        | <b>\$ 985,426</b>            | <b>\$ 926,134</b>          |
| <b>Total- Both Parties</b>             | <b>\$ 6,913,921</b>         | <b>\$ 5,025,694</b>        | <b>\$ 3,428,259</b>          | <b>\$ 3,123,885</b>        |

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

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Located at: 28 W. State Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Trenton, New Jersey

Compared to four years ago, which was the last time all 120 legislative seats were up for reelection, combined “Big Six” fundraising is down 26 percent, and spending down 25 percent. Cash-on-hand and net worth both were down more than 50 percent.

**Table 2**  
**Campaign Finance Activity January 1 through September 30**  
**2007 versus 2011-**  
**Combined Totals for Both Parties**

|                                | <b>RAISED- JANUARY 1<br/>THROUGH<br/>SEPTEMBER 30</b> | <b>SPENT- JANUARY 1<br/>THROUGH<br/>SEPTEMBER 30</b> | <b>CASH-ON-HAND<br/>ON SEPTEMBER 30</b> | <b>NET WORTH*<br/>ON SEPTEMBER 30</b> |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Both Parties<br>Combined -2007 | \$ 9,322,605  | \$ 6,713,166   | \$ 7,176,172                            | \$ 7,095,891                          |
| Both Parties<br>Combined- 2011 | \$ 6,913,921  | \$ 5,025,694   | \$ 3,428,259                            | \$ 3,123,885                          |
| <b>Difference-Dollars</b>      | <b>\$ (2,408,684)</b>                                 | <b>\$ (1,687,472)</b>                                | <b>\$ (3,747,913)</b>                   | <b>\$ (3,972,006)</b>                 |
| <b>Difference-%</b>            | <b>-26%</b>   | <b>-25%</b>  | <b>-52%</b>                             | <b>-56%</b>                           |

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

Since 2007, fundraising totals reported by Democratic committees are down while those of Republican committees have improved.

**Table 3**  
**Fundraising January 1 through September 30**  
**2007 Versus 2011**

**Combined totals for the “Big Six” Committees of Each Party**

|                           | <b>RAISED- JANUARY 1<br/>THROUGH<br/>SEPTEMBER 30</b> | <b>SPENT- JANUARY 1<br/>THROUGH<br/>SEPTEMBER 30</b> | <b>CASH-ON-HAND<br/>ON SEPTEMBER 30</b> | <b>NET WORTH*<br/>ON SEPTEMBER 30</b> |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>REPUBLICANS</b>        |   |  |   |                                       |
| 2007                      | \$ 2,417,714  | \$ 1,910,229   | \$ 1,646,941                            | \$ 1,537,758                          |
| 2011                      | \$ 4,460,053  | \$ 3,092,896   | \$ 2,442,833                            | \$ 2,197,751                          |
| <b>Difference-Dollars</b> | <b>\$ 2,042,339</b>                                   | <b>\$ 1,182,667</b>                                  | <b>\$ 795,892</b>                       | <b>\$ 659,993</b>                     |
| <b>Difference-%</b>       | <b>84%</b>  | <b>62%</b>   | <b>48%</b>                              | <b>43%</b>                            |
| <b>DEMOCRATS</b>          |   |  |   |                                       |
| 2007                      | \$ 6,904,891  | \$ 4,802,937   | \$ 5,529,231                            | \$ 5,558,133                          |
| 2011                      | \$ 2,453,868  | \$ 1,932,798   | \$ 985,426                              | \$ 926,134                            |
| <b>Difference-Dollars</b> | <b>\$ (4,451,023)</b>                                 | <b>\$ (2,870,139)</b>                                | <b>\$ (4,543,805)</b>                   | <b>\$ (4,631,999)</b>                 |
| <b>Difference-%</b>       | <b>-64%</b>   | <b>-60%</b>  | <b>-82%</b>                             | <b>-83%</b>                           |

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

The most recent “Big Six” reports showed that during the quarter between July 1 and September 30, the GOP committees raised and spent nearly two times more contributions than Democratic committees.

**Table 4**  
**Quarterly Totals for “Big Six” Committees**

| <b>REPUBLICANS</b>                    | <b>RAISED JULY 1 THROUGH<br/>SEPTEMBER 30</b> | <b>SPENT JULY 1 THROUGH<br/>SEPTEMBER 30</b> |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| New Jersey Republican State Committee | \$ 1,479,809                                  | \$ 1,445,970                                 |
| Senate Republican Majority            | \$ 315,868                                    | \$ 243,839                                   |
| Assembly Republican Victory           | \$ 245,985                                    | \$ 279,178                                   |
| <b>Sub Total Republicans</b>          | <b>\$ 2,041,662</b>                           | <b>\$ 1,968,987</b>                          |
| <b>DEMOCRATS</b>                      |   |  |
| New Jersey Democratic State Committee | \$ 512,196                                    | \$ 399,504                                   |
| Senate Democratic Majority            | \$ 271,399                                    | \$ 371,896                                   |
| Democratic Assembly Campaign          | \$ 404,197                                    | \$ 370,285                                   |
| <b>Sub Total Democrats</b>            | <b>\$ 1,187,792</b>                           | <b>\$ 1,141,685</b>                          |
| <b>Total- Both Parties</b>            | <b>\$ 3,229,454</b>                           | <b>\$ 3,110,672</b>                          |

It should be mentioned that separate reports filed by individual legislative candidates show that Democrats still enjoy a two-to-one advantage among those candidates. In 29-day pre-election reports made public on October 18, Democrats reported having cash reserves totaling \$8.6 million while Republicans reported \$4.7 million. Democrats currently control both houses.

“The latest reports from “Big Six” committees confirm trends we’ve seen recently,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director.

“There is no better barometer of the impact of pay-to-play on fundraising than these statistics showing Big Six receipts down by 26 percent,” said Brindle.

“The state party committees and legislative leadership committees are all directly subject to pay-to-play restrictions and as such their fundraising is being inhibited,” he added.

Brindle said that “there is no question but that the economy, the absence of former Governor Jon Corzine as a major contributor, and the increased presence of independent outside groups have all played a part in the decline.”

“But the downward trend began with pay-to-play in 2006” 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](http://www.elec.state.nj.us).