



NEWS RELEASE

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The so-called “Big Six” committees of the two major political parties raised and spent more than \$15 million last year when all 120 legislative seats were up for reelection, 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 outraised and outspent Democratic committees even though Democrats maintained control of both legislative houses.

TABLE 1
FUNDRAISING BY “BIG SIX” COMMITTEES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2011

COMMITTEE	RAISED THROUGH DECEMBER 31	SPENT THROUGH DECEMBER 31	CASH-ON-HAND ON DECEMBER 31	NET WORTH*ON DECEMBER 31
REPUBLICANS				
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 5,516,265	\$ 5,152,081	\$ 539,005	\$ 407,820
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 1,147,974	\$ 1,549,022	\$ 206,321	\$ 103,986
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 1,502,821	\$ 1,727,039	\$ 69,269	\$ 69,269
Sub Total-Republicans	\$ 8,167,060	\$ 8,428,142	\$ 814,595	\$ 581,075
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$ 3,220,781	\$ 3,113,386	\$ 101,932	\$ 63,535
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 1,977,266	\$ 2,112,012	\$ 75,013	\$ 55,013
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 1,670,361	\$ 1,893,819	\$ 36,602	\$ 6,164
Sub Total-Democrats	\$ 6,868,408	\$ 7,119,217	\$ 213,547	\$ 124,712
Total-Both Parties	\$ 15,035,468	\$ 15,547,359	\$ 1,028,142	\$ 705,787

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

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Compared to 2007, which was the last time all 120 legislative seats defended their seats, combined “Big Six” fundraising was down 22 percent, while spending was down 33 percent.

TABLE 2
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31
2007 VERSUS 2011
COMBINED TOTALS FOR BOTH PARTIES

	RAISED THROUGH DECEMBER 31	SPENT THROUGH DECEMBER 31	CASH-ON-HAND ON DECEMBER 31	NET WORTH* ON DECEMBER 31
Both Parties Combined -2007	\$ 19,177,657	\$ 23,367,063	\$ 377,298	\$ (521,408)
Both Parties Combined -2011	\$ 15,035,468	\$ 15,547,359	\$ 1,028,142	\$ 705,787
Difference-Dollars	\$ (4,142,189)	\$ (7,819,704)	\$ 650,844	\$ 1,227,195
Difference-%	-22%	-33%	173%	N/A

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

While combined fundraising and spending for the “Big Six” both are down since 2007, Republican committees raised and spent more than they did four years ago. Democratic committee totals are down from that election.

TABLE 3
FUNDRAISING JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31
2007 VERSUS 2011
COMBINED TOTALS FOR THE “BIG SIX” COMMITTEES OF EACH PARTY

	RAISED THROUGH DECEMBER 31	SPENT THROUGH DECEMBER 31	CASH-ON-HAND ON DECEMBER 31	NET WORTH* ON DECEMBER 31
REPUBLICANS				
2007	\$ 6,405,304	\$ 7,315,208	\$ 229,550	\$ 122,166
2011	\$ 8,167,060	\$ 8,428,142	\$ 814,595	\$ 581,075
Difference-Dollars	\$ 1,761,756	\$ 1,112,934	\$ 585,045	\$ 458,909
Difference-%	28%	15%	255%	376%
DEMOCRATS				
2007	\$ 12,772,353	\$ 16,051,855	\$ 147,748	\$ (643,574)
2011	\$ 6,868,408	\$ 7,119,217	\$ 213,547	\$ 124,712
Difference-Dollars	\$ (5,903,945)	\$ (8,932,638)	\$ 65,799	\$ 768,286
Difference-%	-46%	-56%	45%	N/A

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

During the final weeks before the November 8 election and in the days after it, Democrats outraised and outspent Republicans.

**TABLE 4
QUARTERLY TOTALS FOR “BIG SIX” COMMITTEES**

	RAISED SEPTEMBER 30 THROUGH DECEMBER 31	SPENT SEPTEMBER 30 THROUGH DECEMBER 31
REPUBLICANS		
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 2,344,077	\$ 2,929,090
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 437,262	\$ 1,133,162
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 350,015	\$ 697,341
Sub Total-Republican	\$ 3,131,354	\$ 4,759,593
DEMOCRATS		
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$ 2,331,332	\$ 2,424,500
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 1,251,628	\$ 1,486,541
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 831,581	\$ 1,275,378
Sub Total-Democrats	\$ 4,414,541	\$ 5,186,419
Total-Both Parties	\$ 7,545,895	\$ 9,946,012

“The latest reports from the “Big Six” committees provide further evidence of a trend we saw all last year- overall fundraising and spending are down from 2007,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director. He noted that an earlier analysis showed that fundraising and spending by individual legislators last year was down 10 percent and 12 percent, respectively, compared to 2007.

Brindle said he believes pay-to-play restrictions, which sharply limit contributions by state contractors to the two state parties and four legislative leadership PACs, are the main factor for the decline.

“There are other factors as well. The economy. The fact that former Governor Jon Corzine no longer is a major contributor to Democrats. And the growing fundraising by independent groups outside the political establishment,” he said.

Brindle noted that independent committees, which made no expenditures in the 2007 legislative election, spent at least \$783,921 last year. “The actual number is almost certainly above \$1 million since some of the groups were not required to report their spending under current campaign finance laws,” he said.

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 at www.elec.state.nj.us.