



NEWS RELEASE

Respond to:
P.O. Box 185
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0185

(609) 292-8700 or Toll Free Within NJ 1-888-313-ELEC (3532)

CONTACT: JEFF BRINDLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:
January 31, 2012

With all 120 legislative seats at stake in 2011, county party committees jointly raised and spent about \$8.5 million, a significant drop from the previous election when both legislative houses were in contention, according to quarterly reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director, said overall fundraising by the 42 county party committees was down about 42 percent since 2007. That was the last year in which the entire Legislature was up for reelection.

Table 1
Summary of Combined County Party Receipts - 2007 versus 2011

	Raised-2007	Raised-2011	Difference-%
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 11,070,317	\$5,450,349	-51%
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 3,597,070	\$2,998,862	-17%
Total- Both Parties	\$ 14,667,387	\$8,449,211	-42%

"Fundraising by county parties has been on a steady decline since the mid-2000s, when many public contractors simply stopped making contributions after the state adopted tough new contribution limits," said Brindle. "Contractors and others also have scaled back the size of their contributions, perhaps because of the sluggish economy."

"Democratic county committees also have been hurt by the fact that former Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine, one of their biggest patrons during the previous decade, has stopped giving to them," he said.

"There is another reason why overall fundraising is down over the past four years. A new breed of independent non-profit groups is becoming active in campaigns nationally and statewide. These groups appear to be siphoning away contribution dollars that traditionally would have gone to party committees."

While Democratic coffers have suffered more since 2007, Democrats still raised and spent more funds in 2011.

Table 2
Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County Party Committee
from January 1 through December 31, 2011

	Raised	Spent	Cash-on-hand	Net worth*
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 5,450,349	\$ 5,348,502	\$ 867,113	\$ 466,398
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 2,998,862	\$ 3,196,938	\$ 248,964	\$ 661,292
Total- Both Parties	\$ 8,449,211	\$ 8,545,440	\$ 1,116,077	\$ 1,127,690

*Cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the fundraising committee.

-- more --

Located at: 28 W. State Street, 13th Floor, Trenton, New Jersey

Democratic county party committees also outraised and outspent Republicans during the final quarter of the 2011.

Table 3
Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County Party Committees
from September 30 through December 31, 2011

	Raised	Spent
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 2,543,458	\$ 3,236,630
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 1,288,891	\$ 1,602,569
Total- Both Parties	\$ 3,832,349	\$ 4,839,199

Among county party committees last year, the Passaic County Democratic Committee spent the most of any committee- \$732,453. It also ended up with the most cash-on-hand- \$248,548. Among Republican committees, the Burlington County Republican Committee spent the most- \$663,208.

Fundraising committees typically are depleted after a campaign. Still, four Democratic committees- Bergen, Essex, Middlesex and Passaic- reported a net worth of more than \$100,000. Net worth is cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the fundraising committee. Four Democratic counties- Burlington, Gloucester, Hudson and Monmouth- reported being in the red based on their net worth.

Table 4
Campaign Finance Activity by Democratic County Party Committees
from January 1 through December 31, 2011

Democrats	Raised	Spent	Cash-on-hand	Net worth
Atlantic	\$ 156,201	\$ 142,417	\$ 17,386	\$ 17,386
Bergen	\$ 490,967	\$ 499,242	\$ 2,289	\$ 110,399
Burlington	\$ 199,656	\$ 194,854	\$ 6,781	\$ (108,986)
Camden	\$ 496,647	\$ 481,309	\$ 74,667	\$ 74,667
Cape May	\$ 138,437	\$ 142,109	\$ 2,411	\$ 2,411
Cumberland	\$ 162,882	\$ 160,679	\$ 4,097	\$ 4,097
Essex	\$ 294,604	\$ 234,648	\$ 136,154	\$ 136,154
Gloucester	\$ 716,548	\$ 721,626	\$ 20,112	\$ (71,630)
Hudson	\$ 339,318	\$ 351,783	\$ 3,764	\$ (280,617)
Hunterdon	\$ 23,192	\$ 25,433	\$ 13,766	\$ 13,766
Mercer	\$ 253,325	\$ 206,143	\$ 70,986	\$ 70,986
Middlesex	\$ 696,128	\$ 609,090	\$ 109,406	\$ 109,406
Monmouth	\$ 137,409	\$ 114,795	\$ 26,895	\$ (51,130)
Morris	\$ 62,822	\$ 59,826	\$ 10,214	\$ 10,214
Ocean	\$ 37,845	\$ 45,912	\$ 14,074	\$ 75,164
Passaic	\$ 641,973	\$ 732,453	\$ 248,548	\$ 248,548
Salem *	\$ 14,070	\$ 14,697	\$ 50,666	\$ 50,666
Somerset	\$ 230,137	\$ 242,660	\$ 3,908	\$ 3,908
Sussex	\$ 9,982	\$ 10,006	\$ 2,996	\$ 2,996
Union	\$ 347,856	\$ 358,439	\$ 47,971	\$ 47,971
Warren	\$ 350	\$ 381	\$ 22	\$ 22
Democrats-Total	\$ 5,450,349	\$ 5,348,502	\$ 867,113	\$ 466,398

*Through September 30, 2011

Burlington County was the only Republican county to report a net worth above \$100,000. Hunterdon County reported a negative balance.

Table 5
Campaign Finance Activity by Republican County Party
Committees from January 1 through December 31, 2011

Republicans	Raised	Spent	Cash-on-hand	Net Worth
Atlantic	\$ 245,301	\$ 245,965	\$ 11,925	\$ 11,925
Bergen	\$ 368,093	\$ 398,176	\$ 19,240	\$ 19,240
Burlington	\$ 661,785	\$ 663,208	\$ 16,595	\$ 495,412
Camden	\$ 64,619	\$ 104,111	\$ 8,570	\$ 8,130
Cape May	\$ 122,387	\$ 163,488	\$ 17,488	\$ 17,488
Cumberland	\$ 106,658	\$ 103,072	\$ 7,003	\$ 7,003
Essex	\$ 64,802	\$ 66,002	\$ 4,453	\$ 4,453
Gloucester	\$ 38,430	\$ 38,748	\$ 278	\$ 278
Hudson **	na	na	na	na
Hunterdon	\$ 56,496	\$ 49,478	\$ 19,081	\$ (32,919)
Mercer	\$ 53,839	\$ 73,949	\$ 3,645	\$ 3,645
Middlesex	\$ 57,767	\$ 51,095	\$ 21,878	\$ 11,878
Monmouth	\$ 200,299	\$ 216,798	\$ 10,048	\$ 10,048
Morris	\$ 108,240	\$ 126,381	\$ 20,886	\$ 20,886
Ocean	\$ 85,608	\$ 84,768	\$ 3,476	\$ 3,476
Passaic	\$ 114,381	\$ 114,676	\$ 2,695	\$ 2,695
Salem	\$ 49,949	\$ 56,529	\$ 21,096	\$ 21,096
Somerset	\$ 382,241	\$ 422,219	\$ 43,093	\$ 42,118
Sussex	\$ 75,303	\$ 64,485	\$ 14,595	\$ 11,521
Union	\$ 104,493	\$ 114,823	\$ 2,344	\$ 2,344
Warren	\$ 38,171	\$ 38,967	\$ 575	\$ 575
Republicans-Total	\$ 2,998,862	\$ 3,196,938	\$ 248,964	\$ 661,292

**Did not expect to raise more than \$4,900 during the year

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports that have yet to be verified by ELEC and should be considered preliminary. Interested parties are encouraged to review individual reports at ELEC's website (www.elec.state.nj.us).

###