



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:  
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With federal elections dominating New Jersey politics this year, county party committees reported a modest amount of campaign finance activity during the first six months of 2012, jointly raising and spending about \$2.1 million during that period, according to quarterly reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Democratic committees reported raising and spending more and reported a larger combined cash reserve. However, when cash-on-hand is adjusted for debts owed to or by committees, Republicans reported a higher net worth.

**Table 1**  
**Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County Party Committees from January 1 through June 30, 2012**

	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Democratic County Party Committees	\$1,145,486	\$1,387,514	\$ 616,727	\$ 141,005
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 970,253	\$ 799,358	\$ 419,647	\$ 780,993
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>\$2,115,739</b>	<b>\$2,186,873</b>	<b>\$1,036,375</b>	<b>\$ 921,997</b>

\*Cash-on-hand adjusted by debts owed by and to committee.

While fundraising and spending both were slightly higher than during the previous quarter, both were down compared to the same period four years ago for both parties.

**Table 2**  
**Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County Party Committees from January 1 through June 30, 2008**

	RAISED-2008	SPENT-2008	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Democratic County Party Committees	\$1,775,498	\$2,283,776	\$1,251,988	\$1,095,186
Republican County Party Committees	\$1,216,907	\$1,031,139	\$ 367,935	\$ 526,549
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>\$2,992,406</b>	<b>\$3,314,915</b>	<b>\$1,619,924</b>	<b>\$1,621,735</b>
Difference 2012 versus 2008				
Democratic County Party Committees	-35%	-39%	-51%	-87%
Republican County Party Committees	-20%	-22%	14%	48%
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>-29%</b>	<b>-34%</b>	<b>-36%</b>	<b>-43%</b>

\*Cash-on-hand adjusted by debts owed by and to committee.

One caveat- second quarter reports had not been filed as of 5 p.m. July 24 for Cumberland, Monmouth, Salem or Warren Democratic committees, or the Hudson, Middlesex and Union Republican committees. However, those committees generally do not report large totals.

“County committees so far have raised about \$500,000 less than they did last year through the first half of the year,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director. “They raised more money last year due to it being a legislative election year.”

“This year, there could be less pressure to raise money because most of the focus will be federal elections,” he said.

Brindle previously has pointed out that several factors have caused party fundraising totals to decline in recent years. Those factors include the nation’s economic downturn, pay-to-play restrictions that have curtailed contributions by public contractors to party committees, and increased fundraising by committees that spend independently of the parties.

During the first six months of 2012, the Passaic County Democratic Committee raised the most money among Democratic committees, spent the most and reported the largest cash reserve. Five Democratic committees reported a negative net worth- Burlington, Gloucester, Hudson, Monmouth, and Union.

**Table 3**  
**Campaign Finance Activity by Democratic County Party Committees from**  
**January 1 through June 30, 2012 Except Where Noted**

<b>DEMOCRATS</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH</b>
Atlantic	\$ 8,776	\$ 9,394	\$ 17,218	\$ 17,218
Bergen	\$ 188,902	\$ 191,657	\$ (466)	\$ 138,560
Burlington	\$ 28,681	\$ 23,590	\$ 2,788	\$ (112,980)
Camden	\$ 147,225	\$ 164,399	\$ 57,493	\$ 57,493
Cape May	\$ 5,952	\$ 1,721	\$ 6,494	\$ 6,494
Cumberland*	\$ 5,570	\$ 5,505	\$ 4,162	\$ 4,162
Essex	\$ 77,465	\$ 107,268	\$ 106,351	\$ 106,351
Gloucester	\$ 75,141	\$ 88,360	\$ 6,893	\$ (76,690)
Hudson	\$ 21,274	\$ 23,555	\$ 1,483	\$ (336,723)
Hunterdon	\$ 14,842	\$ 7,130	\$ 21,478	\$ 21,478
Mercer	\$ 688	\$ 24,072	\$ 47,603	\$ 47,603
Middlesex	\$ 106,149	\$ 191,806	\$ 23,747	\$ 23,747
Monmouth*	\$ 2,663	\$ 23,253	\$ 6,305	\$ (71,720)
Morris	\$ 33,100	\$ 28,721	\$ 14,593	\$ 14,593
Ocean	\$ 13,318	\$ 17,384	\$ 6,535	\$ 22,702
Passaic	\$ 324,420	\$ 360,081	\$ 212,887	\$ 212,887
Salem*	\$ 10,605	\$ 6,274	\$ 58,655	\$ 58,655
Somerset	\$ 27,231	\$ 17,481	\$ 13,659	\$ 6,879
Sussex	\$ 3,985	\$ 4,354	\$ 2,627	\$ 2,627
Union	\$ 49,499	\$ 91,511	\$ 6,223	\$ (2,331)
Warren	na	na	na	na
<b>Democrats-Total</b>	<b>\$1,145,486</b>	<b>\$1,387,514</b>	<b>\$ 616,727</b>	<b>\$ 141,005</b>

\*Through March 31, 2012.

Among Republicans, the Burlington County Republican Committee raised and spent the most during the six-month period, and reported the largest net worth. The Somerset County Republican Committee reported the most cash-on-hand as of June 30. One county committee- Hunterdon- reported a negative net worth.

**Table 4**  
**Campaign Finance Activity by Republican County Party Committees from**  
**January 1 through June 30, 2012 Except Where Noted**

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH
Atlantic	\$ 22,778	\$ 27,356	\$ 7,347	\$ 7,347
Bergen	\$ 76,089	\$ 89,138	\$ 6,192	\$ 6,192
Burlington	\$ 266,498	\$ 229,923	\$ 53,170	\$ 466,338
Camden	\$ 21,878	\$ 18,992	\$ 11,457	\$ 12,349
Cape May	\$ 29,540	\$ 41,604	\$ 5,724	\$ 5,724
Cumberland	\$ 15,938	\$ 22,010	\$ 932	\$ 932
Essex	\$ 7,360	\$ 6,530	\$ 5,282	\$ 5,282
Gloucester	\$ 15,455	\$ 14,079	\$ 1,653	\$ 1,653
Hudson	na	na	na	na
Hunterdon	\$ 28,770	\$ 29,851	\$ 18,000	\$ (24,000)
Mercer	\$ 4,225	\$ 4,160	\$ 3,710	\$ 3,692
Middlesex*	\$ 4,810	\$ 4,882	\$ 21,296	\$ 11,296
Monmouth	\$ 98,881	\$ 74,138	\$ 34,790	\$ 34,790
Morris	\$ 52,367	\$ 48,032	\$ 25,221	\$ 25,221
Ocean	\$ 53,055	\$ 29,511	\$ 27,020	\$ 27,020
Passaic	\$ 16,425	\$ 18,255	\$ 865	\$ 865
Salem	\$ 24,960	\$ 16,288	\$ 29,768	\$ 29,768
Somerset	\$ 194,979	\$ 85,082	\$ 152,991	\$ 154,167
Sussex	\$ 13,479	\$ 17,268	\$ 10,806	\$ 8,933
Union*	\$ 11,611	\$ 10,887	\$ 3,068	\$ 3,068
Warren	\$ 11,156	\$ 11,374	\$ 357	\$ 357
<b>Republicans-Total</b>	<b>\$ 970,253</b>	<b>\$ 799,358</b>	<b>\$ 419,647</b>	<b>\$ 780,993</b>

\*Through March 31, 2012.

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by 5 p.m. July 24. They have yet to be verified by ELEC and should be considered preliminary. The reports are available on ELEC's website at [www.elec.state.nj.us](http://www.elec.state.nj.us). ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw](http://www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/elecny](http://www.twitter.com/elecny)).

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