



# NEWS RELEASE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:  
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† Updated: February 4, 2013

County party committees raised \$6.4 million† and spent nearly \$5.9 million† in 2012, the lowest totals in at least a decade, according to the latest quarterly reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

**TABLE 1  
COUNTY PARTY FUNDRAISING AND SPENDING  
THROUGH FOURTH QUARTER 2002-2012**

YEAR	RAISED	SPENT	MAJOR STATE ELECTION?
2002	\$ 21,578,971	\$ 19,918,454	No
2003	\$ 27,180,067	\$ 28,110,780	Yes
2004	\$ 20,481,002	\$ 19,548,718	No
2005	\$ 18,893,472	\$ 19,009,467	Yes
2006	\$ 11,977,748	\$ 12,392,107	No
2007	\$ 14,582,167	\$ 14,341,683	Yes
2008	\$ 9,511,311	\$ 9,502,015	No
2009	\$ 13,677,820	\$ 13,324,689	Yes
2010	\$ 7,591,065	\$ 8,712,802	No
2011	\$ 8,449,211	\$ 8,545,440	Yes
2012	\$ 6,407,139†	\$ 5,885,971†	No

Compared to 2002, overall fundraising by county parties is down 71 percent though it should be noted that a few counties still have not filed all reports for 2012. Final totals for 2012 should be slightly higher.

“This is further evidence of what we’ve been saying for some time- fundraising by county party committees is down sharply in recent years,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director.

He believes several factors have contributed to the decline.

“These include a sharp reduction in contributions by public contractors due to tough pay-to-play laws enacted mid-decade and the sluggish economy. Other reasons include more spending by independent groups, including political action committees that essentially are party subsidiaries, and the loss of support from two wealthy gubernatorial candidates who previously gave large sums to county parties.”

In 2012, Democratic committees raised and spent more than Republican committees and reported more cash reserves. Net worth totals, meaning cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by a committee, were almost even.

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**TABLE 2  
SUMMARY OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY COUNTY PARTY  
COMMITTEES FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012**

	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH*</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 3,934,301†	\$ 3,476,627†	\$ 1,301,627†	\$ 945,642†
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 2,472,838	\$ 2,409,344	\$ 309,992	\$ 835,637
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>\$ 6,407,139†</b>	<b>\$ 5,885,971†</b>	<b>\$ 1,611,619†</b>	<b>\$ 1,781,279†</b>

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

Both parties generally reported lower totals than they did four years earlier, though Republican cash-on-hand was higher.

**TABLE 3  
SUMMARY OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY COUNTY PARTY  
COMMITTEES FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2008**

	<b>RAISED-2008</b>	<b>SPENT-2008</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH*</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 6,371,417	\$ 6,420,040	\$ 1,703,283	\$ 1,751,553
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 3,153,284	\$ 3,069,488	\$ 273,169	\$ 835,340
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>\$ 9,524,700</b>	<b>\$ 9,489,527</b>	<b>\$ 1,976,452</b>	<b>\$ 2,586,892</b>
Difference 2012 versus 2008				
Democratic County Party Committees	-38%†	-46%†	-24%†	-46%†
Republican County Party Committees	-22%	-22%	13%	0%
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>-33%†</b>	<b>-38%†</b>	<b>-18%†</b>	<b>-31%†</b>

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

The Passaic County Democratic Committee raised and spent the most of any county party committee in 2012, and ended the year with the largest cash-on-hand.

**TABLE 4  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY DEMOCRATIC COUNTY PARTY COMMITTEES FROM  
JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012**

<b>DEMOCRATS</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH</b>
Atlantic	\$ 59,234	\$ 54,784	\$ 22,286	\$ 22,286
Bergen	\$ 446,699	\$ 433,202	\$ 21,089	\$ 186,201
Burlington	\$ 107,378	\$ 86,247	\$ 3,822	\$ (92,145)
Camden	\$ 474,845	\$ 395,687	\$ 153,825	\$ 153,825
Cape May	\$ 11,842	\$ 12,097	\$ 445	\$ 445
Cumberland	\$ 94,611	\$ 94,147	\$ 4,561	\$ 4,561
Essex	\$ 295,940	\$ 268,923	\$ 163,170	\$ 163,170
Gloucester	\$ 468,208	\$ 232,110	\$ 256,210	\$ 180,518
Hudson	\$ 199,118	\$ 167,582	\$ 35,300	\$ (243,726)
Hunterdon	\$ 42,977	\$ 45,172	\$ 11,571	\$ 11,571
Mercer	\$ 48,474	\$ 86,250	\$ 33,210	\$ 33,210
Middlesex†	\$ 376,682†	\$ 410,512†	\$ 75,576†	\$ 75,576†
Monmouth*	\$ 44,043	\$ 54,726	\$ 11,509	\$ (66,516)
Morris	\$ 63,874	\$ 61,627	\$ 12,461	\$ 12,461
Ocean	\$ 44,627	\$ 39,514	\$ 16,680	\$ 32,847
Passaic	\$ 744,172	\$ 685,343	\$ 307,377	\$ 307,377
Salem	\$ 25,010	\$ 23,828	\$ 55,506	\$ 55,506
Somerset	\$ 150,397	\$ 150,556	\$ 3,749	\$ 3,749
Sussex	\$ 9,390	\$ 8,712	\$ 3,673	\$ 3,673
Union	\$ 226,780	\$ 165,608	\$ 109,607	\$ 101,053
Warren	na	na	na	na
<b>Democrats-Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,934,301†</b>	<b>\$ 3,476,627†</b>	<b>\$ 1,301,627†</b>	<b>\$ 945,642†</b>

\* Through September 30, 2012.

† County party filed latest report before cutoff but it was inadvertently omitted from original press release.

Burlington County Republican Committee, which also was the second largest fundraising and spender among all committees, reported a higher total net worth.

Six Democratic committees- Bergen, Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Passaic and Union- ended the year with a net worth above \$100,000. Three committees- Burlington, Hudson and Monmouth- reported negative numbers.

Among Republican counties, only Burlington ended the year with a net worth above \$100,000. One county- Monmouth- reported a minus net worth.

**TABLE 5  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY REPUBLICAN COUNTY PARTY  
COMMITTEES FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012**

<b>REPUBLICANS</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH</b>
Atlantic	\$ 43,410	\$ 46,322	\$ 9,013	\$ 9,013
Bergen	\$ 273,451	\$ 267,847	\$ 24,844	\$ 24,844
Burlington	\$ 553,375	\$ 564,825	\$ 5,145	\$ 563,441
Camden	\$ 49,257	\$ 51,484	\$ 12,343	\$ 13,235
Cape May	\$ 111,790	\$ 112,952	\$ 16,625	\$ 16,625
Cumberland	\$ 96,811	\$ 89,800	\$ 14,015	\$ 14,015
Essex	\$ 35,110	\$ 39,310	\$ 253	\$ 253
Gloucester	\$ 108,455	\$ 106,062	\$ 2,670	\$ 2,670
Hudson**	na	na	na	na
Hunterdon	\$ 62,444	\$ 46,479	\$ 35,046	\$ 6,954
Mercer	\$ 10,609	\$ 12,318	\$ 1,935	\$ 1,935
Middlesex*	\$ 36,024	\$ 18,006	\$ 32,977	\$ 37,977
Monmouth	\$ 256,030	\$ 262,962	\$ 3,116	\$ (5,603)
Morris	\$ 149,726	\$ 139,520	\$ 29,246	\$ 28,569
Ocean	\$ 85,867	\$ 83,096	\$ 6,248	\$ 6,248
Passaic	\$ 84,132	\$ 86,768	\$ 59	\$ 59
Salem	\$ 61,400	\$ 65,828	\$ 16,668	\$ 16,668
Somerset	\$ 333,040	\$ 289,722	\$ 86,411	\$ 86,029
Sussex	\$ 43,363	\$ 55,708	\$ 2,250	\$ 1,577
Union†	\$ 49,338	\$ 41,442	\$ 10,240	\$ 10,240
Warren	\$ 29,206	\$ 28,893	\$ 888	\$ 888
<b>Republicans-Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,472,838</b>	<b>\$ 2,409,344</b>	<b>\$ 309,992</b>	<b>\$ 835,637</b>

\* Through September 30, 2012.

\*\* Does not plan to raise or spend more than \$4,900 per year reporting threshold.

† Original press release inadvertently indicated numbers were from September 30, 2012 report.

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by noon Wednesday, January 24, 2013. 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). The first quarterly reports for 2013 will be available after April 22.

ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw](http://www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/elecnj](http://www.twitter.com/elecnj)).

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