



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:
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County party committee fundraising has declined dramatically from 2009, the last time gubernatorial and legislative candidates both faced reelection.

Together, Democratic and Republican county organizations raised just under \$1 million, a 29 percent decrease from four years before.

Table 1
Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County Committees
January 1 through March 31, 2013

COMMITTEE TYPE	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 553,744	\$ 573,608	\$ 1,194,185	\$ 875,564
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 403,354	\$ 407,020	\$ 263,068	\$ 842,521
Total- Both Parties	\$ 957,098	\$ 980,628	\$ 1,457,253	\$ 1,718,085

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

Table 2
Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County Committees
January 1 through March 31, 2009

COMMITTEE TYPE	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 743,538	\$ 991,110	\$ 1,453,657	\$ 1,311,606
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 595,384	\$ 477,217	\$ 402,263	\$ 955,767
Total- Both Parties	\$ 1,338,922	\$ 1,468,328	\$ 1,855,920	\$ 2,267,373
Difference 2013 versus 2009				
Democratic County Party Committees	-26%	-42%	-18%	-33%
Republican County Party Committees	-32%	-15%	-35%	-12%
Total- Both Parties	-29%	-33%	-21%	-24%

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

“These numbers follow a pattern that began with the introduction of the pay-to-play laws in 2006,” said Jeff Brindle, Executive Director of the Election Law Enforcement Commission.

As another comparison, county parties raised \$2.7 million during the first quarter of 2001- nearly triple the current total. It should be noted that current totals do not include all committees. 2001 also was a gubernatorial and legislative election year.

“The downward trend in county party receipts paints a stark contrast to the 1990’s and the early part of the previous decade when county organizations were the kingpins of the electoral landscape,” he said.

However, while campaign finance is down from 2009, there has been an uptick in combined cash reserves since 2011, which featured a legislative campaign.

With gubernatorial and legislative elections underway, county party committees have amassed a combined cash reserve of nearly \$1.5 million, according to the latest quarterly reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Table 3
First Quarter Cash-on-Hand Totals by Year

YEAR	CASH-ON-HAND	CHANGE	MAJOR STATE ELECTION?
2009	\$1,855,920		Yes
2010	\$2,078,075	12%	No
2011	\$1,141,821	-45%	Yes
2012	\$1,023,935	-10%	No
2013	\$1,457,253	42%	Yes

While cash totals are larger for Democratic committees, net worth numbers, which adjust for debts owed to or by the committee, are about even for the two parties.

“While overall fundraising is down over the past several years, county party chairs seem to be making an effort to build up cash reserves before this year’s elections,” said Brindle. “County parties often provide support during statewide elections, and this year is likely to be no exception even though fundraising may be lower than in years past.”

At the quarter’s end, four democratic county party committees- Essex, Gloucester, Passaic, and Union- reported cash reserves larger than \$100,000. Four committees- Bergen, Essex, Gloucester, and Passaic- reported a net worth above \$100,000, while three- Burlington, Hudson and Monmouth- reported negative net worths.

Table 4
Campaign Finance Activity by Democratic County Party Committees
from January 1 through March 31, 2013

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH
Atlantic	\$ 15,185	\$ 7,522	\$ 29,950	\$ 29,950
Bergen	\$ 97,039	\$ 60,046	\$ 58,082	\$ 223,194
Burlington	\$ 2,507	\$ 5,189	\$ 1,140	\$ (92,827)
Camden	\$ 57,761	\$ 127,074	\$ 84,512	\$ 84,512
Cape May**				
Cumberland	\$ 7,095	\$ 6,418	\$ 5,238	\$ 5,238
Essex	\$ 27,425	\$ 41,346	\$ 149,049	\$ 149,049
Gloucester	\$ 54,184	\$ 45,509	\$ 264,885	\$ 192,953
Hudson	\$ 37,000	\$ 17,276	\$ 55,024	\$ (227,656)
Hunterdon	\$ 700	\$ 1,840	\$ 10,431	\$ 10,431
Mercer	\$ 189	\$ 9,767	\$ 23,632	\$ 23,632
Middlesex	\$ 46,907	\$ 95,866	\$ 26,617	\$ 26,617
Monmouth	\$ 54,220	\$ 48,067	\$ 3,515	\$ (10,485)
Morris	\$ 22,816	\$ 15,640	\$ 19,637	\$ 7,037
Ocean**				
Passaic	\$ 84,867	\$ 42,177	\$ 349,467	\$ 349,467
Salem**				
Somerset	\$ 18,217	\$ 15,180	\$ 6,786	\$ 6,786
Sussex	\$ 1,434	\$ 1,268	\$ 3,838	\$ 3,838
Union	\$ 26,198	\$ 33,423	\$ 102,382	\$ 93,828
Warren**				
Democrats-Total	\$ 553,744	\$ 573,608	\$ 1,194,185	\$ 875,564

*Cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the committee. **Not available

At quarter's end, one Republican county party committee- Burlington- reported a net worth above \$100,000.

Table 5
Campaign Finance Activity by Republican County Party Committees
from January 1 through March 31, 2013

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH
Atlantic	\$ 7,029	\$ 3,455	\$ 12,586	\$ 12,586
Bergen	\$ 32,520	\$ 52,681	\$ 4,683	\$ 4,683
Burlington	\$ 80,334	\$ 79,145	\$ 6,334	\$ 606,946
Camden	\$ 15,771	\$ 4,867	\$ 23,246	\$ 24,139
Cape May	\$ 48,800	\$ 43,769	\$ 21,656	\$ 21,656
Cumberland	\$ 20,414	\$ 25,905	\$ 8,524	\$ 8,524
Essex	0	\$ 100	\$ 153	\$ 153
Gloucester	\$ 13,014	\$ 12,430	\$ 3,254	\$ 3,254
Hudson**				
Hunterdon	\$ 29,778	\$ 31,450	\$ 33,374	\$ 13,374
Mercer	\$ 500	\$ 1,907	\$ 529	\$ 529
Middlesex**				
Monmouth	\$ 57,483	\$ 42,191	\$ 18,408	\$ 18,408
Morris	\$ 4,650	\$ 16,579	\$ 17,317	\$ 16,529
Ocean	\$ 14,275	\$ 14,753	\$ 5,769	\$ 5,769
Passaic	\$ 31,382	\$ 25,650	\$ 5,790	\$ 5,790
Salem	\$ 8,580	\$ 6,496	\$ 18,752	\$ 18,752
Somerset	\$ 23,890	\$ 34,914	\$ 75,387	\$ 74,123
Sussex	\$ 9,040	\$ 9,814	\$ 1,437	\$ 1,437
Union**				
Warren	\$ 5,894	\$ 914	\$ 5,869	\$ 5,869
Republicans-Total	\$ 403,354	\$ 407,020	\$ 263,068	\$ 842,521

*Cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the committee. **Not available

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by 5 p.m. April 22. They 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.)

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