



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

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Fueled by an early wave of independent spending, combined fundraising for state elections already has topped \$50 million, according to the latest reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

The **\$52.9** million raised through the primary post-election report is nearly twice the \$27.8 million amassed during the same period in 2009.

Table 1
Campaign Finance Activity to Date for
Gubernatorial and Legislative
Candidates and Independent Groups

Type	Raised	Spent	Cash-on-Hand
Gubernatorial	\$ 9,867,520	\$ 9,677,478	\$ 219,059
Legislative	\$28,111,870	\$22,153,242	\$13,398,825
Independent Committees	<i>\$14,942,795</i>	<i>\$13,701,205</i>	\$ 1,241,590
Total	<i>\$52,922,185</i>	<i>\$45,531,925</i>	<i>\$14,859,474</i>

Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director, cited several reasons why 2013 totals are running ahead of those four years ago.

"One key factor is far earlier activity this year by special interest groups acting independently of candidates and parties," he said. "In 2009, those groups spent about \$14 million on the entire election. This year, they already have raised almost **\$15** million and spent nearly **\$13.7** million."

He also pointed out that both legislative houses are running this year. In 2009, the entire Assembly ran but there were special elections for Senate seats in just two districts.

Brindle further explained that while the gubernatorial election in 2009 ultimately cost more than \$56 million, most of that spending occurred in the general election. The cost of that race was unusually high because former Gov. Jon Corzine injected nearly \$32 million of his personal wealth into it.

Reports submitted 20 days after the June 4 primary election show the four gubernatorial primary candidates raised \$9.9 million, spent \$9.7 million, and had \$219,059 left in reserve.

**Table 2
Campaign Finance Activity by Gubernatorial Candidates through June 24**

Candidate	Party	Latest Raised	Latest Spent	Raised-to-Date	Spent-to-Date	Cash-on-Hand
Chris Christie	R	\$ 372,348	\$ 2,017,034	\$6,874,968	\$6,724,732	\$151,590
Barbara Buono	D	\$ 642,092	\$ 659,964	\$2,979,537	\$2,940,901	\$ 66,421
Seth Grossman	R	\$ 1,535	\$ 1,143	\$ 13,015	\$11,845	\$ 1,048
Troy Webster*	D	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Totals		\$1,015,975	\$2,678,141	\$9,867,520	\$9,677,478	\$219,059

* Did not plan to spend more than \$4,500 for primary

Compared to four years ago, campaign finance activity by gubernatorial candidates is down in part because there were more primary contenders in 2009.

**Table 3
Comparison of Campaign Finance Activity for All
Gubernatorial Primary Candidates through
20-Day Post Election Report**

Year	Raised	Spent	Cash-on-hand
2013	\$ 9,867,520	\$ 9,677,478	\$219,059
2009	\$13,416,099	\$13,202,082	\$215,278
Difference	-26%	-27%	2%

For legislative candidates, fundraising, spending and cash-on-hand totals all are much higher than four years ago, when only the Assembly faced reelection. But they are lower than they were two years ago, another year when both houses were in play.

**Table 4
Comparison of Legislative Primary Campaign
Finance Activity 2009 Versus 2013
through 20-Day Post Election Report**

Year	Raised	Spent	Cash-on-Hand or Transferred to General Election	Both Houses Running?
2013	\$28,111,870	\$22,153,242	\$13,398,825	Yes
2011	\$34,165,804	\$27,258,440	\$13,698,365	Yes
2009	\$13,091,066	\$10,721,786	NA	No

Democrats have control of roughly two-thirds of the seats in the Legislature. They reported having twice the cash available for the November 5 general election than Republicans.

**Table 5
Cash-on-Hand by Party as of June 24**

Party	Cash-on-Hand
Democrats	\$ 9,193,814
Republicans	\$ 4,205,011
Both Parties	\$13,398,825

Incumbents continued to have a huge advantage over challengers with about 13 times more cash reserves.

Table 6
Cash-on-Hand of Incumbents and Challengers as of June 24

Group	Cash-on-Hand
Incumbents	\$12,445,097
Challengers	\$ 953,728
Both Groups	\$13,398,825

Totals for special interest groups engaged in independent spending are based on a combination of disclosure reports and information provided by the media or organization officials since not all groups are required to file public reports that detail their spending.

Within these limitations, the amount spent before this year’s primary election probably is a record.

An estimated \$4.8 million was spent before the 2009 primary by independent organizations compared to **\$13.7** million during this election cycle.

“Even if the independent primary spending four years ago actually was twice as much, the current spending still would be a new high,” said Brindle.

Table 7
Spending by Outside Groups to Promote or Oppose
Gubernatorial or Legislative Candidates in This Year’s Election

Group	Raised*	Spent	Cash-on-Hand	Source
Committee for Our Children’s Future ***	\$ 7,800,000	\$ 7,800,000	NA	Committee officials
One New Jersey	\$ 2,800,000	\$ 2,800,000	NA	Media
Republican Governors Association	\$ 1,725,000	\$ 1,725,000	NA	Independent Expenditure Reports
Garden State Forward	\$ 686,027	\$ 686,027	NA	Independent Expenditure Reports
Fund for Jobs, Growth and Security**	\$ 1,750,126	\$ 508,536	\$1,241,590	20-Day Post-Election Report
National Association of Realtors	\$ 142,087	\$ 142,087	NA	Independent Expenditure Reports
NJ Workers’ Voices	\$ 39,555	\$ 39,555	NA	Registration Statement
Total	\$14,942,795	\$13,701,205		

*Since most outside groups are not required to disclose their fundraising, totals are same as reported spending.

Unlike most independent committees, which either disclose only expenditures or nothing at all, this committee is registered as political committee that discloses all of its activities. **Pre-Primary*

The numbers in this report should be considered preliminary. The analysis is based on legislative fundraising reports received by noon June 28, 2013.

Reports filed by legislative candidates are available online on ELEC’s website at www.elec.state.nj.us. A downloadable summary of data from those reports is available in both spreadsheet and PDF formats at www.elec.state.nj.us/publicinformation/statistics.htm. ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/electnj).