



NEWS RELEASE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:
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County party committees stepped up their fundraising during the second quarter and boosted their reserves for the fall elections, according to the latest reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

With gubernatorial and legislative elections looming this fall, county party committees reported a combined \$1.6 million in cash reserves- \$170,034 more than they indicated three months ago.

The amount is \$182,879 more than the two parties reported at the same point two years ago during another legislative election year, but nearly \$86,373 less than their combined cash reserves four years ago. That was the last time the governor's seat was in contention.

"Cash-on-hand generally is considered the best barometer of a fundraising committee's "firepower" because it shows how much remains for new campaign spending," said Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director. "Candidates and parties usually try to save as much as possible for the final two months of the campaign."

Table 1
Combined Cash-on-Hand for
All County Party Committees

DATE	CASH-ON-HAND	DIFFERENCE
June 30, 2013	\$1,627,287	
Versus:		
March 31, 2013	\$1,457,253	\$170,034
June 30, 2011	\$1,444,408	\$182,879
June 30, 2009	\$1,713,660	\$ (86,373)

"County parties clearly are gearing up for the November 5 elections," Brindle added. "They need to raise and save all they can in coming weeks so they can help their candidates be in the best position to win."

So far this year, Democratic county party committees have raised and spent more money, and report heftier cash reserves. Republicans have a larger net worth.

Table 2
Summary of Campaign Finance Activity
by County Committees
January 1 through June 30, 2013

	RAISED-2013	SPENT-2013	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Democratic County Party Committees	\$1,552,132	\$1,631,925	\$1,188,337	\$807,293
Republican County Party Committees	\$1,095,596	\$928,931	\$438,950	\$992,788
TOTAL- BOTH PARTIES	\$2,647,728	\$2,560,856	\$1,627,287	\$1,800,081

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

Brindle said county parties did more fundraising during the second quarter, raising about \$1.6 million for the second quarter versus just under \$1 million during the first quarter.

Comparisons to 2009 figures show both parties have suffered from recent trends that have depressed their fundraising. Republican committees haven't suffered as much as their Democratic counterparts, and they've been able to build bigger reserves this year than they had four years ago.

Table 3
Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County Committees
January 1 through June 30, 2009
Compared to Same Period in 2013

	RAISED-2009	SPENT-2009	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Democratic County Party Committees	\$1,689,149	\$2,027,725	\$1,356,931	\$1,203,879
Republican County Party Committees	\$1,140,687	\$1,017,181	\$356,729	\$950,092
TOTAL- BOTH PARTIES	\$2,829,837	\$3,044,906	\$1,713,660	\$2,153,972
Difference 2013 Versus 2009				
Democratic County Party Committees	-8%	-20%	-12%	-33%
Republican County Party Committees	-4%	-9%	23%	4%
TOTAL- BOTH PARTIES	-6%	-16%	-5%	-16%

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

“As we’ve pointed out many times, county parties since the middle of the last decade have faced many fundraising challenges,” Brindle said.

“These include the recession, pay-to-play restrictions that sharply reduced contributions from public contractors, competition for fund-raising dollars from political action committees and independent non-profits, and the departure of two wealthy gubernatorial candidates who made large contributions to county parties while they were active in politics,” he added.

While Republicans overall are lagging Democrats in fundraising, a Republican committee- the Burlington County Republican committee- has raised the most funds this year, spent the second most money, and reported the highest net worth.

Union County Democrats spent the most through June 30, and Passaic County Democrats reported the largest cash-on-hand.

**Table 4
Top Five County
Committees by Category**

COUNTY	PARTY	RAISED JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013
Burlington	Republicans	\$266,681
Union	Democrats	\$260,963
Passaic	Democrats	\$184,629
Hudson	Democrats	\$181,995
Somerset	Republicans	\$171,632
	PARTY	SPENT JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013
Union	Democrats	\$276,208
Burlington	Republicans	\$257,358
Hudson	Democrats	\$216,874
Camden	Democrats	\$213,796
Middlesex	Democrats	\$182,923
	PARTY	CASH-ON-HAND ON JUNE 30, 2013
Passaic	Democrats	\$391,538
Gloucester	Democrats	\$249,998
Somerset	Republicans	\$189,902
Essex	Democrats	\$143,464
Camden	Democrats	\$96,792
	PARTY	NET WORTH* ON JUNE 30, 2013
Burlington	Republicans	\$596,618
Passaic	Democrats	\$391,538
Somerset	Republicans	\$189,556
Gloucester	Democrats	\$182,746
Essex	Democrats	\$143,464

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

Three Democratic county party committees reported cash-on-hand totals larger than \$100,000- Essex, Gloucester, and Passaic. Three counties- Burlington, Hudson and Monmouth- reported a negative net worth because of outstanding debts.

Table 5
Campaign Finance Activity by Democratic County Party Committees
January 1 through June 30, 2013

COUNTY	RAISED JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013	SPENT JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013	CASH-ON-HAND ON JUNE 30, 2013	NET WORTH ON JUNE 30, 2013
Atlantic	\$20,185	\$20,003	\$22,468	\$22,468
Bergen	\$168,190	\$161,223	\$28,056	\$126,003
Burlington	\$28,232	\$31,903	\$151	\$(88,816)
Camden	\$156,763	\$213,796	\$96,792	\$96,792
Cape May	\$2,000	\$-	\$2,445	\$2,445
Cumberland	\$17,095	\$13,178	\$8,478	\$8,478
Essex	\$102,605	\$122,311	\$143,464	\$143,464
Gloucester	\$86,535	\$92,747	\$249,998	\$182,746
Hudson	\$181,995	\$216,874	\$421	\$(304,938)
Hunterdon	\$7,485	\$6,595	\$12,461	\$12,461
Mercer	\$189	\$20,695	\$12,704	\$12,704
Middlesex	\$114,539	\$182,923	\$7,193	\$7,193
Monmouth	\$84,371	\$83,666	\$(1,933)	\$(15,933)
Morris	\$52,686	\$30,770	\$34,376	\$23,351
Ocean	\$33,208	\$13,708	\$19,866	\$36,032
Passaic	\$184,629	\$100,468	\$391,538	\$391,538
Salem**	\$10,430	\$8,222	\$57,714	\$57,714
Somerset	\$36,480	\$33,855	\$3,337	\$3,337
Sussex	\$3,552	\$2,780	\$4,446	\$4,446
Union	\$260,963	\$276,208	\$94,362	\$85,808
Warren*				
DEMOCRATS- TOTAL	\$1,552,132	\$1,631,925	\$1,188,337	\$807,293

*Expects to spend less than \$5,500 during calendar year.

**Through March 31, 2013

One Republican county party committee- Somerset- reported cash-on-hand larger than \$100,000. Mercer reported a negative net worth.

**Table 6
Campaign Finance Activity by Republican County Party Committees
January 1 through June 30, 2013**

COUNTY	RAISED JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013	SPENT JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013	CASH-ON-HAND ON JUNE 30, 2013	NET WORTH ON JUNE 30, 2013
Atlantic	\$19,818	\$16,879	\$11,952	\$11,952
Bergen	\$71,859	\$71,855	\$24,949	\$24,949
Burlington	\$266,681	\$257,358	\$14,468	\$596,618
Camden	\$18,651	\$7,470	\$23,524	\$24,417
Cape May	\$88,145	\$76,111	\$28,658	\$28,658
Cumberland	\$43,272	\$51,591	\$5,696	\$5,696
Essex	\$5,000	\$4,180	\$1,073	\$1,073
Gloucester	\$25,491	\$27,086	\$1,076	\$1,076
Hudson*				
Hunterdon	\$31,661	\$35,948	\$30,759	\$8,759
Mercer	\$1,000	\$2,464	\$471	\$(945)
Middlesex***				
Monmouth	\$142,316	\$137,197	\$13,643	\$8,235
Morris	\$53,026	\$43,047	\$39,225	\$39,190
Ocean	\$25,225	\$24,986	\$6,487	\$6,487
Passaic	\$66,865	\$58,353	\$8,571	\$8,571
Salem	\$28,555	\$12,628	\$32,595	\$32,595
Somerset*	\$171,632	\$68,141	\$189,902	\$189,556
Sussex	\$25,205	\$22,500	\$4,955	\$4,955
Union***				
Warren	\$11,194	\$11,137	\$946	\$946
REPUBLICANS- TOTAL	\$1,095,596	\$928,931	\$438,950	\$992,788

*Expects to spend less than \$5,500 during calendar year.

***Not available.

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by 5 p.m. on July 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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