



# NEWS RELEASE

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The so-called “Big Six” fundraising committees spent a combined \$14.7 million on last year’s state elections, up 14 percent from the \$12.9 million spent in 2009, according to new quarterly reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Reports filed by the two state parties and four Legislative Leadership Committees show they ended the election with 35 percent smaller cash reserves than they did four years ago, the last time there was a governor’s election at the same time legislative seats were in contention.

**TABLE 1  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY OF  
“BIG SIX” COMMITTEES 2009 VS 2013**

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT**	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH
<b>2009</b>	\$ 3,245,259	\$ 3,059,117	\$ 794,513	\$ 682,215
<b>2013</b>	\$ 7,073,252	\$ 7,521,439	\$ 509,311	\$ 496,811
<b>Difference-Dollars</b>	<b>\$ 3,827,993</b>	<b>\$ 4,462,322</b>	<b>\$ (285,202)</b>	<b>\$ (185,404)</b>
<b>Difference-%</b>	<b>118%</b>	<b>146%</b>	<b>-36%</b>	<b>-27%</b>
<b>DEMOCRATS</b>				
<b>2009</b>	\$ 9,127,956	\$ 9,860,745	\$ 502,945	\$ 425,318
<b>2013</b>	\$ 6,811,776	\$ 7,206,518	\$ 332,288	\$ 258,608
<b>Difference-Dollars</b>	<b>\$ (2,316,180)</b>	<b>\$ (2,654,227)</b>	<b>\$ (170,657)</b>	<b>\$ (166,710)</b>
<b>Difference-%</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>-34%</b>	<b>-39%</b>
<b>BOTH PARTIES</b>				
<b>2009</b>	\$12,373,215	\$12,919,862	\$ 1,297,458	\$ 1,107,533
<b>2013</b>	\$13,885,028	\$14,727,957	\$ 841,599	\$ 755,419
<b>Difference-Dollars</b>	<b>\$ 1,511,813</b>	<b>\$ 1,808,095</b>	<b>\$ (455,859)</b>	<b>\$ (352,114)</b>
<b>Difference-%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>-35%</b>	<b>-32%</b>

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

\*\*Spending total may exceed fundraising because fundraising total does not include money carried over from previous year.

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said the fact that “Big Six” spending is up suggests that the long decline in financial activity may have finally bottomed out.

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He noted, however, that combined spending compared to previous elections when gubernatorial and legislative candidates ran together remains low. “For instance, the 2013 “Big Six” total still is less than the combined total for 1993,” Brindle said.

He added, though, that “the increase suggests the potential exists for the parties to be strengthened relative to independent groups through legislation designed to require disclosure of these groups in combination with proposals to strengthen the political parties.

**TABLE 2  
COMPARISON OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY OF  
“BIG SIX” COMMITTEES FOR  
GUBERNATORIAL ELECTON YEARS 1993-2013**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DSC</b>	<b>SENATE LLC</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY LLC</b>	<b>TOTAL DEMOCRATS</b>
<b>1993</b>	\$ 7,091,040	\$1,152,971	\$ 472,416	\$ 8,716,427
<b>1997</b>	\$ 5,264,105	\$2,471,125	\$ 791,882	\$ 8,527,112
<b>2001</b>	\$28,617,395	\$3,116,189	\$2,101,459	\$33,835,043
<b>2005</b>	\$ 6,533,441	\$1,011,761	\$6,795,007	\$14,340,209
<b>2009</b>	\$ 6,107,325	\$ 931,887	\$2,821,533	\$ 9,860,745
<b>2013</b>	\$ 3,074,209	\$1,856,875	\$2,275,434	\$ 7,206,518
	<b>RSC</b>	<b>SENATE LLC</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY LLC</b>	<b>TOTAL REPUBLICANS</b>
<b>1993</b>	\$ 2,993,859	\$1,756,403	\$1,523,332	\$ 6,273,594
<b>1997</b>	\$ 6,958,423	\$3,401,354	\$1,483,522	\$11,843,299
<b>2001</b>	\$ 5,337,980	\$4,379,736	\$2,581,551	\$12,299,267
<b>2005</b>	\$ 2,169,435	\$ 644,656	\$2,513,605	\$ 5,327,696
<b>2009</b>	\$ 1,477,299	\$ 343,243	\$1,238,575	\$ 3,059,117
<b>2013</b>	\$ 3,976,495	\$2,152,861	\$1,392,083	\$ 7,521,439
				<b>BOTH PARTIES</b>
<b>1993</b>				\$14,990,021
<b>1997</b>				\$20,370,411
<b>2001</b>				\$46,134,310
<b>2005</b>				\$19,667,905
<b>2009</b>				\$12,919,862
<b>2013</b>				\$14,727,957

Brindle said the causes of the historical decline in fundraising by party committees are well-documented. They include a sharp rise in spending by independent fundraising committees, the advent of tight restrictions on contributions by public contractors since 2005, the 2008 recession, and the departure from the scene of two wealthy gubernatorial candidates who helped fill party coffers.

“Independent groups spent more than \$41 million in last year’s election- nearly three times more than the Big Six committees. To a large extent, they are taking over the traditional roles of the parties. Their emergence is having a dramatic impact on campaign fundraising trends,” Brindle said.

As for the 2013 election, the three Republican committees spent slightly more than the three Democratic committees. Republican fundraising was up from 2009, while Democratic fundraising was down.

Republicans won back the governor’s seat, while Democrats retained control of both legislative houses.

**TABLE 3  
FUNDRAISING BY “BIG SIX” COMMITTEES  
JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013**

<b>REPUBLICANS</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT**</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH*</b>
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 4,141,278	\$ 3,976,495	\$412,363	\$399,863
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 1,705,097	\$ 2,152,861	\$ 56,235	\$ 56,235
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 1,226,877	\$ 1,392,083	\$ 40,713	\$ 40,713
<b>SubTotal-Republicans</b>	<b>\$ 7,073,252</b>	<b>\$ 7,521,439</b>	<b>\$509,311</b>	<b>\$496,811</b>
<b>DEMOCRATS</b>				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$ 3,151,436	\$ 3,074,209	\$159,022	\$135,781
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 1,642,639	\$ 1,856,875	\$ 82,637	\$ 62,637
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 2,017,701	\$ 2,275,434	\$ 90,629	\$ 60,190
<b>SubTotal-Democrats</b>	<b>\$ 6,811,776</b>	<b>\$ 7,206,518</b>	<b>\$332,288</b>	<b>\$258,608</b>
<b>Total-Both Parties</b>	<b>\$13,885,028</b>	<b>\$14,727,957</b>	<b>\$841,599</b>	<b>\$755,419</b>

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

\*\*Spending totals may exceed fundraising totals because fundraising totals do not include funds carried over from previous year.

State Parties and Legislative Leadership Committees are required to report their financial activity to the Commission on a quarterly basis. 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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