



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR RELEASE:
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With no statewide elections in 2014, combined campaign finance activity of the so-called “Big Six” committees dipped to the lowest level in at least 8 years, according to an analysis by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

The two state parties and four legislative leadership committees raised a total of \$4.9 million, spend just over \$4 million and ended the year with just under \$1.7 million in the bank. The fundraising and spending totals are the lowest since at least 2007. Comparing only off-election years (cash reserves usually are low after elections), cash-on-hand totals previously were lower only in 2010.

“Traditional party fundraising groups are being buffeted by many headwinds,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director.

He said political parties should be strengthened to offset the influence of independent groups and the effects of tight restrictions on contractor contributions and contribution limits that have not been inflation adjusted for several years.

**TABLE 1
 CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY “BIG SIX”
 JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014**

BOTH PARTIES	RAISED	SPENT**	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*	STATEWIDE ELECTIONS?
2007	\$ 19,177,655	\$ 23,367,064	\$ 377,324	\$ (521,409)	YES
2008	\$ 6,653,676	\$ 5,186,294	\$ 1,844,704	\$ 1,669,848	NO
2009	\$ 12,368,082	\$ 12,919,862	\$ 1,297,457	\$ 1,107,532	YES
2010	\$ 6,180,605	\$ 5,918,029	\$ 1,540,032	\$ 1,305,667	NO
2011	\$ 15,035,468	\$ 15,547,359	\$ 1,028,142	\$ 705,787	YES
2012	\$ 7,063,133	\$ 6,391,757	\$ 1,684,525	\$ 1,516,187	NO
2013	\$ 13,885,028	\$ 14,727,957	\$ 841,599	\$ 755,419	YES
2014	\$ 4,872,907	\$ 4,048,955	\$ 1,662,052	\$ 1,008,612	NO

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

** Some spending totals exceed fundraising because reserves were used to offset the extra spending.

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BIG SIX FOURTH QUARTER 2014

JANUARY 20, 2015

Looking at 2014 campaign finance activity, Democratic committees as a group raised and spent more funds than Republicans, and reported a higher net worth (net worth is cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by a committee). Republicans reported more cash-on-hand at year's end.

Compared to 2010 year-end numbers, both parties raised and spent less money than four years ago, and Republicans also reported lower cash-on-hand and net worth totals. Democrats reported higher cash-on-hand and net worth numbers compared to 2010.

TABLE 2
FUNDRAISING BY "BIG SIX" COMMITTEES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT**	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 1,663,324	\$ 1,522,137	\$ 553,549	\$ 25,818
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 255,348	\$ 93,495	\$ 218,089	\$ 218,089
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 367,815	\$ 185,698	\$ 222,830	\$ 222,830
Sub Total-Republicans	\$ 2,286,487	\$ 1,801,330	\$ 994,468	\$ 466,737
Versus 2010 (Dollars)	\$ (652,652)	\$ (836,644)	\$ (81,209)	\$ (493,757)
Versus 2010 (Percent)	-22%	-32%	-8%	-51%
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$ 1,502,577	\$ 1,485,948	\$ 175,651	\$ 100,380
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 374,125	\$ 278,545	\$ 174,718	\$ 154,718
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 709,718	\$ 483,132	\$ 317,215	\$ 286,777
Sub Total-Democrats	\$ 2,586,420	\$ 2,247,625	\$ 667,584	\$ 541,875
Versus 2010 (Dollars)	\$ (655,045)	\$ (1,032,430)	\$ 203,229	\$ 196,702
Versus 2010 (Percent)	-20%	-31%	44%	57%
Total-Both Parties				
	\$ 4,872,907	\$ 4,048,955	\$ 1,662,052	\$ 1,008,612
Versus 2010 (Dollars)	\$(1,307,698)	\$(1,869,074)	\$ 122,020	\$ (297,055)
Versus 2010 (Percent)	-21%	-32%	8%	-23%

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

** Some spending totals exceed fundraising because reserves were used to offset the extra spending.

To fortify parties, Brindle has urged the Legislature to enact ELEC-recommended legislation that would require independent groups to follow the same disclosure rules as parties and candidates, simplify the state's pay-to-play restrictions on contractors while extending the rules to PACs, allow contractors to give slightly more, and apply inflation adjustments to contribution limits that apply to other donors.

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. ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/elecni).