



# NEWS RELEASE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**FOR RELEASE:  
January 28, 2016**

County party committees collectively spent \$8.9 million during 2015, the second highest total since 2009 but well below spending levels in the previous decade, according to the latest reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

“While the figure is the second highest in the last six years, when placed in the context of the last 15 years, the data clearly shows the trend line in party spending is down,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director.

“As an example, the amount spent in 2003, the peak year for county party spending, was more than three times higher. And that’s without adjusting for inflation,” Brindle said.

**TABLE 1  
COUNTY PARTY FUNDRAISING AND SPENDING  
THROUGH FOURTH QUARTER 2001-2015**

YEAR	RAISED	SPENT	MAJOR STATE ELECTION?
2001	\$ 21,952,725	\$ 21,872,999	Yes†
2002	\$ 21,578,971	\$ 19,918,454	No
2003	\$ 27,180,067	\$ 28,110,780	Yes
2004	\$ 20,481,002	\$ 19,548,718	No
2005	\$ 18,893,472	\$ 19,009,467	Yes
2006	\$ 11,977,748	\$ 12,392,107	No
2007	\$ 14,582,167	\$ 14,341,683	Yes
2008	\$ 9,511,311	\$ 9,502,015	No
2009	\$ 13,854,662	\$ 13,306,296	Yes
2010	\$ 7,591,065	\$ 8,712,802	No
2011	\$ 8,600,478	\$ 8,696,067	Yes
2012	\$ 6,407,139	\$ 5,885,971	No
2013	\$ 9,908,851	\$ 10,069,188	Yes†
2014	\$ 7,617,324	\$ 7,526,250	No
2015	\$ 9,161,877	\$ 8,883,225	Yes

†Elections with both legislative houses and gubernatorial candidates running.

Brindle contends party committees are more accountable and transparent than independent special interest groups that now dominate elections. He has made several legislative recommendations to bolster fundraising by state and county parties.

Those suggestions include making independent groups abide by the same disclosure rules as parties and candidates, reforming pay-to-play laws to allow parties to accept larger contractor contributions, and adjusting general contribution limits to offset inflation and to also boost party reserves.

Comparing 2015 totals against those from 2011, Democratic county committees raised and spent more, and reported higher reserves. Republican county committees raised more and reported larger reserves, but spent less.

**TABLE 2**  
**SUMMARY OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY COUNTY COMMITTEES**  
**JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 2011**  
**VERSUS 2015**

	<b>RAISED 2011</b>	<b>SPENT 2011</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND 2011</b>	<b>NET WORTH 2011*</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$5,601,614	\$5,499,129	\$ 864,806	\$ 444,537
Republican County Party Committees	\$2,998,863	\$3,196,938	\$ 248,964	\$ 661,292
<b>TOTAL- BOTH PARTIES</b>	<b>\$8,600,478</b>	<b>\$8,696,067</b>	<b>\$1,113,770</b>	<b>\$1,105,829</b>
	<b>RAISED 2015</b>	<b>SPENT 2015</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND 2015</b>	<b>NETWORTH 2015*</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$6,075,026	\$5,882,648	\$1,134,676	\$ 909,127
Republican County Party Committees	\$3,086,851	\$3,000,577	\$ 590,138	\$1,343,584
<b>TOTAL- BOTH PARTIES</b>	<b>\$9,161,877</b>	<b>\$8,883,225</b>	<b>\$1,724,814</b>	<b>\$2,252,711</b>
Difference 2011 versus 2015				
Democratic County Party Committees	8%	7%	31%	105%
Republican County Party Committees	3%	-6.1%	137%	103%
<b>TOTAL- BOTH PARTIES</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>104%</b>

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

COUNTY PARTIES 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2015

JANUARY 28, 2016

Four Democratic county party committees- Camden, Middlesex, Passaic and Union - reported cash-on-hand totals above \$100,000 at the end of 2015. Three counties- Burlington, Gloucester and Hudson - reported a negative net worth because of outstanding debts.

**TABLE 3**  
**CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY DEMOCRATIC COUNTY PARTY COMMITTEES**  
**JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>RAISED JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015</b>	<b>SPENT JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND ON DECEMBER 31, 2015</b>	<b>NET WORTH ON DECEMBER 31, 2015</b>
Atlantic	\$ 358,434	\$ 375,377	\$ 14,590	\$ 14,590
Bergen	\$ 779,919	\$ 718,506	\$ 66,542	\$ 98,091
Burlington	\$ 95,380	\$ 94,020	\$ 1,787	\$ (84,180)
Camden	\$ 498,683	\$ 416,163	\$ 210,327	\$ 210,327
Cape May	\$ 265,295	\$ 260,875	\$ 4,792	\$ 4,792
Cumberland	\$ 305,396	\$ 312,431	\$ 5,189	\$ 5,189
Essex	\$ 387,525	\$ 387,506	\$ 51,388	\$ 51,388
Gloucester	\$ 494,409	\$ 560,735	\$ 17,246	\$ (445)
Hudson	\$ 347,437	\$ 383,014	\$ 62,350	\$ (98,702)
Hunterdon	\$ 15,545	\$ 26,582	\$ 7,781	\$ 7,781
Mercer	\$ 156,056	\$ 169,901	\$ 48,949	\$ 48,949
Middlesex	\$ 543,812	\$ 460,782	\$ 109,837	\$ 109,837
Monmouth	\$ 528,816	\$ 494,015	\$ 15,230	\$ 15,230
Morris	\$ 94,215	\$ 90,200	\$ 10,730	\$ 10,730
Ocean	\$ 35,928	\$ 30,868	\$ 11,834	\$ 28,000
Passaic	\$ 681,042	\$ 658,214	\$ 339,856	\$ 339,856
Salem	\$ 99,246	\$ 85,343	\$ 26,279	\$ 26,279
Somerset	\$ 202,658	\$ 195,788	\$ 7,438	\$ 7,438
Sussex	\$ 19,324	\$ 11,467	\$ 11,154	\$ 11,154
Union	\$ 165,908	\$ 150,861	\$ 111,378	\$ 102,824
Warren**				
<b>DEMOCRATS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,075,026</b>	<b>\$5,882,648</b>	<b>\$1,134,676</b>	<b>\$ 909,127</b>

\*\*Spent less than \$5,500 during calendar year.

Somerset County was the sole Republican committee reporting a cash reserve larger than \$100,000. Hunterdon and Monmouth Counties reported a negative net worth due to lingering debts.

**TABLE 4**  
**CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY REPUBLICAN COUNTY PARTY COMMITTEES**  
**JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015**

COUNTY	RAISED JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015	SPENT JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015	CASH-ON-HAND ON DECEMBER 31, 2015	NET WORTH ON DECEMBER 31, 2015
Atlantic	\$ 274,596	\$ 315,864	\$ 1,535	\$ 1,535
Bergen	\$ 268,422	\$ 280,321	\$ 10,176	\$ 10,176
Burlington	\$ 928,104	\$ 920,452	\$ 17,805	\$ 791,916
Camden	\$ 39,494	\$ 53,499	\$ 5,303	\$ 5,303
Cape May	\$ 85,934	\$ 60,797	\$ 33,706	\$ 33,706
Cumberland	\$ 59,667	\$ 52,675	\$ 28,560	\$ 28,560
Essex	\$ 30,550	\$ 26,145	\$ 6,677	\$ 6,677
Gloucester	\$ 66,831	\$ 62,897	\$ 8,185	\$ 8,185
Hudson**				
Hunterdon	\$ 66,381	\$ 77,345	\$ 11,799	\$ (1,829)
Mercer	\$ 19,532	\$ 17,084	\$ 5,557	\$ 5,557
Middlesex	\$ 45,700	\$ 54,285	\$ 13,731	\$ 13,731
Monmouth	\$ 281,689	\$ 299,828	\$ 6,742	\$ (223)
Morris	\$ 135,400	\$ 127,244	\$ 22,863	\$ 22,863
Ocean	\$ 115,886	\$ 108,780	\$ 10,361	\$ 10,361
Passaic*	\$ 53,447	\$ 53,752	\$ 2,083	\$ 2,083
Salem	\$ 53,703	\$ 77,471	\$ 8,698	\$ 8,698
Somerset	\$ 374,009	\$ 231,689	\$ 339,921	\$ 339,848
Sussex	\$ 36,115	\$ 30,008	\$ 10,686	\$ 10,686
Union	\$ 122,952	\$ 115,249	\$ 42,637	\$ 42,637
Warren	\$ 28,439	\$ 35,192	\$ 3,114	\$ 3,114
<b>REPUBLICANS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,086,851</b>	<b>\$3,000,577</b>	<b>\$ 590,138</b>	<b>\$1,343,584</b>

\* Through September 30, 2015.

\*\*Spent less than \$5,500 during calendar year.

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by 5 p.m. on January 26. 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](http://www.elec.state.nj.us).)

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