



# NEWS RELEASE

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Gubernatorial candidates so far have raised \$28.1 million and spent \$23.3 million for the 2017 primary elections, according to the most recent reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Reports due 29-days before the election indicate Democratic candidate Phil Murphy has raised (\$19.2 million) and spent (\$18.4 million) the most. Republican candidate Kim Guadagno reported the most cash-on-hand (\$1.5 million).

Along with their direct spending on the primary, independent committees were formed to promote potential gubernatorial candidates before their formal declarations. Some of those groups also were affiliated with prospective candidates that did not run. Those groups spent \$8.2 million in 2016 and earlier years.

Combined this total with direct candidate spending, the governor’s race already has cost nearly \$31.5 million. The primary election will be held June 6, 2017.

**TABLE 1  
PRIMARY CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY OF GUBERNATORIAL  
CANDIDATES THROUGH MAY 5, 2017  
(RANKED BY SPENDING)**

CANDIDATE	PARTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND
Murphy, Phil	D	\$19,252,005	\$18,397,666	\$ 854,639
Johnson, James	D	\$ 2,323,509	\$ 1,726,609	\$ 596,900
Wisniewski, John	D	\$ 1,358,509	\$ 1,261,571	\$ 97,033
Ciattarelli, Jack	R	\$ 1,285,561	\$ 824,510	\$ 461,051
Guadagno, Kimberly	R	\$ 2,229,788	\$ 715,845	\$1,513,943
Lesniak, Ray	D	\$ 534,467	\$ 247,167	\$ 287,300
Singh, Hirsh	R	\$ 1,003,137	\$ 118,567	\$ 884,770
Zinna, Mark	D	\$ 29,830†	\$ 24,390†	\$ 5,441†
Rogers, Steven	R	\$ 20,623	\$ 18,457	\$ 1,008
Rullo, Joseph	R	\$ 11,332	\$ 10,860	\$ 471
Brennan, Bill	D	\$ 15,125	\$ 3,335	\$ 11,791
<b>TOTAL- PRIMARY CANDIDATES</b>		<b>\$28,063,886†</b>	<b>\$23,348,977†</b>	<b>\$4,714,347†</b>

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Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director, said spending in this year's campaign is running well ahead of the 2013 gubernatorial race.

"At this point four years ago, candidates had expended just \$3.5 million while independent groups had spent about \$9.9 million. That is a total of just \$13.4 million through the 29-day reporting period," Brindle said.

"One big difference is the number of candidates. In 2013, there were just four candidates vying for the two major party nominations. This year, there are 11," he said. Also, two independent groups supporting candidates who opted not to run spent \$1.8 million.

Since the 2001 gubernatorial race, spending by independent groups has become an increasing part of New Jersey campaigns.

Some are formed by or affiliated with prospective candidates before the official start of the primary campaign. The spending is intended to help the candidates become better known within their party and among voters at large.

For instance, before the 2001 campaign, four candidates used non-profit fundraising groups and a federal PAC to spend the equivalent of \$6.9 million (in current dollars) prior to the election.

"I expect other independent groups also will be spending considerable sums on this year's gubernatorial and legislative campaigns. These so-called outside groups spent a record of nearly \$39 million on the 2013 elections," Brindle said.

**TABLE 2**  
**SPENDING BY INDEPENDENT COMMITTEES**  
**RELATED TO GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN**

<b>FORMED BY OR AFFILIATED WITH</b>	<b>INDEPENDENT COMMITTEES</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>
Murphy, Phil	New Way For New Jersey	\$ 3,911,842	\$ 3,810,811
Murphy, Phil	New Start NJ	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,290,688
Fulop, Steve*	Coalition For Progress	\$ 4,278,456	\$ 1,037,268
Sweeney, Stephen*	New Jerseyans For A Better Tomorrow	\$ 2,151,733	\$ 808,924
Lesniak, Ray	Committee For Economic Growth And Social Justice	\$ 683,661	\$ 683,581
Guadagno, Kimberly	Building A Better New Jersey Together	\$ 405,455	\$ 352,952
Lesniak, Ray	Run Ray Run	\$ 164,815	\$ 148,164
Johnson, James	NJ Prepared To Vote	\$ 54,460	\$ 51,181
Democrats	Our New Jersey (Democratic Governors Association)**	\$ 0	\$ 0
	<b>TOTAL- INDEPENDENT COMMITTEES</b>	<b>\$12,950,422</b>	<b>\$ 8,183,569</b>
	<b>TOTAL- PRIMARY CANDIDATES</b>	<b>\$28,063,886†</b>	<b>\$23,348,977†</b>
	<b>TOTAL- GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN</b>	<b>\$41,014,308†</b>	<b>\$31,532,546†</b>

\*Not a candidate \*\*Has registered for gubernatorial election.

Reports filed by gubernatorial candidates are available online 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/elecnj](http://www.twitter.com/elecnj)).