



NEWS RELEASE

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With a major election year looming this fall, the so-called Big Six committees reported a \$2.3 million cash reserve. According to the latest reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), this is the largest war-chest since 2013.

“The good news is that this year’s cash-on-hand total is the biggest in four years. The bad news is that it is smaller than similar reserves at this point in 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director. This year the governor’s seat and both legislative houses are at stake.

“Fundraising is showing a similar trend. It is higher this year than two years ago, when just one legislative house was in contention. But it is lower than the four previous election years,” he said.

TABLE 1
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY “BIG SIX”
AT END OF SECOND QUARTER BY YEAR

BOTH PARTIES	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*	STATE ELECTIONS**
2007	\$5,776,859	\$2,328,316	\$8,015,277	\$7,911,808	S/A
2008	\$3,438,622	\$2,238,356	\$1,577,591	\$ 918,612	
2009	\$3,653,103	\$1,811,223	\$3,682,236	\$3,548,060	G/A
2010	\$2,175,742	\$1,637,673	\$1,835,526	\$1,666,742	
2011	\$3,684,467	\$1,915,020	\$3,329,478	\$3,051,770	S/A
2012	\$2,988,610	\$2,590,387	\$1,426,366	\$1,193,221	
2013	\$3,382,737	\$1,874,081	\$3,189,889	\$3,093,711	G/S/A
2014	\$1,276,109	\$1,319,714	\$ 800,994	\$ 287,246	
2015	\$2,476,599	\$1,983,389	\$2,160,318	\$1,624,601	A
2016	\$1,661,559	\$1,513,987	\$1,127,086	\$ 979,443	
2017	\$2,751,561	\$2,205,599	\$2,263,401	\$2,178,899	G/S/A

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

**G=Gubernatorial; S=Senate; A=Assembly

Brindle said the numbers are a further sign that the two state parties and four legislative leadership committees continue to struggle financially in the wake of sharply reduced contributions from public contractors and in a period when more contributions are pouring into independent special interest groups instead of the parties.

“ELEC has made several recommendations to strengthen the parties, streamline the pay-to-play law and increase disclosure by independent groups. Both parties have introduced legislation that incorporates many of these ideas. I hope legislation will be enacted this year to carry out these recommendations,” said Brindle.

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Big Six reports showed that Democrats have raised and spent more funds this year than Republicans, while Republicans have larger reserves. Democrats control both legislative houses while Republicans hold the governor's seat.

TABLE 2
FUNDRAISING BY "BIG SIX" COMMITTEES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 137,203	\$ 183,539	\$ 64,789	\$ 64,789
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 400,250	\$ 197,961	\$ 808,175	\$ 808,175
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 242,665	\$ 114,231	\$ 484,138	\$ 484,138
SubTotal-Republicans	\$ 780,118	\$ 495,731	\$1,357,102	\$1,357,102
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$1,229,171	\$1,161,182	\$ 182,401	\$ 148,337
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 279,483	\$ 190,955	\$ 465,795	\$ 445,795
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 462,789	\$ 357,731	\$ 258,103	\$ 227,665
SubTotal-Democrats	\$1,971,443	\$1,709,868	\$ 906,299	\$ 821,797
Total-Both Parties	\$2,751,561	\$2,205,599	\$2,263,401	\$2,178,899

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

A comparison with comparable figures from 2013 shows Democratic fundraising and spending is up, while their reserves are smaller. Republicans are down in fundraising, spending and reserves versus four years ago.

TABLE 3
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITIES FOR "BIG SIX"
COMMITTEES THROUGH SECOND QUARTER
2013 VERSUS 2017

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
2013	\$ 1,910,318	\$ 873,148	\$ 1,994,668	\$ 1,972,168
2017	\$ 780,118	\$ 495,731	\$ 1,357,102	\$ 1,357,102
Difference-Dollars	\$(1,130,200)	\$ (377,417)	\$ (637,566)	\$ (615,066)
Difference-%	-59%	-43%	-32%	-31%
DEMOCRATS				
2013	\$ 1,472,419	\$ 1,000,933	\$ 1,195,221	\$ 1,121,543
2017	\$ 1,971,443	\$ 1,709,868	\$ 906,299	\$ 821,797
Difference-Dollars	\$ 499,024	\$ 708,935	\$ (288,922)	\$ (299,746)
Difference-%	34%	71%	-24%	-27%
BOTH PARTIES				
2013	\$ 3,382,737	\$ 1,874,081	\$ 3,189,889	\$ 3,093,711
2017	\$ 2,751,561	\$ 2,205,599	\$ 2,263,401	\$ 2,178,899
Difference-Dollars	\$ (631,176)	\$ 331,518	\$ (926,488)	\$ (914,812)
Difference-%	-19%	18%	-29%	-30%

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

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/elecnj).