

NEWS RELEASE

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WITH CASH RESERVES FLUSH, "BIG SIX" IN LESS RUSH

As they sit on the largest combined "off-year" cash reserves in more than a decade, the so-called "Big Six" committees so far are going easy on the fund-raising pedal, according to second quarter reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

The two state parties and four legislative leadership committees collectively reported \$1.9 million in fund-raising during the first six months of 2024. That is a two percent increase above the fund-raising average for six federal election years dating back to 2014.

On the other hand, they reported a combined war-chest of more than \$2.2 million. That figure is 72 percent above average for the six elections. Compared to four years earlier, Republican reserves are 55 percent higher while Democratic war chests are 189 percent more.

TABLE 1
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY "BIG SIX"
THROUGH 2ND OUARTER BY YEAR

YEAR	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	STATE ELECTIONS	
2013	\$3,382,737	\$1,874,081	\$3,189,889	Governor and Both Houses	
2014	\$1,276,109	\$1,319,714	\$ 800,994	Federal	
2015	\$2,476,599	\$1,983,389	\$2,160,318	Assembly	
2016	\$1,661,559	\$1,513,987	\$1,127,086	Federal	
2017	\$2,751,561	\$2,205,599	\$2,263,401	Governor and Both Houses	
2018	\$2,991,664	\$2,416,353	\$1,321,894	Federal	
2019	\$2,283,313	\$1,729,263	\$2,075,620	Assembly	
2020	\$1,342,492	\$1,090,629	\$ 911,929	Federal	
2021	\$4,836,037	\$3,529,208	\$2,678,213	Governor and Both Houses	
2022	\$2,167,841	\$1,737,175	\$1,450,701	Federal	
2023	\$3,610,199	\$2,148,262	\$4,060,824	Senate and Assembly	
2024	\$1,922,526	\$1,449,013	\$2,246,644	Federal	
Average- Six Federal Election Years	\$1,893,699	\$1,587,812	\$1,309,875		
Difference- %	2%	-9%	72%		

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¹ Election years when state elections are not the main focus.

Along with having solid reserves midway through a non-state election year, party leaders on both sides also know fund-raising should be easier next year due to much higher contribution limits.

In 2025, the governor's seat and all 120 legislative offices will be up for reelection.

Prior to passage of P.L. 2023 c.30 on April 3, 2023, the two state parties and four legislative leadership committees could raise just \$25,000 annually from a single donor.

Next year, donors will be able to deposit \$79,000- more than three times as much as before the new law-each year to accounts that directly fund campaign expenses of all Big Six committees.

In addition, donors will be able to contribute another \$39,500 annually to the two state parties using new "housekeeping" accounts.

These new accounts are earmarked solely for administrative expenses, including mortgages, rent, taxes, compliance costs, legal bills and collective bargaining outlays.

County parties also can create housekeeping accounts.

TABLE 2 FUNDRAISING BY "BIG SIX" COMMITTEES JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

SANOAKI I IIIKOOGII SUNE SU, 2024							
RAISED	SPENT**	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*				
\$ 254,885	\$ 125,435	\$ 157,060	\$ 157,060				
\$ 144,371	\$ 70,932	\$ 147,315	\$ 147,315				
\$ 126,340	\$ 52,446	\$ 145,001	\$ 143,425				
\$ 525,596	\$ 248,814	\$ 449,376	\$ 447,800				
\$ 97,130	\$ (94,977)	\$ 159,574	\$ 169,638				
23%	-28%	55%	61%				
\$ 647,918	\$ 723,357	\$ 59,098	\$ 28,904				
\$ 239,364	\$ 145,550	\$ 986,150	\$ 986,150				
\$ 509,649	\$ 331,292	\$ 752,020	\$ 721,581				
\$1,396,931	\$1,200,199	\$1,797,268	\$1,736,636				
\$ 482,905	\$ 453,361	\$1,175,141	\$1,207,594				
53%	61%	189%	228%				
\$1,922,526	\$1,449,013	\$2,246,644	\$2,184,435				
\$ 580,034	\$ 358,384	\$1,334,715	\$1,377,231				
43%	33%	146%	171%				
	\$ 254,885 \$ 144,371 \$ 126,340 \$ 525,596 \$ 97,130 23% \$ 647,918 \$ 239,364 \$ 509,649 \$1,396,931 \$ 482,905 53% \$1,922,526 \$ 580,034	RAISED SPENT** \$ 254,885 \$ 125,435 \$ 144,371 \$ 70,932 \$ 126,340 \$ 52,446 \$ 525,596 \$ 248,814 \$ 97,130 \$ (94,977) 23% -28% \$ 647,918 \$ 723,357 \$ 239,364 \$ 145,550 \$ 509,649 \$ 331,292 \$ 1,396,931 \$ 1,200,199 \$ 482,905 \$ 453,361 53% 61% \$ 1,922,526 \$ 1,449,013 \$ 580,034 \$ 358,384	RAISED SPENT** CASH-ON-HAND \$ 254,885 \$ 125,435 \$ 157,060 \$ 144,371 \$ 70,932 \$ 147,315 \$ 126,340 \$ 52,446 \$ 145,001 \$ 525,596 \$ 248,814 \$ 449,376 \$ 97,130 \$ (94,977) \$ 159,574 23% -28% 55% \$ 647,918 \$ 723,357 \$ 59,098 \$ 239,364 \$ 145,550 \$ 986,150 \$ 509,649 \$ 331,292 \$ 752,020 \$ 1,396,931 \$ 1,200,199 \$ 1,797,268 \$ 482,905 \$ 453,361 \$ 1,175,141 53% 61% 189% \$ 1,922,526 \$ 1,449,013 \$ 2,246,644 \$ 580,034 \$ 358,384 \$ 1,334,715				

^{*}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 www.elec.nj.gov. ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw).

^{**}Some spending totals may exceed fundraising totals because the committee dipped into reserves or incurred debt.