



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:
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County Party Coffers Keep Expanding Due to Larger Pool of Donors and Bigger Checks

For the first time in 17 years, county political party committees collectively raised more than \$5 million during the first half of the year, according to reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

County parties raised nearly \$5.2 million between January and June.

Not since 2007, when they collectively raised just over \$5 million during the first six months, have the parties enjoyed such a boon.

Fund-raising and spending totals so far this year are 40 percent higher than the mid-year averages from 2014 through 2024.

**TABLE 1
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY COUNTY PARTY
COMMITTEES THROUGH 2ND QUARTER BY YEAR**

YEAR	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	STATE ELECTIONS
2014	\$2,379,387	\$2,316,264	\$1,492,059	
2015	\$2,597,718	\$2,365,487	\$1,706,465	Assembly
2016	\$2,811,365	\$2,409,239	\$2,088,607	
2017	\$3,585,017	\$3,060,539	\$2,768,884	Governor and Both Houses
2018	\$2,847,179	\$2,736,142	\$2,793,340	
2019	\$3,180,991	\$3,291,234	\$3,251,147	Assembly
2020	\$1,955,019	\$2,257,696	\$2,103,422	
2021	\$2,429,408	\$2,438,694	\$3,057,443	Governor and Both Houses
2022	\$2,993,063	\$3,182,672	\$3,918,418	
2023	\$3,989,567	\$3,484,187	\$3,678,305	Senate and Assembly
2024	\$5,174,688	\$4,943,972	\$4,121,453	
Average- 2014-2024	\$3,085,764	\$2,953,284	\$2,816,322	
Difference- %	40%	40%	32%	

The \$4.1 million cash-on-hand total represented a high for the decade and exceeded the 2014-2024 average by 32 percent.

The improving fortune of county parties stems largely from enactment of the Elections Transparency Act (P.L. 2023, c.30) sixteen months ago. Also helping was an influx of funds from candidates facing federal elections this fall.

The new law doubled the regular annual contribution limit for county party committees from \$37,500 to \$75,000. In addition, the law created new “housekeeping” accounts that boosted the annual maximum contribution even higher for county parties.

A donor can give \$75,000 to accounts used directly for campaigns purposes plus another \$37,500 to the new accounts dedicated to general administrative purposes for a total of \$112,500 each year.

Housekeeping accounts are earmarked for expenses such as mortgages, rent, taxes, compliance costs, legal bills and collective bargaining outlays. Only the two state parties and the 42 county parties can create such accounts. National parties also have housekeeping accounts under federal law.

So far this year, the Gloucester County Democrat Executive Committee has received \$112,500 from a donor. Middlesex County Democratic Organization has received two \$75,000 checks while Passaic County Democratic Committee has received one \$75,000 check.

The new law also ended tight contribution caps on public contractors to party committees. Prior to enactment of the law on April 3, 2023, contractors since the mid-2000s had to keep contributions to county parties under \$300 to avoid risking the loss of public contracts. Contractors now can give up to the \$112,500 maximum just like other contributors. During the first six months of 2024, contractors have given \$1.1 million to county parties. Half of that total has come from the following ten firms:

**TABLE 2
 CONTRIBUTIONS TO COUNTY PARTIES THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024 BY
 FIRMS OR MEMBERS OF LLCs WITH PUBLIC CONTRACTS¹**

Firm	Amount
Remington & Vernick Engineers Inc.	\$96,900
French & Parrello Associates Inc.	\$74,600
Colliers Engineering & Design Inc	\$74,350
Member of Eric M Bernstein & Associates LLC	\$62,500
T & M Associates	\$57,050
Business & Governmental Insurance Agency Inc	\$55,000
Richard A. Alaimo Companies ²	\$47,300
Members of McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC	\$31,250
Boswell Engineering Inc	\$31,000
R3M Engineering Inc	\$30,000

¹ Listed firms in previous years have filed annual reports with ELEC disclosing public contracts. Limited liability companies (LLCs) cannot make direct contributions but individuals who are members can write checks that draw on LLC accounts.

² Richard A. Alaimo Associates, Alaimo Group, and Richard A. Alaimo Association of Engineers.

The list includes seven engineering businesses, two law firms and one insurance agency.

Public contractors so far are providing 23 percent- nearly one in four dollars- of the funds received by county party committees.

During the first year of the new law in 2023, county parties raised more than \$1.4 million from public contractors, according to an ELEC analysis. It represented about 11 percent of total fund-raising.

While the infusion of contractor funds clearly is pumping up county party coffers, it remains well below the record \$6.1 million contractors gave to county parties in 2003. County parties also raised a record annual total of \$27.2 million that year.

In addition to benefiting from the 2023 legislative changes, county parties are receiving a windfall of funds from candidates vying this year for one U.S. Senate seat and all 12 House of Representatives seats.

House candidates have contributed \$156,134 through June 30, while U.S. Senate candidates have given \$61,720.

From an overall standpoint, Democrats have raised and spent nearly twice as much as Republicans and have more than triple the amount of cash in the bank.

TABLE 3
SECOND QUARTER SNAPSHOT OF 2024 CAMPAIGN
FINANCE ACTIVITY BY COUNTY PARTIES

PARTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Democrats	\$3,837,988	\$3,640,477	\$3,193,362	\$2,904,330
Republicans	\$1,336,700	\$1,303,494	\$ 928,091	\$1,336,352
Combined	\$5,174,688	\$4,943,972	\$4,121,453	\$4,240,682

*Cash-on-hand plus or minus debts owed to or by the committee.

Among Democratic county party committees that have filed their reports, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Mercer, Somerset and Union Counties all reported cash balances of more than \$100,000. Hudson County reported a negative cash balance when adjusting for outstanding debts.

TABLE 4
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY OF
DEMOCRATIC COUNTY PARTY COMMITTEES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Atlantic	\$ 37,322	\$ 29,336	\$ 10,334	\$ 10,334
Bergen	\$ 773,327	\$ 267,828	\$ 830,939	\$ 830,939
Burlington	\$ 132,300	\$ 30,778	\$ 156,116	\$ 149,741
Camden	\$ 213,273	\$ 324,925	\$ 170,661	\$ 44,513
Cape May	\$ 24,096	\$ 13,631	\$ 28,169	\$ 28,169
Cumberland	\$ 28,140	\$ 17,140	\$ 29,650	\$ 29,650
Essex	\$ 387,095	\$ 366,048	\$ 270,479	\$ 270,479
Gloucester	\$ 231,537	\$ 116,381	\$ 328,289	\$ 309,937
Hudson	\$ 123,175	\$ 115,397	\$ 36,373	\$ (116,476)
Hunterdon	\$ 14,600	\$ 33,760	\$ 6,882	\$ 6,882
Mercer	\$ 29,010	\$ 24,000	\$ 345,726	\$ 345,148
Middlesex	\$ 621,511	\$ 911,066	\$ 69,063	\$ 69,063
Monmouth	\$ 97,062	\$ 97,389	\$ 5,536	\$ 5,536
Morris	\$ 77,350	\$ 80,724	\$ 54,814	\$ 54,813
Ocean	\$ 17,496	\$ 11,452	\$ 42,792	\$ 58,959
Passaic	\$ 649,765	\$ 794,794	\$ 97,856	\$ 97,856
Salem	\$ 21,098	\$ 41,481	\$ 46,281	\$ 46,281
Somerset	\$ 148,016	\$ 168,828	\$ 206,632	\$ 206,632
Sussex	\$ 2,953	\$ 8,501	\$ 33,461	\$ 33,461
Union	\$ 205,898	\$ 185,599	\$ 419,943	\$ 419,943
Warren**	\$ 2,965	\$ 1,417	\$ 3,365	\$ 2,469
Democrats-Total	\$3,837,988	\$3,640,477	\$3,193,362	\$2,904,330

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

** First quarter totals.

Among Republican county party committees that have filed their reports, Cape May County reported a cash balance above \$100,000. Hudson had negative balance while Somerset County reported it would have a negative balance if it paid off its outstanding debts.

**TABLE 5
 CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY OF
 REPUBLICAN COUNTY PARTY COMMITTEES
 JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024**

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Atlantic	\$ 95,480	\$ 73,277	\$ 97,936	\$ 97,936
Bergen	\$ 64,951	\$ 61,084	\$ 14,995	\$ 4,994
Burlington	\$ 21,836	\$ 28,162	\$ 10,685	\$ 520,100
Camden	\$ 17,892	\$ 24,691	\$ 1,326	\$ 1,295
Cape May	\$ 131,834	\$ 90,469	\$409,101	\$ 409,101
Cumberland	\$ 60,210	\$ 28,671	\$ 73,828	\$ 73,828
Essex	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,503	\$ 5,307	\$ 5,307
Gloucester	\$ 25,715	\$ 35,384	\$ 2,038	\$ 2,038
Hudson**	\$ 0	\$ 725	(\$ 725)	(\$ 725)
Hunterdon	\$ 74,489	\$ 67,597	\$ 17,351	\$ 7,351
Mercer	\$ 1,700	\$ 3,156	\$ 6,240	\$ 6,240
Middlesex	\$ 60,117	\$ 28,766	\$ 51,684	\$ 51,556
Monmouth	\$ 102,146	\$ 144,405	\$ 65,669	\$ 65,669
Morris	\$ 61,709	\$ 76,682	\$ 8,295	\$ 3,095
Ocean	\$ 305,631	\$ 299,973	\$ 15,882	\$ 15,882
Passaic	\$ 134,220	\$ 112,725	\$ 40,428	\$ 13,659
Salem	\$ 38,025	\$ 12,512	\$ 64,022	\$ 64,022
Somerset	\$ 23,555	\$ 41,500	\$ 1,183	(\$ 47,571)
Sussex**	\$ 11,645	\$ 8,821	\$ 14,161	\$ 13,890
Union	\$ 32,120	\$ 88,215	\$ 366	\$ 366
Warren	\$ 63,426	\$ 69,177	\$ 28,320	\$ 28,320
Republicans-Total	\$1,336,700	\$1,303,494	\$928,091	\$1,336,352

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

Totals contained in this analysis are based on reports filed by noon August 19, 2024. They have yet to be verified by ELEC staff and should be considered preliminary.

Individual reports can be reviewed on ELEC’s website (www.elec.nj.gov).

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