



NEWS RELEASE

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Gubernatorial Candidates Have Raised \$15.6 million

Nine candidates for 2025 gubernatorial primary nomination already have raised a combined \$15.6 million and spent \$5.3 million, according to quarterly reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Candidates as a group also report having about \$9.3 million in reserves available as they gear up for the June 10 primary.

“The fact that candidates already have raised \$15.6 million with 145 days until the primary is a strong sign that this year’s election will be record-breaking,” said Joe Donohue, ELEC’s Deputy Director.

Table 1
Campaign Finance Activity Reported by
2025 Gubernatorial Primary Candidates
(Ranked by Funds Raised)

| Candidate | Raised | Spent | Net Worth | Party |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Steven Fulop | \$ 3,174,706 | \$ 640,720 | \$2,304,270 | Democrat |
| Jack Ciattarelli | \$ 2,934,567 | \$1,356,818 | \$1,536,899 | Republican |
| Steve Sweeney | \$ 2,425,827 | \$ 399,063 | \$1,921,370 | Democrat |
| Josh Gottheimer | \$ 1,658,774 | \$ 147,745 | \$1,501,099 | Democrat |
| Jon Bramnick | \$ 1,535,631 | \$1,131,937 | \$ 384,494 | Republican |
| Mikie Sherrill | \$ 1,392,060 | \$ 387,734 | \$ 604,326 | Democrat |
| Ras Baraka | \$ 1,162,168 | \$ 648,043 | \$ 503,391 | Democrat |
| Bill Spadea | \$ 1,126,655 | \$ 534,029 | \$ 470,797 | Republican |
| Sean Spiller | \$ 182,884 | \$ 64,253 | \$ 73,890 | Democrat |
| Roger Bacon | NA | NA | NA | Republican |
| Monica Brinson | NA | NA | NA | Republican |
| Robert Canfield | NA | NA | NA | Republican |
| Edward Durr | NA | NA | NA | Republican |
| James Fazzone | NA | NA | NA | Republican |
| Hans Herberg | NA | NA | NA | Republican |
| Totals | \$15,593,272 | \$5,310,343 | \$9,300,536 | |

Donohue noted that 15 candidates¹ already are vying for the primary.

¹ Excludes three independent candidates.

“This is the second largest number since 1981, when 19 primary contestants sought the nomination,” he said. “That year was the first when public funds were available for New Jersey gubernatorial primaries.”

The \$15.6 million in fundraising is preliminary and represents only what candidates themselves have raised so far from private contributors. Compared to spending totals from the 11 previous gubernatorial primary elections since 1981, the current year already ranks fifth without adjusting for inflation.

Under the Gubernatorial Public Financing program, qualifying candidates in 2025 can receive up to \$5.5 million if they raise about \$2.9 million from private sources under a 2-for-1 matching program. More public funds will be available in the general election.

“Except for the 2025 figure, which is based solely on candidate fundraising thus far, spending totals below are based on final candidate fundraising plus their public funds,” Donohue said. “Candidates are still expected to raise substantial additional sums from private donors. And several may qualify to receive public funds.”

Table 2
2025 Preliminary Fundraising Versus Final
Candidate Spending in Past Primaries

| Year | Candidate Primary Spending | Inflation Adjusted |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2017 | \$34,494,741 | \$44,144,178 |
| 2005 | \$28,461,596 | \$45,714,744 |
| 2001 | \$23,019,458 | \$40,796,332 |
| 2021 | \$16,735,704 | \$19,374,124 |
| 2025* | \$15,593,272 | \$15,593,272 |
| 1989 | \$15,034,503 | \$38,033,534 |
| 2009 | \$14,807,441 | \$21,650,957 |
| 1981 | \$14,751,459 | \$50,906,165 |
| 1997 | \$10,132,370 | \$19,803,196 |
| 1993 | \$ 9,967,456 | \$21,637,933 |
| 2013 | \$ 9,677,478 | \$13,031,239 |
| 1985 | \$ 6,224,289 | \$18,145,827 |

*Preliminary candidate fundraising only. Does not include public funds.

In 1974, New Jersey became the first state to authorize distribution of public matching funds to gubernatorial candidates starting with the 1977 general election.

Reports filed by candidates can be obtained on ELEC’s website at www.elec.nj.gov.

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