



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 21 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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