



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Assembly Primary Fund-raising Almost \$22.8 Million

Candidates pursuing nominations to compete for the 80 state Assembly seats this fall have raised nearly \$22.8 million, spent \$11.6 million and have \$11.2 million stashed away for the June 10 primary election, according to reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

**Table 1**  
**Campaign Finance Activity by Legislative Candidates**  
**Up Until 29 Days Before Primary Election**

Year	Raised	Spent	Cash	Elections*
2015	\$11,535,333	\$ 6,210,337	\$ 5,268,807	A
2017	\$29,440,397	\$16,298,199	\$13,258,762	G, S, A
2019	\$11,045,006	\$ 5,421,905	\$ 5,620,509	A
2021	\$30,716,075	\$14,629,810	\$16,086,266	G, S, A
2023	\$32,854,931	\$14,165,527	\$18,689,405	S, A
<b>2025</b>	<b>\$22,773,057</b>	<b>\$11,614,805</b>	<b>\$11,158,252</b>	<b>G, A</b>

\*G=Gubernatorial, S=Senate, A=Assembly

Fund-raising in 2025 is lower than in years when the state Senate also was running<sup>1</sup>.

This year's contest already has attracted more than twice the dollars raised in 2015 and 2019, when the Assembly was the only house up for reelection.

One factor in the fund-raising surge may be the large number of candidates seeking the 80 lower house seats this year. The primary has drawn 120 Democrats and 82 Republicans- 202 total candidates.

In the five previous Assembly races, the previous high was 187.

**Table 2**  
**Number of Assembly Primary Candidates**

Year	Democrats	Republicans	Total
2025	120	82	202
2023	87	85	172
2021	90	85	175
2019	97	82	179
2017	96	91	187
2015	88	84	172

<sup>1</sup> The 2015, 2019 and 2025 primary ballots each included one state Senate special election. Totals include funding for those races.

Democrats are facing the most challengers in this year's primary. They now control the lower house by a 52 to 28 margin.

Across the state, incumbents have a huge fund-raising advantage.

Incumbents raised and spent four times more than challengers, and they are sitting on nearly five times more cash-on-hand.

**Table 3**  
**Breakdown by Incumbents and Challengers**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Raised</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Cash-on-Hand</b>
<b>Incumbents</b>	<b>\$18,508,682</b>	<b>\$ 9,225,475</b>	<b>\$ 9,283,206</b>
<b>Challengers</b>	<b>\$ 4,264,376</b>	<b>\$ 2,389,329</b>	<b>\$ 1,875,046</b>
All Candidates	\$22,773,057	\$11,614,805	\$11,158,252

The majority party also holds an edge.

Democrats have raised and spent more than four times as much as Republicans and have more than four times the cash reserves.

**Table 4**  
**Party Breakdown of Legislative  
Campaign Finance Activity**

<b>Party</b>	<b>Raised</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Cash-on-Hand</b>
<b>Democrats</b>	<b>\$18,406,614</b>	<b>\$ 9,549,856</b>	<b>\$ 8,856,757</b>
<b>Republicans</b>	<b>\$ 4,366,444</b>	<b>\$ 2,064,949</b>	<b>\$ 2,301,495</b>
Grand Total	\$22,773,057	\$11,614,805	\$11,158,252

The top ten fund-raisers together have reaped almost \$7.4 million- 32 percent of all legislative fund-raising.

They also have engaged in 28 percent of all spending and have 37 percent of the entire cash-on-hand.

The top ten includes all Democrats, including nine incumbents.

All but three hold leadership positions.

The list includes a joint fund-raising committee consisting of two Democratic challengers.

**Table 5**  
**Top Ten Fund-raisers for 2025**  
**Assembly Primary Election**

<b>District</b>	<b>Candidate(s)</b>	<b>Raised</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Cash-on-hand</b>
19	Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin	\$ 1,919,995	\$ 1,015,569	\$ 904,426
14	Deputy Speaker Wayne DeAngelo*	\$ 1,102,412	\$ 250,759	\$ 851,653
36	Policy Chair Gary Schaer**	\$ 609,817	\$ 272,745	\$ 337,072
20	Speaker Pro Tempore Annette Quijano	\$ 594,665	\$ 261,784	\$ 332,881
6	Majority Leader Louis Greenwald	\$ 571,422	\$ 401,577	\$ 169,845
32	Crystal Fonseca & Jennie Pu	\$ 566,636	\$ 263,606	\$ 303,030
15	Deputy Maj. Leader Anthony Verrelli*	\$ 550,595	\$ 104,327	\$ 446,268
29	Eliana Pintor Marin*	\$ 520,968	\$ 281,272	\$ 239,695
17	Kevin Egan	\$ 470,170	\$ 257,441	\$ 212,729
36	Deputy Whip Clinton Calabrese*	\$ 457,634	\$ 132,604	\$ 325,030
	<b>Top Ten Fund-raisers</b>	<b>\$ 7,364,313</b>	<b>\$ 3,241,684</b>	<b>\$ 4,122,629</b>
	<b>Fund-raising- All Legislators</b>	<b>\$22,773,057</b>	<b>\$11,614,805</b>	<b>\$11,158,252</b>
	<b>Top Ten Only</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>37%</b>

\*Committee chairperson. \*\*Also Deputy Speaker.

Totals in this analysis reflect candidate spending only. They do not include spending by independent committees to promote or oppose candidates. Available reports indicate no spending by such groups yet on legislative elections.

Candidate totals in this analysis are based on 29-day pre-election reports that reflect campaign finance activity through May 9, 2025.

Reports filed by legislative candidates are available online on ELEC's website at [www.elec.nj.gov](http://www.elec.nj.gov). A downloadable summary of data from candidate reports is available in both spreadsheet and PDF formats at [www.elec.nj.gov/publicinformation/statistics.htm](http://www.elec.nj.gov/publicinformation/statistics.htm).

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