



NEWS RELEASE

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With a major election behind them, the so-called “Big Six” committees of the two major parties took a breather during the first quarter of 2012, spending only about \$1.6 million combined - one-sixth the amount they spent during the previous quarter when a legislative election took place.

Reports filed by the two state parties and four Legislative Leadership Committees with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) showed that while all campaign finance activity was small compared to the previous quarter, Republican committees outraised and outspent Democratic committees during the three-month period.

TABLE 1
FUNDRAISING BY “BIG SIX” COMMITTEES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2012

| COMMITTEE | RAISED | SPENT | CASH-ON-HAND ON MARCH 31 | NET WORTH*ON MARCH 31 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| REPUBLICANS | | | | |
| New Jersey Republican State Committee | \$ 798,710 | \$ 1,097,191 | \$ 240,525 | \$ 115,143 |
| Senate Republican Majority | \$ 87,367 | \$ 142,652 | \$ 151,037 | \$ 151,037 |
| Assembly Republican Victory | \$ 44,996 | \$ 41,355 | \$ 72,910 | \$ 72,910 |
| Sub Total-Republicans | \$ 931,073 | \$ 1,281,198 | \$ 464,472 | \$ 339,090 |
| DEMOCRATS | | | | |
| New Jersey Democratic State Committee | \$ 87,605 | \$ 110,664 | \$ 78,873 | \$ 53,633 |
| Senate Democratic Majority | \$ 107,730 | \$ 122,233 | \$ 60,510 | \$ 40,510 |
| Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee | \$ 167,241 | \$ 103,097 | \$ 100,746 | \$ 70,308 |
| Sub Total-Democrats | \$ 362,576 | \$ 335,994 | \$ 240,129 | \$ 164,451 |
| Total-Both Parties | \$ 1,293,649 | \$ 1,617,192 | \$ 704,601 | \$ 503,541 |

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

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said party fundraising committees typically experience a lull after a major election. All 120 legislative seats were in contention last year, and the six party committees spent just under \$10 million during the final three months of 2011.

“If the last quarter of 2011 was the party, the first quarter of 2012 was the hangover. Both parties are now getting back on their feet and just beginning to look ahead to future campaigns,” he said. Brindle said he expects the pace of fundraising to pick up as the year progresses because of this year’s presidential and congressional races. Also, the governor’s seat and all 120 legislative seats are up for reelection in 2013.

Compared to the same period four years earlier, combined fundraising and cash-on-hand during the first quarter of 2012 were down but spending and net worth were up. Republican totals all were up from 2008, while Democratic totals were down except for net worth.

**TABLE 2
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITIES FOR BOTH
PARTIES FIRST QUARTER 2008 VS 2012**

| REPUBLICANS | RAISED | SPENT | CASH-ON-HAND | NET WORTH |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 2008 | \$ 409,681 | \$ 319,372 | \$ 78,512 | \$ 212,474 |
| 2012 | \$ 931,073 | \$ 1,281,198 | \$ 464,472 | \$ 339,090 |
| Difference-Dollars | \$ 521,392 | \$ 961,826 | \$ 385,960 | \$ 126,616 |
| Difference-% | 127% | 301% | 492% | 60% |
| | | | | |
| DEMOCRATS | | | | |
| 2008 | \$ 521,393 | \$ 961,829 | \$ 385,965 | \$ 126,617 |
| 2012 | \$ 362,576 | \$ 335,994 | \$ 240,129 | \$ 164,451 |
| Difference-Dollars | \$ (158,817) | \$ (625,835) | \$ (145,836) | \$ 37,834 |
| Difference-% | -30% | -65% | -38% | 30% |
| | | | | |
| BOTH PARTIES | | | | |
| 2008 | \$ 1,799,469 | \$ 1,010,346 | \$ 1,166,446 | \$ 180,217 |
| 2012 | \$ 1,293,649 | \$ 1,617,192 | \$ 704,601 | \$ 503,541 |
| Difference-Dollars | \$ (505,820) | \$ 606,846 | \$ (461,845) | \$ 323,324 |
| Difference-% | -28% | 60% | -40% | 179% |

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 at www.elec.state.nj.us.

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