



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:  
 OCTOBER 17, 2014

Fundraising by the so-called “Big Six” committees perked up during the last three months but the combined activity of the two state parties and four legislative leadership committees remained low compared to the previous eight years, according to an analysis by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Fundraising during the quarter by the Republican State Committee led the surge. The committee raised \$775,912 during the three months- twice more than the \$376,987 collected for the same period by the five other committees.

Despite the increase, combined “Big Six” fundraising, spending and net worth remained at their lowest point since at least 2007. Combined cash-on-hand was slightly higher than the 2012 total.

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said fundraising definitely is harder these days due to a variety of factors, including increased spending by independent groups, tight restrictions on contractor contributions, competition from PACs, and the economy.

“At the same time, everyone must keep in mind this is an off-election year. The pace of fundraising is likely to pick up steadily as we approach next year’s legislative elections,” he said.

**TABLE 1**  
**CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY “BIG SIX”**  
**JANUARY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2014**

<b>BOTH PARTIES</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH*</b>	<b>STATEWIDE ELECTIONS?</b>
2007	\$9,322,604	\$6,713,165	\$7,368,421	\$7,095,891	YES
2008	\$4,457,887	\$3,508,376	\$1,519,083	\$1,134,427	NO
2009	\$6,309,496	\$5,098,191	\$3,073,241	\$2,746,784	YES
2010	\$3,160,458	\$2,859,927	\$1,664,237	\$1,457,787	NO
2011	\$6,913,921	\$5,025,694	\$3,428,259	\$3,123,885	YES
2012	\$4,083,910	\$3,971,806	\$1,331,432	\$1,192,473	NO
2013	\$7,203,008	\$5,917,331	\$2,970,203	\$2,884,025	YES
2014	\$2,444,799	\$1,887,661	\$1,388,946	\$ 765,268	NO

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

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Looking at campaign finance activity for the first nine months of 2014, Republican committees as a group raised more funds, did more spending and reported larger reserves. Republicans also raised more and had larger cash-on-hand than they did four years earlier. Democratic totals all were below 2010 levels.

**TABLE 2**  
**FUNDRAISING BY “BIG SIX” COMMITTEES**  
**JANUARY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2014**

<b>REPUBLICANS</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT**</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH*</b>
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$1,119,694	\$ 847,574	\$ 684,482	\$ 126,783
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 145,880	\$ 62,553	\$ 139,562	\$ 139,562
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 300,143	\$ 130,630	\$ 210,226	\$ 210,226
<b>Sub Total-Republicans</b>	<b>\$1,565,717</b>	<b>\$1,040,757</b>	<b>\$1,034,270</b>	<b>\$ 473,571</b>
Versus 2010 (Dollars)	\$ 97,688	\$ (297,098)	\$ 110,583	\$ (69,032)
Versus 2010 (Percent)	7%	-22%	12%	-8%
<b>DEMOCRATS</b>				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$ 183,329	\$ 261,074	\$ 81,277	\$ 68,737
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 197,300	\$ 230,043	\$ 40,103	\$ 20,103
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 498,453	\$ 355,787	\$ 233,296	\$ 202,857
<b>Sub Total-Democrats</b>	<b>\$ 879,082</b>	<b>\$ 846,904</b>	<b>\$ 354,676</b>	<b>\$ 291,697</b>
Versus 2010 (Dollars)	\$ (813,347)	\$ (675,168)	\$ (385,874)	\$ (331,790)
Versus 2010 (Percent)	-48%	-44%	-52%	-53%
<b>Total-Both Parties</b>				
<b>Total-Both Parties</b>	<b>\$2,444,799</b>	<b>\$1,887,661</b>	<b>\$1,388,946</b>	<b>\$ 765,268</b>
Versus 2010 (Dollars)	\$ (715,659)	\$ (972,266)	\$ (275,291)	\$ (692,519)
Versus 2010 (Percent)	-23%	-34%	-17%	-48%

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

\*\*Some spending totals exceed fundraising because reserves were used to offset the extra spending.

To help bolster party fundraising, Brindle urged the Legislature to enact ELEC-recommended legislation that would require independent groups to follow the same disclosure rules as parties and candidates, simplify the state’s pay-to-play restrictions on contractors while allowing them to contribute slightly more, and apply inflation adjustments to contribution limits that apply to other donors.

“These bipartisan reforms may help restore balance to political fundraising in New Jersey by offsetting the growing clout of independent groups, which are far less accountable than the parties,” said Brindle.

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](http://www.elec.state.nj.us). ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw](http://www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/elecnj](http://www.twitter.com/elecnj)).