



NEWS RELEASE

Respond to:
P.O. Box 185
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0185

(609) 292-8700 or Toll Free Within NJ 1-888-313-ELEC (3532)

CONTACT: JEFF BRINDLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:
October 19, 2016

An analysis by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) shows that financial activity by state party entities has continued its decade long decline.

According to third quarter reports, the big six committees, including the two state parties and four legislative leadership committees, raised \$2.2 million and spent \$2 million thus far in 2016.

This compares to \$4.5 raised and \$3.5 million spent in 2008, a similar year when there were no statewide elections.

“In just an eight-year period, fundraising has decreased by 51 percent and spending by 43 percent” said Jeff Brindle, Executive Director of the Commission.

“For a number of years now we have been calling for legislation to strengthen the political party system in New Jersey,” added Brindle. “These statistics demonstrate the weakened state of parties in New Jersey and the glaring need to do something about it. Parties are accountable, disclose their activities, serve as the people’s link to the government, and represent a broad coalition of people.”

Brindle said that the significant growth in independent group activity and the impact of the complex pay-to-play law in 2006 have contributed to the weakening of political parties in the State.

“Just this year, independent groups have spent \$20 million for and against the casino ballot question. Between now and election day it could reach \$40 million,” he said. In the 2013 gubernatorial and legislative elections, over \$41 million was spent by independent groups compared to \$14 million by the political parties.

-more-

“What’s more, public contractor contributions are increasingly going to special interest PACs, and independent groups, thus legally circumventing the pay-to-play law,” said Brindle.

He said that this trend is to the detriment, not only of political parties, but to the public.

According to the analysis, the Republican committees have raised \$1.1 million and spent \$930,487 and have cash-on-hand amounting to \$814,746.

The Democratic committees have approximately \$1.1 million in funds raised and have spent about \$1.1 million with \$373,960 cash-on-hand.

During the first nine months of 2016, the New Jersey Republican State Committee has led the way in terms of fundraising and spending, \$616,675 raised and \$704,621 spent.

Among the legislative leadership committees, the Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee raised and spent the most money, \$409,263 raised and \$424,000 spent.

In the third quarter alone, the big six committees reported raising \$533,737, the Republicans raising \$405,941 and the Democrats \$127,796.

**Table 1
Campaign Finance Activity by “Big Six”
January 1 through September 30, 2016**

BOTH PARTIES	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH	STATEWIDE ELECTION
2007	\$9,322,604	\$6,713,165	\$7,368,421	\$7,095,891	Senate and Assembly
2008	\$4,457,887	\$3,508,376	\$1,519,083	\$1,134,427	
2009	\$6,309,496	\$5,098,191	\$3,073,241	\$2,746,784	Governor and Assembly
2010	\$3,160,458	\$2,859,927	\$1,664,237	\$1,457,787	
2011	\$6,913,921	\$5,025,694	\$3,428,259	\$3,123,885	Senate and Assembly
2012	\$4,083,910	\$3,971,806	\$1,331,432	\$1,192,473	
2-13	\$7,203,008	\$5,917,331	\$2,970,203	\$2,884,025	Governor and Both Houses
2014	\$2,444,799	\$1,887,661	\$1,388,946	\$ 765,268	
2015	\$3,896,539	\$3,579,018	\$1,984,629	\$1,346,849	Assembly only
2016	\$2,195,300	\$1,985,370	\$1,188,706	\$1,039,918	

Table 2
Fundraising by "Big Six" Committees
January 1 through September 30, 2016

ACTIVITY FIRST THREE QUARTERS 2016				
REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NETWORTH
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 616,675	\$ 704,621	\$ 94,896	\$ 79,708
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 200,300	\$ 108,735	\$ 458,347	\$ 449,702
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 287,284	\$ 117,131	\$ 261,503	\$ 261,503
SUB TOTAL- REPUBLICANS	\$1,104,259	\$ 930,487	\$ 814,746	\$ 790,913
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$ 399,640	\$ 429,795	\$ 23,935	\$ (50,581)
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 282,138	\$ 201,088	\$ 321,088	\$ 301,088
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 409,263	\$ 424,000	\$ 28,937	\$ (1,502)
SUB-TOTAL- DEMOCRATS	\$1,091,041	\$1,054,883	\$ 373,960	\$ 249,005
TOTAL- BOTH PARTIES	\$2,195,300	\$1,985,370	\$1,188,706	\$1,039,918

THIRD QUARTER 2016		
REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 162,640	\$ 129,029
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 101,500	\$ 28,401
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 141,801	\$ 44,354
SUB TOTAL- REPUBLICANS	\$ 405,941	\$ 201,784
DEMOCRATS		
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$ 54,251	\$ 39,035
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 26,496	\$ 86,523
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 47,049	\$ 144,772
SUB-TOTAL- DEMOCRATS	\$ 127,796	\$ 270,330
TOTAL- BOTH PARTIES	\$ 533,737	\$ 472,115

###