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# Newsletter

## ELECTronic

AN ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION NEWSLETTER  
“Furthering the Interest of an Informed Citizenry”

### Introduction of New Commissioners



**Thomas H. Prol, Chairman**

Thomas H. Prol is a member of the law firm Sills Cummis & Gross P.C. and is admitted to practice law in New Jersey, New York and before several federal courts. He is a member of the American Bar Association House of Delegates, a Life Fellow of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and a Past President of the New Jersey State Bar Association (“NJSBA”). Mr. Prol served as NJSBA’s first openly gay leader in 2016-2017 and he has championed the resurgent effort to ratify New Jersey native Alice Paul’s Equal Rights Amendment as the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Holding Juris Doctorate and Master of Public Health degrees, in March 2020, the NJSBA called Mr. Prol back to service to oversee its Pandemic Task Force, leading the effort to fashion a strategic roadmap to address the impact of COVID-19 on the legal profession.

Throughout his legal career, Mr. Prol has been a vocal advocate on issues of equality, individual dignity, and access to justice. He co-drafted New Jersey’s marriage equality legislation that was signed into law by Governor Phil Murphy on January 10, 2022. He was an advocate for, and successfully argued the defense of the New Jersey Criminal Justice Reform Act and the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Act. As a founding executive board member of Garden State Equality, New Jersey’s largest LGBTQ education organization, Mr. Prol has championed civil rights and personal liberties for over two decades. He served as vice chair of the National LGBT Bar Association and director of the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York in 1999-2000.

Mr. Prol has appeared and authored/co-authored numerous briefs before the New Jersey Supreme and Superior Courts, New Jersey Council on Local Mandates, the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court over the past two decades. He has represented over a dozen municipal entities as general or special counsel and is an expert in local government law and parliamentary procedure.

Mr. Prol is General Counsel to the Municipal Clerks’ Association of New Jersey and special environmental counsel to the County of Sussex and its municipal utilities authority. He previously served as Associate General Counsel and Agency Chief Contracting Officer for New York City’s Department of Consumer Affairs, and was an adjunct professor at Seton Hall University School of Law and New York Law School. Prior to practicing law, Mr. Prol was an environmental scientist and enforcement officer for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and served two years as a volunteer in the

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### COMMISSIONERS

Thomas H. Prol, Chairman
Norma R. Evans, Commissioner
Ryan Peters, Commissioner
Jon-Henry Barr, Commissioner
Edwin R. Matthews, Legal Counsel

U.S. Peace Corps in Nepal where he taught sanitation and health in Nepali villages in the eastern hill region near Mount Everest. Mr. Prol has also held externships with the U.S. Attorney's Office (EDNY), the New York City Commission on Human Rights, CNN and The Carter Presidential Center.

Governor Phil Murphy appointed Mr. Prol as Chair of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission on June 14, 2023, and the Honorable Janine Allen, J.S.C., administered his oath of office on June 19, 2023. He resides in Asbury Park.



**Norma R. Evans, Commissioner**

Norma R. Evans received her Juris Doctorate from Temple University Beasley School of Law. While in Law School she was a member of the Moot Court Honor Society and President of the Black Law Students Association.

Ms. Evans began her legal career at the Philadelphia law firm of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker and Rhoads as a Litigation Associate. Following her passion for public service, she became an Assistant Prosecutor with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office. She later joined the Attorney General's Office, Division of Criminal Justice, where she rose to the ranks of Supervising Deputy Attorney General, Deputy Chief of the Office of the

Insurance Fraud Prosecutor and Counsel to the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor.

As a Deputy Attorney General, she helped to ensure fair and efficient elections, and assisted county election officials in resolving election day voting-related legal issues, to facilitate the preservation and protection of the right to vote. Her duties included handling any court applications, and providing timely legal advice to County Superintendents of Elections and Boards of Elections on emergent voting-related matters to help ensure the integrity of the voting process.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Evans was assigned to the Sandy Fraud Task Force and represented the Attorney General as legal counsel to the New Jersey Police Training Commission, the State Toxicology Lab and the Human Trafficking Task Force.

Recognized for her exceptional contribution to the Division of Criminal Justice and the State of New Jersey, Ms. Evans is the recipient of the Professional Lawyer of the Year Award from the New Jersey State Bar Association's Commission on Professionalism in the Law, the United States Inspector General's Integrity Award, the Division of Criminal Justice Director's Award, and the New Jersey Outstanding Public Official Award.

Ms. Evans is the former President of the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey. She is a Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Ms. Evans currently serves on the South Jersey Legal Services, Inc. Board of Trustees and is the Vice President of the Garden State Unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians.



**Ryan Peters, Commissioner**

Ryan Peters is a native of Mount Laurel, New Jersey. He is a 2004 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, a 2012 graduate of the Rutgers School of Law and a graduate of the Johnson College of Business at Cornell University.

Upon successfully finishing training and certification as a Navy SEAL, he completed three combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. At present, Ryan is a Navy Captain assigned to SEAL Team EIGHTEEN.

Ryan is a Vice President with Holman Enterprises in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. Formerly an associate attorney with Pepper Hamilton, LLP, resident in the Philadelphia and Princeton Offices, he concentrated his practice in commercial litigation, with a particular focus on arbitration, breach of contract litigation, and class action litigation. He is also a Certified Fraud Examiner and a Certified Anti-Money Laundering specialist with experience in anti-money laundering compliance and internal investigations.

Ryan is also actively involved in the community. He served as a member of the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders from 2016 until 2018. In January of 2018, Ryan was sworn into the New Jersey Legislature as an Assemblyman representing New Jersey's 8<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. Ryan also served

as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Liberty USO of Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey; the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Goodwill Industries of Southern New Jersey and Philadelphia; and on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity of Burlington and Mercer County.



**Jon-Henry Barr, Commissioner**

Jon-Henry “J.H.” Barr is a lifelong resident of Union County, New Jersey. He graduated from Lehigh University with a bachelor’s degree in government, and he earned his law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law. While in law school, he won a seat on the Clark Township Council at age 23, becoming one of the youngest elected officials in New Jersey at that time. After law school, he was a law clerk to Superior Court Judge Paul F. Chaiet in Monmouth County.

In 2001, Mr. Barr was appointed as Chief Municipal Prosecutor for Clark, a position he continues to hold today. He is a founding member of the New Jersey State Municipal Prosecutors Association, and served as its president for eight years. As a frequent speaker for continuing legal education seminars and for his leadership in the area of municipal court practice, he received the New Jersey State Bar Association’s 2014 Municipal Court Practitioner of the Year award. That same year, due to his extensive experience prosecuting

marijuana possession offenses, he joined the steering committee of New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform (NJUMR), a partnership of public safety, medical, civil rights, faith, and social justice groups and individuals. NJUMR played a key role in the overwhelming approval of a November 2020 public referendum in which the citizens of New Jersey voted to legalize the possession of marijuana.

Mr. Barr’s community involvement includes membership in the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad, where he was a certified Emergency Medical Technician from 2003 to 2020, and served twice as the squad’s president. For his volunteer service with the Clark squad, the Young Lawyer’s Division of the New Jersey State Bar Association rewarded him with its “Service to the Community” trophy in 2005.

In 2017, Mr. Barr was appointed by the Union County Board of County Commissioners to the Board of Education of the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools, becoming the school board’s vice-president two years later. He also earned a Certified Board Member recognition in 2023 from the New Jersey School Boards Association, where he currently sits on the Board of Directors as an Alternate Delegate for the vocational school boards of the state.

Mr. Barr is admitted to practice law in New Jersey, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. He has maintained a private law practice as the managing member of the law firm of Barr & Gulyas, L.L.C. in Clark since 1998. He is also a past president of the Union County Bar Association, which honored him in 2022 with its annual “Pro Bono Attorney of the Year” award.

## Training & Seminars Webinars

### PAC (CPC/PPC) WEBINARS

R-3 eFile **ONLY** Program Training

September 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM

October 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM

CPC/PPC Compliance Seminar **AND** eFile Training

**September 07, 2023 at 10:00 AM**

**October 03, 2023 at 10:00 AM**

### CANDIDATE WEBINARS

R-1 eFile **ONLY** Program Training

September 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM

October 05, 2023 at 10:00 AM

October 24, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Campaign Compliance Seminar **AND** eFile Training

September 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM

September 26, 2023 at 10:00 AM

October 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM

If you have any questions concerning ELEC’s training program, please contact the staff of the Compliance Division at (609) 292-8700.

\*All webinars will run for approximately 2 hours.

## New Campaign Finance Rules Apply to Fall General Election Campaigns

By Joe Donohue

Candidates, committees, and treasurers heading toward the November 7 general election face many changes in campaign finance rules under legislation (P.L. 2023 c. 30) enacted by Governor Phil Murphy on April 3, 2023.

Higher contribution limits now apply to all non-gubernatorial candidates and committees for the first time in 18 years. Before the new law took effect, the limits had remained unchanged since 2005.

The biggest changes apply to state and county party committees.

Under the old law, the maximum contribution per year was \$37,000 to county party committees. State parties previously could take checks as large as \$25,000.

The new law sets their maximum overall annual contribution at \$112,500- a triple increase for county party committees and nearly five times more for state parties.

Donors can give regular contributions of \$75,000 to state or county parties plus another \$37,500 to new “housekeeping” accounts for expenses deemed non-political under the revised law.

Annual Contribution Limits- State and County Parties		
Recipient	Old Law	New Law
State Party Committees	\$25,000	<b>\$75,000 Regular Contribution Plus \$37,500 to Housekeeping Accounts= \$112,500 Total</b>
County Party Committees	\$37,000	<b>\$75,000 Regular Contribution Plus \$37,500 to Housekeeping Accounts= \$112,500 Total</b>

Legislative Leadership PACs also can now accept up to \$75,000 each year, three times more than under the old law. They are not permitted to have housekeeping accounts.

In another revision, the new law has eliminated a tight limit on contributions by public contractors to party and legislative leadership committees. They now can give up to the regular contribution limits like other donors.

Municipal party committees now can accept up to \$14,400 per year- up from \$7,200.

Permissible contributions to candidate, political and continuing political committees remain smaller than those to party committees. They have received a significant boost above the 2005 limits.

Candidates previously could accept \$2,600 per election from corporations, individuals, associations, groups or unions. That limit is now \$5,200 for each election.

Candidates before could take up to \$8,200 per election from candidates, political or continuing political committees. They now can accept \$16,400 for each election.

<b>Contributions to Candidate Committees Per Election</b>		
<b>Donor Type</b>	<b>Old Law</b>	<b>New Law</b>
Individual, corporation, union, association, or group	\$2,600	<b>\$ 5,200</b>
Candidate, political or continuing political committee	\$8,200	<b>\$16,400</b>

Political and continuing political committees now can receive \$14,400 per election- up from \$7,200.

Other revisions in the law require most committees to file more details about contributions and expenditures that occur in the final two weeks of the campaign.

The law previously required the committees report to ELEC contributions and expenditures above \$1,900 that occur within 13 days of the election. They were known as “48-hour notices” because ELEC was supposed to be notified within 48 hours of the transactions.

Under the new law, the 13-day window has been divided into two separate reporting periods. Contributions and expenditures more than \$200 must be reported between day 13 and day 8 before an election. ELEC must be notified within 72 hours.

In the final seven days before the election, all transactions above the same dollar threshold must be reported within 24 hours.

<b>Reporting of Last-Minute Contributions and Expenditures</b>		
<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Old Law</b>	<b>New Law</b>
Disclosure Threshold	Above \$1,900	<b>Above \$200</b>
Reporting periods- Days before election	13	<b>13 to 8 days/ 7 days</b>
Transaction should be reported to ELEC within:	48 hours	<b>72 hours/ 24 hours</b>
Last minute reporting must be done by:	All committees	<b>All but independent expenditure committees</b>

These requirements apply to all filers except a new type of committee created under the new law- independent expenditure committees.

The independent expenditure committees created by the new law must disclose contributions as well as expenditures. The previous law did not mandate disclosure of contributions to independent committees except under limited circumstances.<sup>1</sup>

Such independent spenders must file if they spend at least \$7,500. They must report contributions above \$7,500 as well as all expenditures in detailed reports filed 29 days and 11 days before, and 20 days after, the general election.

Candidates, committees, and their treasurers also must be aware that they now must disclose detailed information about all donations above \$200. The previous cutoff for full disclosure was over \$300.

<sup>1</sup> Candidates for governor who want to receive public funding must file reports listing the contributions and expenses of issue advocacy groups that promote them in the four years before they become an official candidate.

## With Fall Elections Looming, Combined County Party Fund-raising is Above Average

County parties continue to rake in campaign dollars at a healthy clip as the fall election season nears, according to reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Combined fund-raising during the first six months of 2023 totaled just under \$4 million. That is 28 percent above the decade-long average.

Spending was 21 percent above average while cash reserves are 30 percent higher than the historic benchmark.

**TABLE 1  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY COUNTY PARTY  
COMMITTEES THROUGH 2ND QUARTER BY YEAR**

YEAR	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	STATE ELECTIONS
<b>2013</b>	<b>\$2,647,728</b>	<b>\$2,560,856</b>	<b>\$1,627,287</b>	<b>Governor and Both Houses</b>
2014	\$2,379,387	\$2,316,264	\$1,492,059	
<b>2015</b>	<b>\$2,597,718</b>	<b>\$2,365,487</b>	<b>\$1,706,465</b>	<b>Assembly</b>
2016	\$2,811,365	\$2,409,239	\$2,088,607	
<b>2017</b>	<b>\$3,585,017</b>	<b>\$3,060,539</b>	<b>\$2,768,884</b>	<b>Governor and Both Houses</b>
2018	\$2,847,179	\$2,736,142	\$2,793,340	
<b>2019</b>	<b>\$3,180,991</b>	<b>\$3,291,234</b>	<b>\$3,251,147</b>	<b>Assembly</b>
2020	\$1,955,019	\$2,257,696	\$2,103,422	
<b>2021</b>	<b>\$2,429,408</b>	<b>\$2,438,694</b>	<b>\$3,057,443</b>	<b>Governor and Both Houses</b>
2022	\$2,993,063	\$3,182,672	\$3,918,418	
<b>2023</b>	<b>\$3,989,567</b>	<b>\$3,484,187</b>	<b>\$3,678,305</b>	<b>Senate and Assembly</b>
Average- Six Election Years	\$2,856,040	\$2,736,637	\$2,589,580	
<b>Difference- %</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>30%</b>	

“It is encouraging to see county party spending in New Jersey elections doing better from a fundraising standpoint” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director. “Taking into consideration the rise in independent group spending in New Jersey elections, an increase in funds to county party committees will help to bring more balance to the State’s electoral process.”

So far, there seems to be little impact from a new law (P.L. 2023, Chapter 30) signed by Governor Phil Murphy on April 3, 2023. It made several changes to the state’s chief campaign finance statute.

One change was to double the maximum annual contribution to county party committees from \$37,500 to \$75,000.

In addition, the law created new “housekeeping” accounts. A donor can give \$75,000 to regular campaign accounts and \$37,500 to these new accounts for a total of \$112,000 each year. Only the two state parties and the 42 county parties can create such accounts. National parties also have housekeeping accounts under federal law.

In New Jersey, housekeeping accounts are earmarked solely for administrative expenses, including mortgages, rent, taxes, compliance costs, legal bills, and collective bargaining outlays.

An ELEC review of individual contributions received by county parties during 2023 shows the New Jersey State Laborers PAC is the first – and only- donor to take advantage of the new higher contribution limits. The Laborers union traditionally has been one of the major contributors in the state.

It has given \$85,000 to the Democratic Committee of Bergen County and \$75,000 each to the Essex, Hudson and Middlesex County committees.

Another change in the new law was to end tight contribution limits on public contractors that give to party committees. Previously, they were unable to give more than \$300. Now they can give up to \$112,000.

One sign so far that this change is having an impact is a tripling of receipts from engineers after the law's effective date. Engineers, many of whom have public contracts, gave \$11,850 before the law's enactment and \$47,700 after the new law took effect.

"After county parties file their next quarterly reports in mid-October, we may well see more evidence of the law's impact on their fund-raising," said Brindle.

To date in 2023, Democrats have raised and spent twice as much as Republicans and have more than triple the amount of cash in the bank.

**Table 2**  
**Second Quarter Snapshot of 2023 Campaign**  
**Finance Activity by County Parties**

<b>PARTY</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH*</b>
<b>Democrats</b>	\$2,690,404	\$2,352,307	\$2,889,774	\$2,661,353
<b>Republicans</b>	\$1,299,163	\$1,131,880	\$ 788,530	\$1,250,820
<b>Combined</b>	\$3,989,567	\$3,484,187	\$3,678,305	\$3,912,173

\*Cash-on-hand plus or minus debts owed to or by the committee.

Among Democratic county party committees that have filed their reports, Bergen, Camden, Essex, Mercer, Passaic, Somerset, and Union Counties all reported cash balances of more than \$100,000. Hudson County reported a negative cash balance when adjusting for outstanding debts.

**Table 3**  
**Campaign Finance Activity of**  
**Democratic County Party Committees**  
**January 1 through June 30, 2023**

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Atlantic	\$ 31,860	\$ 37,642	\$ 15,742	\$ 13,979
Bergen	\$ 648,500	\$ 243,817	\$ 480,992	\$ 480,992
Burlington	\$ 51,265	\$ 27,633	\$ 50,551	\$ 44,176
Camden	\$ 195,229	\$ 330,259	\$ 142,034	\$ 142,034
Cape May	\$ 14,020	\$ 6,675	\$ 14,697	\$ 14,697
Cumberland	\$ 6,877	\$ 34,133	\$ 31,558	\$ 24,558
Essex	\$ 221,075	\$ 262,037	\$ 317,127	\$ 317,127
Gloucester	\$ 178,623	\$ 100,923	\$ 86,839	\$ 64,515
Hudson	\$ 203,303	\$ 170,867	\$ 58,617	\$ (146,931)
Hunterdon	\$ 19,204	\$ 14,957	\$ 23,841	\$ 23,841
Mercer	\$ 82,560	\$ 82,024	\$ 363,493	\$ 363,493
Middlesex	\$ 346,213	\$ 444,539	\$ 12,452	\$ 12,452
Monmouth	\$ 65,596	\$ 85,786	\$ 8,951	\$ 8,951
Morris	\$ 66,266	\$ 92,812	\$ 329	\$ 328
Ocean	\$ 21,478	\$ 19,091	\$ 23,349	\$ 39,515
Passaic	\$ 354,801	\$ 139,728	\$ 527,783	\$ 527,783
Salem**	\$ 0	\$ 2,269	\$ 77,945	\$ 76,893
Somerset	\$ 66,881	\$ 52,125	\$ 264,864	\$ 264,340
Sussex	\$ 19,004	\$ 25,456	\$ 5,730	\$ 5,730
Union	\$ 97,648	\$ 179,535	\$ 382,882	\$ 382,882
Warren	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Democrats-Total</b>	<b>\$2,690,404</b>	<b>\$2,352,307</b>	<b>\$2,889,774</b>	<b>\$2,661,353</b>

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

\*\* First quarter totals.



Among Republican county party committees that have filed their reports, Cape May County reported a cash balance above \$100,000. Bergen, Camden, Morris, and Ocean Counties had negative balances when adjusting for outstanding debts.

**Table 4**  
**Campaign Finance Activity of**  
**Republican County Party Committees**  
**January 1 through June 30, 2023**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH*</b>
Atlantic	\$ 122,074	\$ 124,835	\$ 35,163	\$ 35,163
Bergen	\$ 51,274	\$ 50,309	\$ 2,104	\$ (7,896)
Burlington	\$ 33,882	\$ 51,888	\$ 4,639	\$ 505,622
Camden	\$ 19,353	\$ 21,183	\$ (2,639)	\$ (2,644)
Cape May	\$ 197,459	\$ 57,798	\$330,781	\$ 330,781
Cumberland	\$ 58,244	\$ 14,109	\$ 47,406	\$ 47,406
Essex	\$ 0	\$ 11,814	\$ 15,866	\$ 15,866
Gloucester	\$ 33,480	\$ 30,446	\$ 6,222	\$ 6,222
Hudson	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hunterdon	\$ 32,875	\$ 40,732	\$ 16,281	\$ 16,281
Mercer	\$ 20,500	\$ 6,326	\$ 16,736	\$ 16,735
Middlesex**	\$ 6,950	\$ 2,477	\$ 17,222	\$ 17,136
Monmouth	\$ 98,239	\$ 99,313	\$ 52,535	\$ 52,535
Morris	\$ 117,504	\$ 114,498	\$ 11,079	\$ (2,421)
Ocean	\$ 170,331	\$ 225,243	\$ 6,405	\$ (6,928)
Passaic	\$ 149,462	\$ 105,213	\$ 47,447	\$ 45,678
Salem	\$ 22,020	\$ 19,045	\$ 32,513	\$ 32,513
Somerset	\$ 67,593	\$ 66,616	\$ 13,154	\$ 13,154
Sussex	\$ 18,625	\$ 11,344	\$ 79,520	\$ 79,520
Union	\$ 19,915	\$ 24,888	\$ 33,043	\$ 33,043
Warren	\$ 59,382	\$ 53,803	\$ 23,054	\$ 23,054
<b>Republicans-Total</b>	<b>\$1,299,163</b>	<b>\$1,131,880</b>	<b>\$788,530</b>	<b>\$1,250,820</b>

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

\*\* First quarter totals.

Totals contained in this analysis are based on reports filed by noon August 9, 2023. They have yet to be verified by ELEC staff and should be considered preliminary. Data on individual contributions to county parties during the first two quarters was downloaded August 4, 2023.

Individual reports can be reviewed on ELEC's website ([www.elec.nj.gov](http://www.elec.nj.gov)).

## New Election Law Quickly Boosts Bottom Line of “Big Six” Committees

Second quarter reports filed by the two state parties and four legislative leadership committees show that their coffers already are prospering from a new state law that has dramatically raised contribution limits.

Reports submitted to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) by the so-called “Big Six” committees, which reflect campaign finance activity through June 30, 2023, show that their combined fund-raising was \$3.6 million.

That is 12 percent higher than the average fund-raising for six statewide election years since 2013.

In addition, the combined cash reserves of the six committees totals almost \$4.1 million- nearly 16 percent above the average since 2013 and the highest second quarter total for the decade.

**TABLE 1  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY “BIG SIX”  
THROUGH 2ND QUARTER BY YEAR**

YEAR	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	STATE ELECTIONS
<b>2013</b>	<b>\$3,382,737</b>	<b>\$1,874,081</b>	<b>\$3,189,889</b>	<b>Governor and Both Houses</b>
2014	\$1,276,109	\$1,319,714	\$ 800,994	
<b>2015</b>	<b>\$2,476,599</b>	<b>\$1,983,389</b>	<b>\$2,160,318</b>	<b>Assembly</b>
2016	\$1,661,559	\$1,513,987	\$1,127,086	
<b>2017</b>	<b>\$2,751,561</b>	<b>\$2,205,599</b>	<b>\$2,263,401</b>	<b>Governor and Both Houses</b>
2018	\$2,991,664	\$2,416,353	\$1,321,894	
<b>2019</b>	<b>\$2,283,313</b>	<b>\$1,729,263</b>	<b>\$2,075,620</b>	<b>Assembly</b>
2020	\$1,342,492	\$1,090,629	\$ 911,929	
<b>2021</b>	<b>\$4,836,037</b>	<b>\$3,529,208</b>	<b>\$2,678,213</b>	<b>Governor and Both Houses</b>
2022	\$2,167,841	\$1,737,175	\$1,450,701	
<b>2023</b>	<b>\$3,610,199</b>	<b>\$2,148,262</b>	<b>\$4,060,824</b>	<b>Senate and Assembly</b>
Average- Six Election Years	\$3,223,408	\$2,244,967	\$3,495,028	
<b>Difference- %</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>16%</b>	

Governor Phil Murphy on April 3, 2023, signed a new law (P.L. 2023, Chapter 30) that made several changes to the state’s main campaign finance statute.

One is the first significant increase since 2005 in contribution limits for party committees, including the Big Six.

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said that the Commission since 2010 has called for contribution limits for party committees to be increased to help traditional parties compete for campaign dollars and therefore enhance their role in New Jersey elections.

During the past decade or so, fund-raising has been difficult for New Jersey parties. They were operating under low contribution limits that hadn’t been adjusted for inflation for nearly two decades. At the same time, their coffers were hurt by a law that severely restricted donations from public contractors.

During the same period, independent spending committees run by special interests, which face no contribution limits, grew rapidly largely due to federal court rulings. They now are a major force in New Jersey and national campaigns.

“Unlike many independent spending committees, party committees must fully and publicly detail their campaign finances,” Brindle said. “If the new law redirects some funds away from independent spending committees to party coffers, it will bring greater balance to the electoral process in New Jersey.”

Under the previous law, independent spending committees faced far less scrutiny than parties, candidates and traditional political action committees. The new law also requires more disclosure by these groups.

The old law limited the two state parties and four legislative leadership committees from accepting more than \$25,000 annually from a single contributor.

For all the “Big Six” committees, donors now can give \$75,000 each year to general campaign accounts that pay for media costs, direct mail, staff salaries, get-out-the-vote and related costs. The same donors can give an additional \$37,500 annually to new “housekeeping” accounts created by the two state parties- \$112,500. These new accounts are earmarked solely for administrative expenses, including mortgages, rent, taxes, compliance costs, legal bills and collective bargaining outlays. County parties also can create housekeeping accounts.

Second quarter reports show that during the first three months under the new law, one donor thus far has “maxed out”- Robert Hugin, who has served more than two years as chairman of the Republican State Committee and is a former pharmaceutical firm executive.

Hugin has contributed \$112,500 this year to his state party. In addition, his wife Kathleen gave another \$25,000 to the committee.

Notable on the Democratic side is that New Jersey State Laborers PAC has contributed \$75,000 each to the Democratic State Committee and the two legislative leadership PACs.

Among the top donors, 16 so far have contributed more this year than the previous \$25,000 annual limit. Combined, the Big Six have taken in an extra \$671,200 to date due to the higher contribution ceilings.

**TABLE 2  
CONTRIBUTIONS LARGER THAN \$25,000 FROM PRIVATE  
DONORS TO BIG SIX COMMITTEES IN 2023\***

<b>DONOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>RECIPIENT</b>
Robert Hugin	\$ 112,500	NJ Republican State Committee
Greater NJ Carpenters PEC	\$ 75,000	NJ Democratic State Committee
New Jersey State Association of Pipe Trades PAC Account	\$ 75,000	NJ Senate Democratic Majority
New Jersey State Laborers PAC	\$ 75,000	Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee
New Jersey State Laborers PAC	\$ 75,000	NJ Democratic State Committee
New Jersey State Laborers PAC	\$ 75,000	NJ Senate Democratic Majority
New York Hotel Trades Council Non-Federal Cope	\$ 75,000	NJ Democratic State Committee
Laura Overdeck	\$ 75,000	Assembly Republican Victory
Unite Here Tip State & Local Fund	\$ 75,000	NJ Senate Democratic Majority
New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) PAC	\$ 65,000	NJ Democratic State Committee
Josh Gottheimer For Congress	\$ 63,700	NJ Senate Democratic Majority
Matthew Florio	\$ 50,000	NJ Democratic State Committee
Greater NJ Carpenters PEC	\$ 50,000	Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee
Greater NJ Carpenters PEC	\$ 50,000	NJ Senate Democratic Majority
New Jersey Association For Justice	\$ 50,000	NJ Senate Democratic Majority
Local Union #164 IBEW COPE	\$ 30,000	Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,071,200</b>	
16 checks @ \$25,000 (Previous Limit)	\$ 400,000	
Additional Amount Above Previous Limit	\$ 671,200	

\*Excludes contributions by party committees, which are unlimited, or state or local candidate committees. Some of the listed donors also gave contributions of \$25,000 or less to some committees.

The Big Six committees have been subject to contribution limits since 1993.

The New Jersey State Laborers PAC also was a major donor when there were no limits. It gave \$102,500 to the Democratic State Committee in 1989- an amount worth \$252,688 in today's dollars and the most ever given in one year to a Big Six committee.

Prior to Hugin's recent donation of \$112,500, the two state parties received 15 contributions larger than \$100,000 in current dollars. All were received in the 1980s before contributions to state parties in 1993 were limited to \$25,000 per year.

**TABLE 3  
INFLATION ADJUSTED CONTRIBUTIONS LARGER THAN \$100,000  
GIVEN BY PRIVATE DONORS TO BIG SIX COMMITTEES**

DONOR	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT	WHEN	INFLATION ADJUSTED (2023)
NJ State Laborers PAC	\$102,500	NJ Democratic State Committee	1989	\$252,688
CWA NJ PEC	\$100,125	NJ Democratic State Committee	1989	\$246,833
Irving and Janice Richter	\$100,000	NJ Democratic State Committee	1989	\$246,056
AFSCME	\$100,000	NJ Democratic State Committee	1989	\$246,056
Waters McPherson McNeil	\$ 87,000	NJ Democratic State Committee	1989	\$214,477
First Jersey Securities	\$ 55,000	NJ Democratic State Committee	1981	\$184,609
CWA PEC (NY)	\$ 50,500	NJ Democratic State Committee	1981	\$169,505
Sills Cummis Et Al	\$ 56,500	NJ Democratic State Committee	1989	\$139,287
New Jersey Education Association	\$ 50,050	NJ Democratic State Committee	1989	\$123,386
NJ UAW PAC Account	\$ 50,000	NJ Democratic State Committee	1989	\$123,028
Revlon Group Incorporated	\$ 50,000	NJ Democratic State Committee	1989	\$123,028
Giordano Halleran & Ciesla	\$ 50,000	NJ Democratic State Committee	1989	\$123,028
AFSCME	\$ 34,700	NJ Democratic State Committee	1981	\$116,472
Leon Hess	\$ 35,000	NJ Republican State Committee	1983	\$107,217
GOPAC	\$ 30,000	NJ Republican State Committee	1981	\$100,696

Looking at 2023 Big Six campaign finance activity through the second quarter, totals for both parties are higher than comparable figures four years ago.

**TABLE 4  
FUNDRAISING BY "BIG SIX" COMMITTEES  
JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023**

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT**	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 373,075	\$ 310,265	\$ 84,491	\$ 81,307
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 326,177	\$ 134,000	\$ 383,668	\$ 383,668
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 450,658	\$ 186,565	\$ 675,818	\$ 675,818
<b>Sub-Total- Republicans</b>	<b>\$1,149,909</b>	<b>\$ 630,830</b>	<b>\$1,143,978</b>	<b>\$1,140,793</b>
Difference Versus Second Quarter 2019 (Dollars)	\$ 399,499	\$ 31,106	\$ 516,206	\$ 520,591
<b>Difference Versus Second Quarter 2019 (Percent)</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>DEMOCRATS</b>				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$1,304,518	\$1,132,127	\$ 393,281	\$ 246,622
Senate Democratic Majority	\$1,284,372	\$ 449,472	\$1,836,904	\$1,836,904
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$1,175,918	\$1,067,960	\$1,079,942	\$1,049,504
<b>Sub-Total- Democrats</b>	<b>\$2,460,290</b>	<b>\$1,517,432</b>	<b>\$2,916,846</b>	<b>\$2,886,408</b>
Difference Versus Second Quarter 2019 (Dollars)	\$ 927,387	\$ 387,893	\$1,468,998	\$1,518,416
<b>Difference Versus Second Quarter 2019 (Percent)</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>111%</b>
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>				
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>\$3,610,199</b>	<b>\$2,148,262</b>	<b>\$4,060,824</b>	<b>\$4,027,200</b>
Difference Versus Second Quarter 2019 (Dollars)	\$1,326,886	\$ 418,999	\$1,985,204	\$2,039,006
<b>Difference Versus Second Quarter 2019 (Percent)</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>103%</b>

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

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 [www.elec.nj.gov](http://www.elec.nj.gov). 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)).

## 2023 Reporting Dates

	INCLUSION DATES	REPORT DUE DATE
<b>FIRE COMMISSIONER – FEBRUARY 18, 2023</b>		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 1/17/2023	1/20/2023
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	1/18/2023 – 2/4/2023	2/7/2023
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	2/5/2023 – 3/7/2023	3/10/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 2/5/2023 through 2/18/2023		
<b>APRIL SCHOOL BOARD – APRIL 25, 2023 – UPDATED PER CHANGE BY THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION</b>		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 3/24/2023	3/27/2023
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	3/25/2023 – 4/11/2023	4/14/2023
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	4/12/2023 – 5/12/2023	5/15/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 4/12/2023 through 4/25/2023		
<b>MAY MUNICIPAL – MAY 9, 2023</b>		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 4/7/2023	4/10/2023
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	4/8/2023 – 4/25/2023	4/28/2023
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	4/26/2023 – 5/26/2023	5/30/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 4/26/2023 through 5/9/2023		
<b>RUNOFF (JUNE)** – JUNE 13, 2023</b>		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	4/26/2023 – 5/30/2023	6/2/2023
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	5/31/2023 – 6/30/2023	7/3/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 5/31/2023 through 6/13/2023		
<b>PRIMARY (90 DAY START DATE: MARCH 8, 2023)*** - JUNE 6, 2023</b>		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 5/5/2023	5/8/2023
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	5/6/2023 -5/23/2023	5/26/2023
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	5/24/2023 – 6/23/2023	6/26/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 5/24/2023 through 6/6/2023		
<b>GENERAL (90 DAY START DATE: AUGUST 9, 2023)*** - NOVEMBER 7, 2023</b>		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	6/24/2023 – 10/6/2023	10/10/2023
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	10/7/2023 – 10/24/2023	10/27/2023
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	10/25/2023 -11/24/2023	11/27/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 10/25/2023 through 11/7/2023		
<b>RUN–OFF (DECEMBER)** – DECEMBER 5, 2023</b>		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	10/25/2023 – 11/21/2023	11/24/2023
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	11/22/2023 – 12/22/2023	12/26/2023
48 Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 11/22/2023 through 12/5/2023		

**PACS, PCFRS & CAMPAIGN QUARTERLY FILERS**

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	1/1/2023 – 3/31/2023	4/17/2023
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	4/1/2023 – 6/30/2023	7/17/2023
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	7/1/2023 – 9/30/2023	10/16/2023
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	10/1/2023 – 12/31/2023	1/16/2024

**GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AGENTS (Q-4)**

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	1/1/2023 – 3/31/2023	4/10/2023
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	4/1/2023 – 6/30/2023	7/10/2023
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	7/1/2023 – 9/30/2023	10/10/2023
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	10/1/2023 – 12/31/2023	1/10/2024

\*Inception Date of Campaign (first time filers) or from January 1, 2023 (Quarterly filers).

\*\*A candidate committee or joint candidates committee that is filing in a 2023 Runoff election is not required to file a 20-day postelection report for the corresponding prior election (May Municipal or General).

\*\*\*Form PFD-1 is due on April 6, 2023 for Primary Election Candidates and June 19, 2023 for Independent General Election Candidates.

Note: A fourth quarter 2022 filing is needed for Primary 2023 candidates if they started their campaign prior to December 8, 2022. A second quarter 2023 filing is needed by Independent/Non-Partisan General Election candidates if they started their campaign prior to May 10, 2023.

**HOW TO CONTACT ELEC**

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