



NEWS RELEASE

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PRESS ADVISORY

Campaign financial activity in the gubernatorial contest has decreased from four years ago, according to Jeff Brindle, Executive Director of the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

“The three major candidates, Governor Jon S. Corzine, Republican Candidate Christopher J. Christie, and Independent Candidate Christopher J. Daggett, have raised 10 percent less and spent 20 percent less than candidates Corzine and Forrester did at the 29-day reporting deadline in 2005,” said Brindle.

The 29-day reports indicate that Corzine, Christie, and Daggett have raised \$27.5 million and spent \$23.1 million. In 2005, the two major candidates had reported raising \$30.7 million and spending \$28.9 million.

Brindle said “there are differences this time around that can account for the reduction in financial activity. Both candidates in 2005 opted out of the public financing system and were largely self-funded. Moreover, economic conditions and Pay-to-Play laws may be making potential donors hesitant to make contributions.”

In this year’s election, candidates Christie and Daggett are receiving public funds, whereas Governor Corzine is not participating in the program.

“As of the 29-day report,” added Brindle, “\$6.5 million, or almost a fourth of the total \$27.5 million raised by the 2009 candidates was derived from public matching funds.”

The reports show that 61 percent of money raised by Christie and Daggett stem from public funds.

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Republican candidate Christie raised \$9.6 million, of which \$5.8 million is in the form of matching funds. Independent candidate Daggett has received \$605,126 in matching funds and has raised a total of \$1.1 million.

Governor Corzine has reported receipts totaling \$16.8 million.

Brindle said that “in terms of spending, the Governor leads the way at \$16.8 million, with Republican Christie at \$5.4 million and Independent Daggett at \$954,668.”

Brindle added that the reports disclosing the financial activity demonstrate the importance of the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program. “In hard economic times like these the program is helping the race to be competitive,” he said.

The 29-day reports show that combined, the other independent candidates raised \$28,582 and have spent \$12,227.

Brindle stated that the figures do not include money spent by outside groups such as the two national governors groups and any other 527 groups that may be spending independently in this election.

The gubernatorial reports are available on-line today at 10:00 a.m. on ELEC’s website at www.elec.state.nj.us.

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