



NEWS RELEASE

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PRESS ADVISORY

Final fundraising reports for 2009 show that financial activity by county political party committees has dropped sharply over the past four years as the recession and pay-to-play laws have combined to put a double-whammy on donations across New Jersey.

“Fundraising by county committees has decreased by 28 percent since 2005, the last time there was an election for Governor and the General Assembly,” said Jeff Brindle, Executive Director of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission. Over the same period, expenditures were down 30 percent, he said.

County party committees raised \$13.7 million in 2009, a \$5.2 million reduction from the \$18.9 million raised four years ago, he said. Spending dropped from \$19 million to \$13.3 million, a \$5.7 million reduction.

Expenditure totals can exceed fundraising totals because committees sometimes transfer funds from previous elections, or take on temporary debt.

The 2009 totals are preliminary because six counties have not yet filed their fundraising reports for the final quarter. However, the additional funds reported by those committees are not expected to alter the basic finding, that fundraising is down substantially from four years ago.

“The falloff in fundraising is even more dramatic when compared to 2003, the peak year for expenditures by county committees,” said Brindle. “Spending fell just short of \$27 million that year. That represents a \$13.6 million, 51 percent overall decline.”

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Brindle said the trend in county fundraising parallels a downturn in fundraising by Gubernatorial and General Assembly candidates. “Donors generally have become stingier due to the financial pinch of the recession,” he said. “Moreover, laws intended to discourage political contributions by government contractors have stung most campaign coffers.”

Brindle said another local trend also could be curtailing amounts reported by county party officials. Several new political action committees have formed recently, some by county party members themselves, he said. “This activity may be drawing funds away from the county organizations,” Brindle said.

Final 2009 reports show that Democratic county party committees raised substantially more funds than their Republican counterparts.

The Democratic county organizations reported raising \$10.7 million and spending \$10.3 million. Republican county officials reported receipts and expenditures both totaling \$3 million.

Among all 42 county committees, the Bergen County Democratic Committee reported the largest fundraising and spending (both \$1.7 million). One Republican committee, the Burlington County Republican Committee, raised enough (\$627,887) to rank in the top ten statewide.

Both parties reported substantially less financial activity in 2009 compared to 2005. Democratic county organizations showed a decrease of 25 percent in fundraising and 26 percent in spending. Republican county organizations raised 35 percent less and spent 40 percent less.

Attached are two charts of financial activity reported as of January 15th by county party organizations.

The 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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**2009 COUNTY POLITICAL PARTY COMMITTEES
CUMULATIVE TO DATE AMOUNTS AS OF FOURTH QUARTER**

DEMOCRATS - RANKED BY RECEIPTS	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURES
BERGEN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION	\$1,701,941.36	\$1,697,213.56
CAMDEN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$1,273,972.99	\$1,066,830.85
ESSEX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$1,263,610.78	\$1,258,463.10
MIDDLESEX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION	\$983,136.69	\$1,169,720.80
PASSAIC COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$774,178.99	\$692,298.77
UNION COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$693,095.43	\$555,230.72
HUDSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION	\$572,502.00	\$592,331.47
GLOUCESTER COUNTY DEMOCRAT EXECUTIVE CMTE	\$561,462.45	\$564,797.60
BURLINGTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$539,842.69	\$510,307.10
MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATS	\$520,497.84	\$534,908.26
MERCER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$402,565.54	\$423,146.82
CUMBERLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION	\$372,146.94	\$365,247.27
ATLANTIC COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$328,668.12	\$326,930.43
SOMERSET COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$246,608.44	\$234,369.57
OCEAN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$170,102.47	\$116,851.49
MORRIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$131,016.45	\$90,481.91
HUNTERDON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$65,837.96	\$57,320.54
SALEM COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$39,930.00	\$45,806.11
CAPE MAY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION	\$31,000.00	\$18,404.04
WARREN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$21,469.52	\$14,130.55
SUSSEX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CMTE	\$11,040.32	\$10,619.96
DEMOCRAT - TOTALS	\$10,704,626	\$10,345,411
REPUBLICANS - RANKED BY RECEIPTS		
BURLINGTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN CMTE	\$627,887.00	\$649,143.00
BERGEN COUNTY REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION	\$343,680.07	\$342,643.30
SOMERSET COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE CMTE	\$232,742.05	\$224,399.79
MONMOUTH COUNTY REPUBLICAN CMTE	\$209,148.20	\$205,099.61
MORRIS COUNTY REPUBLICAN CMTE	\$170,923.53	\$175,978.44
OCEAN COUNTY REPUBLICAN FINANCE CMTE	\$170,166.42	\$170,225.01
ATLANTIC COUNTY REPUBLICAN CMTE	\$168,269.90	\$165,028.85
CUMBERLAND COUNTY REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION	\$159,340.14	\$158,645.72
MERCER COUNTY REPUBLICAN CMTE	\$147,837.49	\$144,451.23
UNION COUNTY REPUBLICAN CMTE	\$143,363.11	\$141,265.98
PCRRO (PASSAIC COUNTY)	\$91,759.00	\$84,250.29
SUSSEX COUNTY REPUBLICAN CMTE	\$85,690.00	\$70,536.38
CAMDEN COUNTY REPUBLICAN CMTE	\$76,358.94	\$96,343.58
SALEM COUNTY REPUBLICAN CMTE	\$65,316.62	\$83,829.08
HUNTERDON COUNTY REPUBLICAN CMTE	\$63,217.50	\$58,677.17
ESSEX COUNTY REPUBLICAN CMTE	\$54,900.00	\$57,042.97
GLOUCESTER COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE CMTE	\$47,947.54	\$45,908.02
WARREN COUNTY REPUBLICAN CMTE	\$45,452.00	\$48,853.14
CAPE MAY COUNTY REGULAR REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION	\$41,825.00	\$34,675.77
MIDDLESEX COUNTY REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION	\$27,370.00	\$22,280.53
HUDSON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY INC		
REPUBLICAN - TOTALS	\$2,973,194	\$2,979,278
2009 - COUNTY POLITICAL PARTY COMMITTEES - TOTALS	\$13,677,820	\$13,324,689

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