



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: JEFFREY M. BRINDLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:
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Total donations to candidates participating in the May 11 municipal election are 19 percent below fundraising totals at a similar point four years ago, Jeff Brindle, Executive Director of the NJ Election Law Enforcement Commission, disclosed today.

An analysis of campaign finance reports filed 29 days before the election shows that local candidates have raised a total of \$11.4 million so far. That is 19 percent below the \$14 million collected in 2006.

Candidates have spent \$7.9 million, which is 20 percent less than the \$9.9 million outlays four years ago at the same point in the election. Current year totals are preliminary and based on reports filed by Tuesday, April 13.

	Cumulative Received	Cumulative Spent
2010	\$11,373,763	\$7,938,485
2006	\$14,024,164	\$9,931,844
Difference - Dollars	-\$2,650,401	-\$1,993,359
Difference - Percent	-19%	-20%

The falloff in donations to local elections follows a similar trend seen statewide. But it is not as severe as the decline faced by other fundraising committees.

For instance, gross receipts reported last year by the “big six” fundraising committees, the two state parties and four legislative leadership PACs, were down 36 percent compared to similar reports four years earlier. Fundraising by county party committees fell 28 percent during the same period.

“One reason municipal candidates may be finding it easier to raise money is because state law enables them to accept more donations from public contractors,” Brindle said.

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But Brindle said the pay-to-play law is having a big impact even at the local level because some public contractors, in response to the law, have simply stopped making donations. “Pay-to-play restrictions clearly are pinching campaign receipts at all levels of government in New Jersey,” said Brindle. The recession could be another factor behind the dip in campaign cash, he added.

Under pay-to-play laws, state contractors are prohibited from contributing more than \$300 to gubernatorial candidates, state political party committees, county political party committees, and legislative leadership committees. Firms that exceed this limit must refund the excess donations within a necessary time period or relinquish their contracts for four years.

Local contractors are subject to similar restrictions unless their municipality adopts a “fair and open process” for awarding contracts. This means contracts must be publicly advertised, and local officials must openly solicit bids under pre-established criteria. In municipalities with “fair and open” contract procedures, public contractors are subject to standard contribution limits, which are more generous than the \$300 cap.

Scanned paper reports of candidate fundraising committees are available to review today on ELEC’s website (www.elec.state.nj.us). Individual donations to local committees soon will be added to ELEC’s master database, which allows easy searching and sorting. ELEC staff can help with searches or answer other questions. To reach them, call the toll-free hotline at 1-888-313-3532 (within New Jersey only) or by dialing 609-292-8700.

With the mayor’s seat and several council positions up for reelection, campaigns in Newark were drawing the most funds (\$9.2 million raised). Fundraising has topped \$100,000 in six other races around the state.

Municipality	Cumulative Raised	Cumulative Spent
Newark	\$ 9,158,438	\$ 6,452,179
Paterson	\$ 973,559	\$ 765,668
Bayonne	\$ 429,318	\$ 225,202
Trenton	\$ 209,361	\$ 122,920
Long Branch	\$ 141,394	\$ 116,306
West Orange	\$ 113,271	\$ 58,386

Among the reports filed so far in the election, Newark Mayor Cory Booker, who is running for reelection, and his slate of council candidates jointly reported raising the most money, \$7 million. That is larger than the \$6.1 million reported by the Booker Team for Newark four years ago. Among the eight other candidates who reported raising more than \$100,000, six are also running for local seats in Newark. All committees raising more than \$100,000 are listed in the following chart:

Municipality	Candidate/Committee	Cumulative Received	Cumulative Spent
Newark	Booker, James, Gonzalez, Rice, Crump, Quintana, Amador, White, Ramos, & Payne	\$ 7,033,493	\$ 5,095,129
Paterson	Torres, Jose	\$ 789,680	\$ 658,462
Newark	Quintana, Luis A	\$ 554,065	\$ 250,386
Newark	Ramos, Anibal	\$ 456,156	\$ 189,629
Newark	Amador, Augusto	\$ 399,335	\$ 339,572
Bayonne	Smith, Mark A	\$ 345,424	\$ 170,888
Newark	Minor, Clifford J	\$ 262,214	\$ 218,613
Newark	Gonzalez, Carlos M	\$ 142,939	\$ 91,286
Newark	James, Oscar S II	\$ 140,882	\$ 126,103

Candidates must file 11-day preelection reports with ELEC by April 30, and 20-day post-election reports on June 1st. In its continuing and growing emphasis on local elections, ELEC will continue to issue fundraising overviews during the campaign season.

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