



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:
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With legislative campaigns looming this fall, county party committees jointly have \$1.0 million in reserve after raising nearly \$1.1 million during the first three months of 2011, according to quarterly reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission.

Reports show Democrats outraised Republicans during the quarter, but GOP committees reported a higher net worth, meaning cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the committee. Numbers should be treated as preliminary because four county party committees had yet to file reports through 5 p.m. Friday, April 29. Some spending totals are higher than fundraising totals because committees have dipped into reserves, or taken out short-term loans.

Table 1
Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County Committees through March 31, 2011

	Receipts Through March 31, 2011	Spending Through March 31, 2011	Cash-on-Hand on March 31, 2011	Net Worth on March 31, 2011
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 621,807	\$ 544,888	\$ 790,265	\$ 274,946
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 466,231	\$ 563,587	\$ 351,556	\$ 694,349
Total - Both Parties	\$ 1,088,038	\$ 1,108,475	\$ 1,141,821	\$ 969,295

Compared to four years ago, which was the last time all 120 legislative seats were up for reelection, overall fundraising by county party committees was down. The drop was larger for Democratic committees than Republicans. One caveat about the numbers: 2007 figures reflect the activity of all 42 county parties. Current ELEC figures include financial activity from 38.

Table 2
Comparison of Combined County Party Receipts 2007 versus 2011

	Receipts Through March 31, 2007	Receipts Through March 31, 2011	Difference -%
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 1,592,273	\$ 621,807	-61%
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 599,326	\$ 466,231	-22%
Total - Both Parties	\$ 2,191,599	\$ 1,088,038	-50%

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Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director, said several factors may lie behind the decline. They include stiffening contribution limits for public contractor; the recession; former Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine's exit from New Jersey politics after being a heavy donor to county parties for nearly a decade; and the proliferation of political action committees (PACs), which are competing for limited fundraising dollars, he said.

"There's no question about it: the economy and pay-to-play have made it more difficult for county chairs to raise money," Brindle said.

Statewide, one Democratic county party committee- Passaic- had a net worth of more than \$100,000 as of March 31, 2011. Five Democratic committees- Burlington, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, and Monmouth- were in the red if outstanding debts are subtracted from cash-on-hand.

Table 3
Campaign Finance Activity by Democratic Party Committees through March 31, 2011

Democrats	Receipts Through March 31, 2011	Spending Through March 31, 2011	Cash-on-Hand on March 31, 2011	Net Worth on March 31, 2011
Atlantic	\$ 2,950	\$ 3,443	\$ 3,560	\$ 3,560
Bergen*	\$ 10,274	\$ 10,742	\$ 1	\$ 40,905
Burlington	\$ 5,829	\$ 2,882	\$ 4,927	\$ (112,607)
Camden	\$ 86,314	\$ 89,688	\$ 55,955	\$ 55,955
Cape May	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,668	\$ 5,772	\$ 5,772
Cumberland	\$ -	\$ 1,422	\$ 472	\$ 472
Essex	\$ 75,740	\$ 40,724	\$ 111,514	\$ 111,514
Gloucester	\$ 69,749	\$ 55,694	\$ 39,245	\$ (64,280)
Hudson	\$ 136,415	\$ 50,903	\$ 101,740	\$ (210,911)
Hunterdon*	\$ 7,504	\$ 2,369	\$ 21,421	\$ 21,421
Mercer	\$ 1,000	\$ 10,672	\$ 14,132	\$ (5,868)
Middlesex	\$ 87,509	\$ 92,076	\$ 17,801	\$ 16,210
Monmouth	\$ 16,415	\$ 15,970	\$ 4,726	\$ (73,299)
Morris	\$ 10,575	\$ 9,958	\$ 7,834	\$ 7,834
Ocean	\$ 4,125	\$ 14,440	\$ 11,826	\$ 69,314
Passaic	\$ 66,011	\$ 40,301	\$ 364,738	\$ 364,738
Salem	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Somerset	\$ 5,083	\$ 19,128	\$ 10,721	\$ 10,721
Sussex	\$ 1,895	\$ 2,667	\$ 2,247	\$ 2,247
Union	\$ 33,219	\$ 80,141	\$ 11,633	\$ 31,248
Warren	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Democrats - Total	\$ 621,807	\$ 544,888	\$ 790,265	\$ 274,946

**Some totals adjusted to reflect correction of in-kind contribution reporting.*

One Republican county party committee- Burlington- had a net worth of more than \$100,000. One committee- Sussex- reported a negative number.

**Table 4
Campaign Finance Activity by Republican Party Committees through March 31, 2011**

Republicans	Receipts Through March 31, 2011	Spending Through March 31, 2011	Cash-on-Hand on March 31, 2011	Net Worth on March 31, 2011
Atlantic	\$ 11,274	\$ 17,088	\$ 6,775	\$ 6,775
Bergen	\$ 35,820	\$ 75,701	\$ 9,442	\$ 9,442
Burlington	\$ 169,577	\$ 158,432	\$ 29,163	\$ 325,615
Camden	\$ 16,615	\$ 51,644	\$ 14,366	\$ 15,259
Cape May	\$ 27,385	\$ 23,037	\$ 62,924	\$ 62,924
Cumberland	\$ 14,779	\$ 12,031	\$ 2,748	\$ 2,748
Essex	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gloucester	\$ 9,873	\$ 9,319	\$ 1,149	\$ 1,149
Hudson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hunterdon	\$ 3,540	\$ 10,205	\$ 5,028	\$ 66,017
Mercer	\$ 18,073	\$ 37,595	\$ 4,233	\$ 3,233
Middlesex	\$ 14,755	\$ 11,705	\$ 28,259	\$ 18,259
Monmouth	\$ 7,057	\$ 12,767	\$ 20,837	\$ 21,356
Morris	\$ 5,136	\$ 13,442	\$ 30,721	\$ 30,692
Ocean	\$ 29,346	\$ 28,922	\$ 3,061	\$ 3,061
Passaic	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,325	\$ 665	\$ 665
Salem	\$ 5,500	\$ 9,943	\$ 23,232	\$ 23,232
Somerset	\$ 51,089	\$ 39,165	\$ 94,995	\$ 94,838
Sussex	\$ 16,293	\$ 15,719	\$ 4,351	\$ (523)
Union	\$ 17,849	\$ 25,842	\$ 4,671	\$ 4,671
Warren	\$ 11,270	\$ 7,705	\$ 4,936	\$ 4,936
Republicans - Total	\$ 466,231	\$ 563,587	\$ 351,556	\$ 694,349

The analysis contained in this press release was based on reports filed with ELEC by 5 p.m. on April 29, 2011. The numbers are based on reports that have yet to be verified by ELEC and should be considered preliminary. Interested parties are encouraged to review individual reports at ELEC's website (www.elec.state.nj.us).

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