



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE  
November 30, 2011  
\* Updated December 7, 2011

One year after they made record contributions in New Jersey, “special interest” political action committees (PACs) cut their outlays more than 20 percent in 2010 during an off-election year, according to a new analysis by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Special interest PACs registered in New Jersey reported making \$28.2 million in contributions in 2010, down more than 20 percent from \$35.4 million in 2009.

**Table 1**  
**Total Contributions by Political Action Committees**  
**Registered in New Jersey**

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Total PAC Contributions</b>	\$ 28,865,911	\$ 28,973,699	\$ 33,023,400	\$ 25,422,329	\$ 35,445,360	\$ 28,198,556
<b>% Change</b>	0.7%	0.4%	14.0%	-23.0%	39.4%	-20.4%

“One reason for the drop-off is the fact that there were only a handful of special legislative elections in 2010,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director. “By contrast, heavy PAC spending occurred in 2009 because the governor’s seat and all 80 Assembly seats were at stake.”

To better gauge the decline, this analysis examined total contributions made by the top 25 PACs solely in New Jersey (several of the state’s largest PACs send contributions out of state).

In 2009, the top 25 PACs alone reported contributing \$11.3 million directly to state and local fundraising committees in New Jersey.

By contrast, in 2010, the top 25 PACs reported direct contributions of just \$4.4 million\* in New Jersey - a 61 percent\* reduction. Contributions only to state parties and legislative fundraising committees by the top 25 dropped 48 percent\*. PAC contributions to gubernatorial fundraising committees fell sharpest- 99.8\* percent.

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Located at: 28 W. State Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Trenton, New Jersey

**Table 2**  
**Total Contributions by Top 25 PACs-**  
**2009 Versus 2010**

	<b>Gubernatorial</b>	<b>Legislative/State Parties</b>	<b>County/Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2009</b>	\$ 813,979	\$ 4,806,590	\$ 5,729,579	\$ 11,350,148
<b>2010</b>	\$ 2,000*	\$ 2,480,419*	\$ 1,947,030*	\$ 4,429,450*
	-99.8%*	-48%*	-66%*	-61%*

While there was no gubernatorial campaign in 2010, some PACs did make contributions to the inaugural event. The 2009 totals do not include another \$5.8 million possibly funneled indirectly into state elections through national groups.

Based on contributions to both state and local fundraising committees, the NJ State Carpenters Non-Partisan Political Education Committee topped all PACs in 2010 after ranking third in 2009. **(See top 25 PAC contributors to state and local fundraising committees, Appendix, Table 4.)**

Ranking PACs by contributions to only state fundraising committees in 2010, the Realtors PAC led the group after ranking third in 2009. **(See top 25 PAC contributors solely to state fundraising committees in 2010, Appendix, Table 5.)**

Another reason PAC totals may be down is that 11 fewer PACs reported detailed financial activity- 340 in 2010 versus 351 in 2009.

One pattern did not change- unions, by a large margin, continued to be the dominant contributors even in an off-election year. They reported contributing \$17.1 million in 2010- a decline of \$6.8 million, or 29 percent, from 2009 but more than all other groups combined. Unions as a share of total PAC contributions fell to 61 percent, versus 68 percent in 2009.

At the same time, business PACs boosted their contributions in 2010. They gave out nearly \$2 million- an increase of \$488,736, or 33 percent more.

**Table 3**  
**PAC Spending by Type 2009 Versus 2010**

<b>Pac Type</b>	<b>2009 Spending</b>	<b>2010 Spending</b>	<b>Difference -%</b>
Union	\$ 24,178,879	\$ 17,136,077	-29%
Professional	\$ 3,887,990	\$ 3,543,603	-9%
Trade Association	\$ 1,878,125	\$ 1,933,375	3%
Ideological	\$ 1,741,059	\$ 1,564,905	-10%
Business	\$ 1,466,229	\$ 1,954,964	33%
Regulated Industry	\$ 963,559	\$ 848,316	-12%
Other Committee	\$ 679,282	\$ 730,475	8%
Civic Association	\$ 650,238	\$ 486,841	-25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 35,445,360</b>	<b>\$ 28,198,556</b>	<b>-20%</b>

Technically known in New Jersey as continuing political committees, PACs are required to file detailed reports with ELEC when, during a calendar year, they contribute in excess of \$4,900 to state and/or local candidates. They are required to file reports with ELEC each quarter that list their contributions and expenditures.

For purposes of this analysis, special interest PACs are defined as those that identified themselves as a business, labor union, professional association, ideological group, civic association, trade association, or simply “other.” The list also includes PACs formed by employees of regulated industries such as banks and insurance companies, which cannot use corporate funds for campaign contributions.

More information about special interest PACs in New Jersey is contained in August 18, 2010 press release (<http://www.elec.state.nj.us/aboutelec/pressreleases2010.htm>). Additional information is available in ELEC White Paper reports, including “Non-connected, Ideological PACs in the Garden State” at <http://www.elec.state.nj.us/pdffiles/whitepapers/white10.pdf> and “Is There a PAC Plague in New Jersey?” at <http://www.elec.state.nj.us/pdffiles/whitepapers/white7.pdf>.

The figures contained in this press release have been taken from committee reports on file with the Commission as of September 30, 2011. Amendments to reports filed after that date are not included.

This press release is a compilation of figures reported to the Commission, and is not intended to express any opinion concerning the accuracy or completeness of any filed report. Although the Commission has taken all reasonable precautions to prevent mathematical or typographical errors, they may occur. Copies of individual PAC reports are available on ELEC’s website at [www.elec.state.nj.us](http://www.elec.state.nj.us).

## Appendix

### Table 4 Top 25 PACs 2010- All Spending

Name of PAC	Type of PAC	Gubernatorial(1)	Legislative	State Parties	County or Local	Total	2009 Rank
NJ State Carpenters Non-Partisan Political Education Committee	Union		\$ 125,350		\$ 351,035	\$ 476,385	3
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 9	Union		\$ 160,450	\$ 5,500	\$ 199,752	\$ 365,702	9
Realtors PAC	Professional	\$ 500	\$ 228,050	\$ 42,500	\$ 91,426	\$ 362,476	8
NJ State Laborers PAC	Union		\$ 37,510		\$ 264,966	\$ 302,476	1
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #351	Union		\$ 80,000	\$5,000	\$ 183,216	\$ 268,216	5
Local Union 164 IBEW COPE Fund	Union		\$ 46,200	\$ 15,000	\$ 200,237	\$ 261,437	7
New Jersey Education Association PAC	Union		\$ 124,450	\$ 5,000	\$ 129,125	\$ 258,575	2
1199/SEIU NY State Political Action Fund	Union		\$ 157,700	\$ 30,000	\$ 10,800	\$ 198,500	20
District Council of Northern NJ (Bridge PAC)	Union		\$ 63,000	-	\$ 103,378	\$ 166,378	17
NJ Dental PAC	Professional		\$ 154,554		\$ 7,843	\$ 162,397	23
Local 322 Committee for Political Education (Plumbers and Pipefitters)	Union		\$ 49,950	\$ 5,000	\$ 105,207	\$ 160,157	12
Democrat Republican Independent Voter Education (Teamsters)	Union			\$ 10,000	\$ 139,642	\$ 149,642	10
NJ Funeral Directors PAC	Professional		\$ 136,443			\$ 136,443	26
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Committee on Political Education (Trenton)	Union		\$ 63,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 62,500	\$ 132,500	13
Developers PAC	Professional	\$ 500	\$ 119,175	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,600	\$ 132,275	30
Medical Action Committee	Professional		\$ 125,600	\$ 5,500	-	\$ 131,100	32
NJAA (Apartment Association)	Trade Association		\$ 111,380	\$ 18,200*	\$ 950*	\$ 130,530*	38
Constructors for Good Government (2)	Trade Association	\$ 500	\$ 74,225	\$ 32,500	\$ 8,600	\$ 115,825	31
NJ Optometric PAC	Professional		\$ 93,970	\$ 7,500		\$ 101,470	37
Laborers Local 472 PAC	Union		\$ 52,875	\$ 6,500	\$ 35,365	\$ 94,740	19
IBEW Local 456 COPE Fund	Union		\$ 33,300	\$ 2,000	\$ 50,390	\$ 85,690	25
NJ Radiology PAC	Professional		\$ 78,850	\$ 500		\$ 79,350	NA
NJ Association for Justice PAC	Professional		\$ 76,800	\$ 2,500		\$ 79,300	34
CAR PAC	Trade Association	\$ 500	\$ 77,387			\$ 77,887	21
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$2,000*</b>	<b>\$2,270,219*</b>	<b>\$210,200*</b>	<b>\$1,947,032*</b>	<b>\$4,429,450*</b>	

(1)Contributions to inaugural committee (2) Also gave \$18,000 to Reform Jersey Now Inc.

## Appendix

### Table 5 Top 25 PACs 2010- State Spending Only

Name of PAC	Type of PAC	Gubernatorial(1)	Legislative	State Parties	Total	2009 Rank
Realtors PAC	Professional	\$ 500	\$ 228,050	\$ 42,500	\$ 271,050	3
1199/SEIU NY State Political Action Fund	Union		\$ 157,700	\$ 30,000	\$ 187,700	29
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 9	Union		\$ 160,450	\$ 5,500	\$ 165,950	7
NJ Dental PAC	Professional		\$ 154,554		\$ 154,554	11
NJ Funeral Directors PAC	Professional		\$ 136,443		\$ 136,443	14
Medical Action Committee	Professional		\$ 125,600	\$ 5,500	\$ 131,100	27
Developers PAC	Professional	\$ 500	\$ 119,175	\$ 10,000	\$ 129,675	17
NJAA (Apartment Association)	Trade Association		\$ 111,380	\$ 18,200*	\$ 129,580*	23
New Jersey Education Association PAC	Union		\$ 124,450	\$ 5,000	\$ 129,450	1
NJ State Carpenters Non-Partisan Political Education Committee	Union		\$ 125,350		\$ 125,350	2
Constructors for Good Government (2)	Trade Association	\$ 500	\$ 74,225	\$ 32,500	\$ 107,225	20
NJ Optometric PAC	Professional		\$ 93,970	\$ 7,500	\$ 101,470	22
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #351	Union		\$ 80,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 85,000	10
NJ Radiology PAC	Professional		\$ 78,850	\$ 500	\$ 79,350	NA
NJ Association for Justice PAC	Professional		\$ 76,800	\$ 2,500	\$ 79,300	18
CAR PAC	Trade Association	\$ 500	\$ 77,387		\$ 77,887	8
Jersey Bankers PAC	Regulated Industries		\$ 72,375		\$ 72,375	30
Builders PAC (3)	Trade Association	\$ 500	\$ 71,735	-	\$ 72,235	15
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Committee on Political Education (Trenton)	Union		\$ 63,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 70,000	13
NJ Hospital Association PAC	Professional	\$ 500	\$ 47,000	\$ 20,600	\$ 68,100	35
Mechanical Contractors Association NJ PAC	Trade Association	\$ 300	\$ 55,550	\$ 10,250	\$ 66,100	40
Fuel Merchants for Good Government	Trade Association	\$ 500	\$ 59,975	\$ 2,650	\$ 63,125	37
District Council of Northern NJ (Bridge PAC)	Union		\$ 63,000	-	\$ 63,000	34
Local Union 164 IBEW COPE Fund	Union		\$ 46,200	\$ 15,000	\$ 61,200	13
Verizon Good Government Club of NJ	Regulated Industries	\$ 500	\$ 60,250		\$ 60,750	21
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$4,300</b>	<b>\$2,463,469</b>	<b>\$220,200*</b>	<b>\$2,687,969*</b>	

(1)Contributions to inaugural committee (2) Also gave \$18,000 to Reform Jersey Now Inc. (3) Also gave \$25,000 to Reform Jersey Now Inc.