



NEWS RELEASE

Respond to:
P.O. Box 185
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0185

(609) 292-8700 or Toll Free Within NJ 1-888-313-ELEC (3532)

CONTACT: JEFF BRINDLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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* Updated

Special interest political action committees (PACs) in 2011 contributed more than \$18 million to New Jersey campaigns, according to a new analysis by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

“It should come as no surprise that legislative leadership committees and individual legislators reaped the lion’s share - \$12.1 million or 67 percent- of PAC contributions made in New Jersey last year,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director. “All 120 legislative seats were at stake in 2011. It was the state’s biggest election.”

County parties received another \$1.8 million (10 percent) while state parties reaped \$791,515 (4 percent). Both are active in legislative campaigns. The remainder- \$3.3 million, or 18 percent, went to local candidates and committees other than county parties.

Table 1
Total Contributions Made by Political Action Committees (PACs) in 2011 to New Jersey Candidates and Committees (Excludes Contributions to Federal Candidates)

Recipient	Amount	Percent
Legislative Leadership PACs and Individual Legislators	\$ 12,108,634	67.2%
State Parties	\$ 791,515	4.4%
County Parties	\$ 1,811,525	10.1%
Local (Excluding County Parties)	\$ 3,303,924	18.3%
Total	\$ 18,015,598	100.0%

Brindle said PACs “largely are filling a void” caused by other campaign finance trends.

More than \$33 million was raised solely in 2011 for the legislative election not counting transfers between legislative committees to minimize double-counting. The \$12.1 million in PAC contributions represent 37 percent of that total.

“We believe state candidates and committees have become more dependent on PAC contributions in recent years for several reasons,” Brindle said. “For one thing, pay-to-play restrictions have greatly reduced contributions from public contractors.”

“Two wealthy gubernatorial candidates- Doug Forrester and Jon Corzine- who gave large sums to legislative candidates in the last decade no longer are contributing in New Jersey. Plus, the surge of political

non-profit groups that operate independently may be drawing away funds that might have gone directly to legislative committees in the past.”

The \$18 million is slightly more than half the estimated \$34.3 million in PAC spending last year in New Jersey. The difference mostly represents contributions to federal or out-of-state campaigns, or to PAC affiliates.

For the first time, ELEC staff analyzed every registered PAC that reported spending during the year- 291 PACs in 2011. These PACs disclosed \$33.3 million in combined spending, an increase of 18 percent from 2010.

Also in 2011, candidates and committees disclosed another \$1 million from mostly out-of-state PACs that are not registered in New Jersey. Adding this \$1 million to the registered PAC total pushed overall PAC spending to \$34.3 million in 2011. Overall spending remained below the all-time high of \$35.4 million in 2009, which includes spending only by registered PACs.

Table 2
Total Contributions in 2011 by PACs
Registered in New Jersey

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total Contributions From Registered PACs	\$28,973,699	\$33,023,400	\$25,422,329	\$35,445,360	\$28,198,556	\$34,313,085*
% Change	0.4%	14.0%	-23.0%	39.4%	-20.4%	18%

*Includes \$1 million from mostly out of state PACs not registered in New Jersey. No comparable figure available for past years.

Continuing a trend, union PACs contributed the largest amount to state and local campaigns- nearly \$10 million, or 55 percent of all special interest PAC contributions made to New Jersey campaigns.

Table 3
PAC Spending in 2011
by Type - Just New Jersey

Type	New Jersey Contributions	Percent
Union	\$ 9,863,162	55%
Professional or Trade Association	\$ 4,262,659	24%
Ideological	\$ 1,777,670	10%
Regulated Industries	\$ 803,042	4%
Other Ongoing Committee	\$ 619,640	3%
Business	\$ 551,244	3%
Civic Association	\$ 138,180	1%
Total	\$ 18,015,598	100%

Unions also dominated overall spending by PACs registered in New Jersey. Several are national PACs that participate in elections in many states. Less than half the \$20.8 million in reported spending by union PACs went to New Jersey non-federal campaigns.

**Table 4
PAC Spending in 2011
Overall Spending by Type- Registered PACs**

Type	Total Spending	Percent
Union	\$ 20,830,887	63%
Professional or Trade Association	\$ 6,409,947	13%
Ideological	\$ 1,960,465	7%
Regulated Industries	\$ 1,632,330	6%
Other Ongoing Committee	\$ 1,080,967	5%
Business	\$ 1,057,561	3%
Civic Association	\$ 339,354	3%
Total	\$ 33,311,510	100%

To see which parties received the most PAC funds, ELEC analyzed PAC contributions to individual legislators, legislative leadership committees, state parties and county parties- but not local candidates and committees, which are often non-partisan.

In the Statehouse, Republicans control the Governor's office but Democrats hold 60 percent of the seats in the Legislature (72 of 120 seats). Democrats received a larger share of total PAC dollars- 78 percent to 22 percent.

**Table 5
PAC Contributions in 2011 By Party
(Excludes Local Committees)**

Party	Amount	Percent
Democrats	\$ 11,468,644	78%
Republicans	\$ 3,193,119	22%

Democrats fared best among unions- 94 percent for Democrats compared to 6 percent for Republicans. Republicans raised more contributions than Democrats from business PACs- 54 percent to 46 percent. The rest were similar to the 60-40 percent party split in the Legislature.

**Table 6
PAC Contributions in 2011 by Type and Party
(Excludes Local Committees)**

Type	Democrats	Percent	Republicans	Percent
Union	\$ 6,948,997	94%	\$ 444,669	6%
Professional or Trade Association	\$ 2,684,896	63%	\$ 1,574,713	37%
Ideological	\$ 1,166,325	63%	\$ 692,181	37%
Business	\$ 201,385	46%	\$ 232,734	54%
Regulated Industries	\$ 467,041	65%	\$ 248,822	35%
Totals	*\$ 11,468,644	78%	\$ 3,193,119	22%

*updated

Looking solely at PAC contributions to individual legislators, incumbents took in far more contributions than challengers. This analysis included PAC contributions made during 2011 for both primary and general elections.

Table 7
PAC Contributions in 2011 to Individual
Legislators by Incumbent and Challenger

Incumbent/Challenger?	Amount	Percent
Incumbents	\$ 8,468,856	89%
Challengers	\$ 1,080,907	11%

“Perhaps due to pay-to-play and other trends, incumbents are relying more on PAC dollars. For instance, long before these trends occurred, incumbents in 1987 received only 71 percent of PAC contributions,” he said.

The top 25 PACs alone spent \$9.7 million in New Jersey- nearly 54 percent of total PAC spending. **(See top 25 PAC contributors 2011, Appendix, Table 11)** That is more than twice the \$4.4 million spent in 2010- an off-election year- but nearly \$1.6 million less than in 2009, when the governor’s seat and 80 Assembly seats were in play.

For the second year in a row, the NJ State Carpenters Non-Partisan Political Education Committee was the top PAC spender in New Jersey. Seven of the top ten PACs ranked by spending were unions.

Table 8
Top Ten PAC Contributors in 2011 to New Jersey Candidates and Committees

Name	Type	Total
NJ State Carpenters Non-Partisan Political Education Committee	Union	\$ 1,127,765
NJ State Laborers PAC	Union	\$ 1,015,025
New Jersey Education Association PAC	Union	\$ 808,450
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #351	Union	\$ 807,945
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825 Political Action and Education Committee	Union	\$ 459,647
CWA NJ Political Education Committee	Union	\$ 458,040
Leaders Fund	Ideological	\$ 458,000
Realtors PAC	Professional	\$ 450,379
New Jobs (NJ Business and Industry Association) PAC	Ideological	\$ 400,000
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 9	Union	\$ 319,357

The following ten PACs were the biggest contributors to Legislative Leadership Committees and individual legislators in 2011.

Table 9
Top Ten PAC Contributors in 2011 to New Jersey Legislative Committees

Name	Type	Total
NJ State Laborers PAC	Union	\$ 636,950
NJ State Carpenters Non-Partisan Political Education Committee	Union	\$ 534,550
New Jersey Education Association PAC	Union	\$ 522,350
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #351	Union	\$ 395,450
Realtors PAC	Professional	\$ 395,350
New Jobs (New Jersey Business and Industry Association) PAC	Ideological	\$ 375,000
CWA NJ Political Education Committee	Union	\$ 321,500
AFSCME Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality	Union	\$ 266,800
CAR PAC	Trade Association	\$ 262,709
Association for Justice (formerly ATLA)	Professional	\$ 225,870

Six PACs gave \$50,000 or more to county party committees.

Table 10
Top PAC Contributors in 2011 to County Party Committees

Name	Type	Total
NJ State Carpenters Non-Partisan Political Education Committee	Union	\$ 345,425
NJ State Laborers PAC	Union	\$ 269,000
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #351	Union	\$ 202,850
New Jersey Education Association PAC	Union	\$ 187,400
Leaders Fund	Ideological	\$ 131,000
CWA NJ Political Education Committee	Union	\$ 50,000

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.

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.

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Appendix

**Table 11
Top 25 PAC Contributors in 2011
to New Jersey Candidates and Committees**

Name	Type	Legislative	State Parties	County Parties	Local	Total
NJ State Carpenters Non-Partisan Political Education Committee	Union	\$ 534,550	\$ 25,000	\$ 345,425	\$ 222,790	\$ 1,127,765
NJ State Laborers PAC	Union	\$ 636,950		\$ 269,000	\$ 109,075	\$ 1,015,025
New Jersey Education Association PAC	Union	\$ 522,350	\$ 25,000	\$ 187,400	\$ 73,700	\$ 808,450
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #351	Union	\$ 395,450	\$ 20,000	\$ 202,850	\$ 189,645	\$ 807,945
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825 Political Action and Education Committee	Union	\$ 213,900	\$ 20,000	\$ 23,380	\$ 202,367	\$ 459,647
CWA NJ Political Education Committee	Union	\$ 321,500		\$ 50,000	\$ 86,540	\$ 458,040
Leaders Fund	Ideological	\$ 221,800	\$ 25,000	\$ 131,000	\$ 80,200	\$ 458,000
Realtors PAC	Professional PAC	\$ 395,350	\$ 20,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 32,029	\$ 450,379
New Jobs (NJ Business and Industry Association) PAC	Ideological	\$ 375,000	\$ 25,000			\$ 400,000
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 9	Union	\$ 155,650	\$ 4,850	\$ 19,148	\$ 139,709	\$ 319,357
Local Union 164 IBEW COPE Fund	Union	\$ 118,900	\$ 25,000	\$ 42,400	\$ 94,772	\$ 281,072
1199/SEIU NY State Political Action Fund	Union	\$ 224,800	\$ 25,000		\$ 29,000	\$ 278,800
AFSCME Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality	Union	\$ 266,800			\$ 7,500	\$ 274,300
Association for Justice (formerly ATLA)	Professional PAC	\$ 225,870	\$ 40,000			\$ 265,870
CAR PAC	Trade Association	\$ 262,709				\$ 262,709
Developers PAC	Professional PAC	\$ 225,067	\$ 6,000		\$ 29,200	\$ 260,267
Local 322 Committee for Political Education (Plumbers and Pipefitters)	Union	\$ 127,850	\$ 3,000	\$ 49,100	\$ 74,249	\$ 254,199
Verizon Good Government Club of NJ	Regulated Industries	\$ 210,050			\$ 4,700	\$ 214,750
Medical Action Committee	Professional PAC	\$ 205,900			\$ 2,000	\$ 207,900
NJ Funeral Directors PAC	Professional PAC	\$ 207,640				\$ 207,640
NJ Dental PAC	Professional PAC	\$ 167,750	\$ 25,000		\$ 7,050	\$ 199,800
NJAA (Apartment Association)	Trade Association	\$ 148,560	\$ 24,400		\$ 24,400	\$ 197,360
Democratic Republican Independent Voter Education (Teamsters)	Union	\$ 45,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 128,763	\$ 186,263
Constructors for Good Government	Trade Association	\$ 103,258	\$ 27,500	\$ 4,600	\$ 6,585	\$ 141,943
JebPAC (Jersey Bankers)	Regulated Industries	\$ 135,075				\$ 135,075