



NEWS RELEASE

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Gubernatorial and legislative candidates have raised more than \$30 million for the current election cycle while stockpiling a combined war chest of \$16 million as the two main parties wrestle for control of the Statehouse, according to the latest reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission.

Table 1
Combined Campaign Finance Activity to Date for Gubernatorial and Legislative Candidates for the 2013 Election Cycle

Type	Raised	Spent	Cash-on-Hand
Gubernatorial	\$ 8,045,191	\$ 3,475,851	\$ 4,603,783
Legislative	\$ 22,494,542	\$ 11,226,734	\$ 11,409,682
Total	\$ 30,539,733	\$ 14,702,585	\$ 16,013,465

Reports submitted 29 days before the June 4 primary show that the four gubernatorial candidates have raised \$8 million and spent \$3.5 million while setting aside \$4.6 million for the next campaign push.

Table 2
Campaign Finance Activity by Gubernatorial Candidates through May 6

Candidate	Party	Raised	Spent	Cash-on-Hand
Chris Christie	R	\$ 6,166,158	\$ 2,690,266	\$ 3,476,556
Barbara Buono	D	\$ 1,870,093	\$ 777,765	\$ 1,126,107
Seth Grossman	R	\$8,940	\$7,820	\$1,120
Troy Webster*	D	na	na	na
Totals		\$ 8,045,191	\$ 3,475,851	\$ 4,603,783

* Does not plan to spend more than \$4,500 for primary.

Meanwhile, legislative candidates, including many incumbents who have been fundraising for two years, have raised \$22.5 million and spent \$11.2 million for the current election cycle while building a \$11.4 million reserve.

Table 3
Campaign Finance Activity by Legislative Candidates through May 6

Party	Raised	Spent	Cash-on-Hand
Democrats	\$ 15,467,501	\$ 7,853,589	\$ 7,779,611
Republicans	\$ 7,027,041	\$ 3,373,146	\$ 3,630,071
Both Parties	\$ 22,494,542	\$ 11,226,734	\$ 11,409,682

Democrats, who control about two-thirds of the seats in the Legislature, have a two-to-one margin over Republicans. They hold a 24 to 16 margin in the Senate, and a 48 to 32 edge in the Assembly.

In the campaign for governor, fundraising and spending both are down compared to the same point in 2009, but combined cash-on-hand is up.

Table 4
Comparison of Campaign Finance Activity for All
Gubernatorial Candidates up to 29-Days before Primary Election

Year	Raised	Spent	Cash-on-Hand
2013	\$ 8,045,191	\$ 3,475,851	\$ 4,603,783
2009	\$ 9,701,064	\$ 5,861,420	\$ 3,840,587
Difference	-17%	-41%	20%

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said there are reasons some current numbers are lower. “For one thing, there were six primary candidates in 2009 versus four this year. Also, former Gov. Jon Corzine self-financed his campaign and he faced no limits on his fundraising,” Brindle said.

Legislative candidates of both parties reported raising more funds since the 2011 election than they did during the same 16-month period prior to that election. However, spending and cash-on-hand balances are lower.

Table 5
Fundraising by Legislative Candidates During
16 Months Prior to 29-Day Report

Party	Category	2013	2011	Difference-%
Democrats	Raised	\$ 15,467,501	\$ 11,411,989	36%
	Spent	\$ 7,853,589	\$ 7,882,485	0%
	Cash-on-hand	\$ 7,779,611	\$ 8,247,345	-6%
Republicans	Raised	\$ 7,027,041	\$ 6,204,532	13%
	Spent	\$ 3,373,146	\$ 3,397,824	-1%
	Cash-on-hand	\$ 3,630,071	\$ 3,965,403	-8%
Both Parties	Raised	\$ 22,494,542	\$ 17,616,521	28%
	Spent	\$ 11,226,734	\$ 11,280,309	0%
	Cash-on-hand	\$ 11,409,682	\$ 12,212,748	-7%

Brindle said cash-on-hand balances may have been higher in 2011 because Senate candidates had four years to raise funds before that election.

“Current totals reflect the fact that Senate candidates serve just two years after legislative districts are redrawn, which was 2011,” he said. “For the next two elections, Senate candidates will run every four years. Assembly terms are always two years.”

Brindle added that if historic trends hold true, both parties are likely to keep most of their reserves for the general elections because there are few serious primary contests.

At this point, incumbents hold a huge cash-on-hand advantage. However, while incumbents always enjoy a major edge, challenger totals should be higher by the general election.

Table 6
Cash-on-Hand Reserves of Incumbents and Challengers as of May 6

Group	Cash-on-Hand
Incumbents	\$ 10,922,791
Challengers	\$ 486,891
Both Groups	\$ 11,409,682

Senate candidates have more in the bank than Assembly candidates.

Table 7
Cash-on-Hand Balances by Legislative House

Group	Cash-on-Hand
Senate Candidates	\$ 7,157,168
Assembly Candidates	\$ 4,252,515
Total	\$ 11,409,682

Focusing on just the four months leading up to the 29-day reporting deadline, combined fundraising by candidates compared to two years ago is less than 1 percent higher. Republicans had slightly more luck than Democrats this year though Democrats still raised nearly twice as much this period.

Table 8
Fundraising by Legislative Candidates from January to May 6

Party	2013	2011	Difference-%
Democrats	\$ 3,674,683	\$ 3,686,991	-0.3%
Republicans	\$ 1,917,493	\$ 1,867,076	2.6%
Both Parties	\$ 5,592,176	\$ 5,554,067	0.7%

Spending patterns this year are different than two years ago. Democratic candidates spent 24 percent less during the period this year compared to 2011, while Republicans spent 12 percent more.

Table 9
Spending by Legislative Candidates from January to May 6

Party	2013	2011	Difference-%
Democrats	\$ 2,320,517	\$ 2,875,534	-24%
Republicans	\$ 1,142,614	\$ 1,008,625	12%
Both Parties	\$ 3,463,131	\$ 3,884,159	-12%

Nine of the ten candidates with the largest cash-on-hand totals are state Senators while one is a state Assemblyman.

Table 10
Top Ten Legislative Candidates
Ranked by Cash-on-Hand

Candidate	Cash-on-Hand on May 6
Senate Richard J. Codey	\$ 764,461
Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney	\$ 716,432
Senator Shirley K. Turner	\$ 619,184
Senator Donald W. Norcross	\$ 557,415
Senator Kevin J. OToole	\$ 433,704
Senate Minority Leader Thomas Kean Jr.	\$ 416,248
Senator Bob Smith	\$ 397,696
Senator Nicholas P. Scutari	\$ 376,677
Senator Paul A. Sarlo	\$ 351,457
Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick	\$ 311,778

One trend expected to intensify in this year’s elections is the involvement of third party groups that make campaign expenditures independent of candidates.

“An estimated \$14 million from these so-called “outside groups” was spent during the 2009 gubernatorial campaign, and more than \$1.3 million was spent in the 2011 legislative campaigns,” said Brindle.

Table 11
Spending by Outside Groups to Promote or
Oppose Candidates in this Year’s Election

Group	Spending	Year	Source
Committee for Our Children’s Future	\$7.8 million	2011 and 2012	Committee officials
One New Jersey	\$1.8 million	2013	Media
Garden State Forward	\$270,336	2013	Independent Expenditure Reports
Total	\$9.9 million		

“We have predicted that outside groups will spend as much as \$25 million in the current campaign. Given that an estimated \$10 million already has been spent to influence this year’s election, our estimate could end up on the low side,” Brindle said.

The numbers in this report should be considered preliminary. The analysis is based on legislative fundraising reports received by noon May 8, 2013.

Reports filed by gubernatorial and legislative candidates are available online on ELEC’s website at www.elec.state.nj.us. A downloadable summary of data from those reports is available in both spreadsheet and PDF formats at www.elec.state.nj.us/publicinformation/statistics.htm. ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/elecnj).