



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: JEFF BRINDLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE
October 25, 2013

Combined fundraising by the state's 42 county party committees continues to be in a slump compared to four years ago, according to the latest reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

"While Republican totals are higher than in 2009, overall numbers are lower than four years ago due to Democratic declines," said Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director.

For instance, county parties together raised \$5.3 million this year- down 28 percent from \$7.4 million in 2009. County parties combined have spent \$4.4 million- a drop of 30 percent from \$6.4 million four years ago.

"Republicans may be doing better than they were in 2009, but it still isn't easy raising money if you are a county party leader," said Brindle.

Despite the overall trend, Democrats still have an edge over Republicans.

"Democrats have raised and spent more money this year, and reported more cash reserves," Brindle said. "Republicans did report a higher net worth, which adjusts cash holdings for debts owed to or by the party."

Table 1
Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County
Committees January 1 Through September 30
2013 versus 2009

	Raised- 2013	Spent- 2013	Cash-On-Hand- 2013	Net Worth*- 2013
Democratic County Party Committees	\$3,050,941	\$2,674,274	\$1,666,960	\$1,207,522
Republican County Party Committees	\$2,268,714	\$1,773,129	\$ 789,435	\$1,360,258
Total- Both Parties	\$5,319,655	\$4,447,403	\$2,456,395	\$2,567,780
	Raised- 2009	Spent- 2009	Cash-On-Hand- 2009	Net Worth*- 2009
Democratic County Party Committees	\$5,692,392	\$4,893,491	\$2,474,586	\$2,127,693
Republican County Party Committees	\$1,706,300	\$1,482,272	\$ 478,267	\$1,074,475
Total- Both Parties	\$7,398,692	\$6,375,763	\$2,952,853	\$3,202,168
Difference 2013 Versus 2009				
Democratic County Party Committees	-46%	-45%	-33%	-43%
Republican County Party Committees	33%	20%	65%	27%
Total- Both Parties	-28%	-30%	-17%	-20%

*Cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the committee

“Several trends are responsible for this downward trend that started in the last decade. Initially, sharp reductions in county organization fundraising were pegged to pay-to-play laws. But the impact of the pay-to-play laws seems to have leveled off,” Brindle said.

Brindle said the continued decrease in county party fundraising more recently has been “facilitated by the significant growth in independent spending in New Jersey elections.”

“Independent spending has gotten so prevalent that these groups are turning into surrogates for the candidates, even to the point of attacking one another on behalf of the candidates,” he said. “This year’s election is turning into a modern version of “Lord of the Flies,” he said.

While Republicans are lagging Democrats in overall fundraising, a Republican committee- the Burlington County Republican committee- has raised the most funds this year, spent the most money, and reported the highest net worth. Passaic County Democrats reported the largest cash-on-hand.

**Table 2
Top Five County Party
Committees by Category**

County	Party	Raised January 1 Through September 30, 2013
Burlington	Republicans	\$537,224
Gloucester	Democrats	\$395,266
Passaic	Democrats	\$353,084
Bergen	Democrats	\$350,524
Monmouth	Republicans	\$286,266
		Spent January 1 Through September 30, 2013
Burlington	Republicans	\$518,446
Bergen	Democrats	\$333,241
Camden	Democrats	\$309,060
Union	Democrats	\$303,584
Middlesex	Democrats	\$280,495
		Cash-on-Hand on September 30, 2013
Passaic	Democrats	\$456,248
Gloucester	Democrats	\$401,823
Somerset	Republicans	\$226,257
Bergen	Republicans	\$152,279
Essex	Democrats	\$134,007
		Net Worth*on September 30, 2013
Burlington	Republicans	\$617,583
Passaic	Democrats	\$456,248
Gloucester	Democrats	\$339,299
Somerset	Republicans	\$226,009
Bergen	Republicans	\$152,279

*Cash-on-Hand adjusted for debts owe to or by committee

Four Democratic county party committees reported cash-on-hand totals larger than \$100,000- Camden, Essex, Gloucester, and Passaic. Two counties- Burlington and Hudson- reported a negative net worth because of outstanding debts.

Table 3
Campaign Finance Activity by Democratic County
Party Committees January 1 Through September 30, 2013

County	Raised January 1 Through September 30, 2013	Spent January 1 Through September 30, 2013	Cash-On-Hand On September 30, 2013	Net Worth On September 30 2013
Atlantic	\$ 69,420	\$ 31,306	\$ 60,400	\$ 60,400
Bergen	\$ 350,524	\$ 333,241	\$ 38,372	\$ 42,999
Burlington	\$ 85,819	\$ 79,057	\$ 10,584	\$ (75,383)
Camden	\$ 282,954	\$ 309,060	\$ 127,718	\$ 127,718
Cape May	\$ 162,000	\$ 64,479	\$ 99,966	\$ 99,966
Cumberland	\$ 32,915	\$ 23,559	\$ 13,917	\$ 13,917
Essex	\$ 133,130	\$ 162,292	\$ 134,007	\$ 134,007
Gloucester	\$ 395,266	\$ 249,653	\$ 401,823	\$ 339,299
Hudson	\$ 185,505	\$ 217,252	\$ 3,554	\$ (303,984)
Hunterdon	\$ 22,485	\$ 18,592	\$ 15,463	\$ 15,463
Mercer	\$ 101,464	\$ 64,461	\$ 70,214	\$ 70,214
Middlesex	\$ 246,429	\$ 280,495	\$ 41,510	\$ 40,540
Monmouth	\$ 126,788	\$ 108,348	\$ 1,746	\$ 1,746
Morris	\$ 69,792	\$ 56,690	\$ 25,562	\$ 16,112
Ocean	\$ 48,313	\$ 55,621	\$ 8,407	\$ 24,574
Passaic	\$ 353,084	\$ 204,213	\$ 456,248	\$ 456,248
Salem	\$ 41,685	\$ 50,501	\$ 46,690	\$ 46,690
Somerset	\$ 55,031	\$ 57,472	\$ 17,144	\$ 11,915
Sussex	\$ 5,205	\$ 4,398	\$ 4,480	\$ 4,480
Union	\$ 283,132	\$ 303,584	\$ 89,155	\$ 80,601
Warren*				
Democrats-Total	\$3,050,941	\$2,674,274	\$1,666,960	\$1,207,522

*Expects to spend less than \$5,500 during calendar year.

Two Republican county party committees- Bergen and Somerset- reported cash-on-hand larger than \$100,000.

Table 4
Campaign Finance Activity by Republican County
Party Committees January 1 Through September 30, 2013

County	Raised January 1 Through September 30, 2013	Spent January 1 Through September 30, 2013	Cash-On-Hand On September 30, 2013	Net Worth On September 30 2013
Atlantic	\$ 28,038	\$ 31,261	\$ 5,793	\$ 5,793
Bergen	\$ 229,084	\$ 101,649	\$152,279	\$ 152,279
Burlington	\$ 537,224	\$ 518,446	\$ 23,923	\$ 617,583
Camden	\$ 36,970	\$ 27,190	\$ 23,089	\$ 23,981
Cape May	\$ 127,192	\$ 119,675	\$ 24,142	\$ 24,142
Cumberland	\$ 74,948	\$ 78,923	\$ 10,040	\$ 10,040
Essex	\$ 25,959	\$ 19,089	\$ 7,123	\$ 7,123
Gloucester	\$ 49,404	\$ 48,113	\$ 3,962	\$ 3,962
Hudson*				
Hunterdon	\$ 75,774	\$ 48,277	\$ 62,543	\$ 40,543
Mercer	\$ 13,142	\$ 12,005	\$ 3,072	\$ 1,642
Middlesex	\$ 60,299	\$ 48,443	\$ 37,959	\$ 37,959
Monmouth	\$ 286,266	\$ 226,791	\$ 62,591	\$ 62,591
Morris	\$ 142,619	\$ 99,191	\$ 72,675	\$ 72,624
Ocean	\$ 115,993	\$ 91,283	\$ 30,958	\$ 30,958
Passaic	\$ 97,588	\$ 97,042	\$ 604	\$ 604
Salem	\$ 48,657	\$ 32,621	\$ 32,705	\$ 32,705
Somerset	\$ 262,452	\$ 122,607	\$226,257	\$ 226,009
Sussex	\$ 36,104	\$ 32,957	\$ 5,397	\$ 5,397
Union***				
Warren	\$ 21,001	\$ 17,566	\$ 4,323	\$ 4,323
Republicans- Total	\$2,268,714	\$1,773,129	\$789,435	\$1,360,258

*Expects to spend less than \$5,500 during calendar year.

***Not available

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by 5 p.m. on October 23. They 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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