



NEWS RELEASE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:
January 29, 2014

County party committees collectively spent more than \$10 million on the 2013 elections, the largest amount since 2009 and a sign that fundraising fortunes may be starting to stabilize, according to the latest reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

TABLE 1
COUNTY PARTY FUNDRAISING AND SPENDING
THROUGH FOURTH QUARTER 2001-2013

YEAR	RAISED	SPENT	MAJOR STATE ELECTION?
2001	\$ 21,952,725	\$ 21,872,999	Yes†
2002	\$ 21,578,971	\$ 19,918,454	No
2003	\$ 27,180,067	\$ 28,110,780	Yes
2004	\$ 20,481,002	\$ 19,548,718	No
2005	\$ 18,893,472	\$ 19,009,467	Yes
2006	\$ 11,977,748	\$ 12,392,107	No
2007	\$ 14,582,167	\$ 14,341,683	Yes
2008	\$ 9,511,311	\$ 9,502,015	No
2009	\$ 13,854,662	\$ 13,306,296	Yes
2010	\$ 7,591,065	\$ 8,712,802	No
2011	\$ 8,449,211	\$ 8,545,440	Yes
2012	\$ 6,407,139	\$ 5,885,971	No
2013	\$ 9,908,851	\$ 10,069,188	Yes†

†Elections with both legislative houses and gubernatorial candidates running.

Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director, said a recent analysis of the so-called "Big Six" committees- the two state parties and four legislative leadership PACs- also found an uptick in fundraising and spending for 2013.

"This is an example of how spending in this recent election has been met with mixed reviews. On the one hand, it appears county party fundraising bottomed out in 2012 when compared to the past decade," Brindle said. "On the other hand, even with a better year in 2013, the totals prior to 2010 still are lower than all but one year dating back to 2001."

For instance, county parties together spent more than twice as much- \$21.9 million- in 2001, the last year when both legislative houses and the governor’s seat were at stake.

“While 2013 totals are better than they were the past three years, they are unlikely to cause county party chairs to do cartwheels,” Brindle said.

He noted that spending totals are higher than fundraising totals in 2013 because they include funds carried over from the previous year.

Brindle said even compared to 2009, when just the governor’s seat and assembly seats were in play, combined spending was down though Republican totals were up and Democratic totals were lower.

**TABLE 2
SUMMARY OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY COUNTY
COMMITTEES JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31
2009 VERSUS 2013**

	RAISED-2009	SPENT-2009	CASH-ON-HAND-2009	NET WORTH-2009*
Democratic County Party Committees	\$10,631,499	\$10,102,842	\$2,541,947	\$2,661,674
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 3,223,162	\$ 3,203,454	\$ 252,211	\$ 936,458
Total- Both Parties	\$13,854,662	\$13,306,296	\$2,794,158	\$3,598,133
	RAISED-2013	SPENT-2013	CASH-ON-HAND-2013	NETWORTH-2013*
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 5,889,643	\$ 6,218,016	\$ 960,624	\$ 519,637
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 4,019,208	\$ 3,851,172	\$ 487,917	\$1,140,845
Total- Both Parties	\$ 9,908,851	\$10,069,188	\$1,448,541	\$1,660,482
Difference 2009 versus 2013				
Democratic County Party Committees	-45%	-38%	-62%	-80%
Republican County Party Committees	25%	20%	93%	22%
Total- Both Parties	-28%	-24%	-48%	-54%

*Net worth is cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the committee.

Echoing previous reports, Brindle said county parties have been squeezed by many of the same pressures that have tightened the purse-strings of the Big Six committees.

These include a massive increase in independent spending in state elections since 2007, sharp reductions in contributions from public contractors since the mid-2000s due to new laws, the 2008 recession’s financial impact on many contributors, and the fact that two wealthy former gubernatorial candidates- one a Democrat, the other a Republican- no longer are pouring funds into party committees.

Making independent groups follow the same disclosure rules as parties and candidates, and other proposals to strengthen the parties, could help stem the decline of county and state parties, Brindle said.

Bergen County Democrats reported the most fundraising in 2013, Gloucester County Democrats reported the most spending, and Passaic County Democrats were left with the largest cash reserves after the election. Burlington County Republicans reported the largest net worth.

**TABLE 3
TOP FIVE COUNTY PARTY
COMMITTEES BY CATEGORY FOR 2013**

COUNTY	PARTY	RAISED
Bergen	Democrats	\$762,047
Burlington	Republicans	\$750,154
Passaic	Democrats	\$709,431
Gloucester	Democrats	\$664,553
Camden	Democrats	\$616,899
		SPENT
Gloucester	Democrats	\$864,469
Bergen	Democrats	\$782,912
Passaic	Democrats	\$761,634
Burlington	Republicans	\$738,966
Camden	Democrats	\$682,523
		CASH-ON-HAND
Passaic	Democrats	\$255,173
Somerset	Republicans	\$194,702
Essex	Democrats	\$118,396
Union	Democrats	\$101,301
Cape May**	Democrats	\$ 99,966
		NET WORTH*
Burlington	Republicans	\$671,215
Passaic	Democrats	\$255,173
Somerset	Republicans	\$194,314
Essex	Democrats	\$118,396
Cape May**	Democrats	\$ 99,966

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

**Through September 30, 2013.

Three Democratic county party committees- Essex, Passaic and Union- reported cash-on-hand totals above \$100,000 at the end of 2013. Three counties- Burlington, Gloucester and Hudson- reported a negative net worth because of outstanding debts.

**TABLE 4
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY DEMOCRATIC COUNTY
PARTY COMMITTEES JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013**

COUNTY	RAISED JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013	SPENT JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013	CASH-ON-HAND ON DECEMBER 31, 2013	NET WORTH ON DECEMBER 31, 2013
Atlantic	\$ 352,556	\$ 365,228	\$ 9,614	\$ 9,614
Bergen	\$ 762,047	\$ 782,912	\$ 225	\$ 14,850
Burlington	\$ 226,096	\$ 226,335	\$ 3,584	\$ (82,383)
Camden	\$ 616,899	\$ 682,523	\$ 88,201	\$ 88,201
Cape May**	\$ 164,000	\$ 64,479	\$ 99,966	\$ 99,966
Cumberland	\$ 99,475	\$ 96,546	\$ 7,490	\$ 7,490
Essex	\$ 206,052	\$ 250,826	\$ 118,396	\$ 118,396
Gloucester	\$ 664,553	\$ 864,469	\$ 56,295	\$ (1,445)
Hudson	\$ 341,359	\$ 319,618	\$ 57,042	\$ (250,496)
Hunterdon	\$ 32,525	\$ 39,136	\$ 4,959	\$ 4,959
Mercer	\$ 124,679	\$ 124,772	\$ 33,117	\$ 33,117
Middlesex	\$ 613,549	\$ 676,899	\$ 12,226	\$ 12,226
Monmouth	\$ 200,993	\$ 191,493	\$ 6,862	\$ 6,862
Morris	\$ 90,630	\$ 80,962	\$ 22,128	\$ 14,253
Ocean	\$ 63,402	\$ 65,501	\$ 13,616	\$ 29,783
Passaic	\$ 709,431	\$ 761,634	\$ 255,173	\$ 255,173
Salem**	\$ 41,685	\$ 50,501	\$ 46,690	\$ 46,690
Somerset	\$ 177,624	\$ 164,791	\$ 16,582	\$ 12,477
Sussex	\$ 5,691	\$ 4,695	\$ 4,670	\$ 4,670
Union	\$ 392,277	\$ 400,583	\$ 101,301	\$ 92,747
Warren**	\$ 4,120	\$ 4,113	\$ 2,487	\$ 2,487
Democrats-Total	\$5,889,643	\$6,218,016	\$ 960,624	\$ 519,637

**Through September 30, 2013.

Somerset County Republicans reported cash reserves larger than \$100,000. Mercer County Republicans reported a negative net worth.

**TABLE 5
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY REPUBLICAN COUNTY
PARTY COMMITTEES JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013**

County	Raised January 1 Through December 31, 2013	Spent January 1 Through December 31, 2013	Cash-On-Hand On December 31, 2013	Net Worth On December 31, 2013
Atlantic	\$ 304,407	\$ 270,620	\$ 42,803	\$ 42,803
Bergen	\$ 300,240	\$ 316,532	\$ 8,552	\$ 8,552
Burlington	\$ 750,154	\$ 738,966	\$ 16,333	\$ 671,215
Camden	\$ 83,002	\$ 73,373	\$ 21,972	\$ 22,864
Cape May	\$ 206,481	\$ 211,160	\$ 11,946	\$ 11,946
Cumberland	\$ 216,334	\$ 229,186	\$ 1,164	\$ 1,164
Essex	\$ 87,494	\$ 86,854	\$ 893	\$ 893
Gloucester	\$ 96,397	\$ 97,879	\$ 1,188	\$ 1,188
Hudson*				
Hunterdon	\$ 107,975	\$ 120,118	\$ 22,903	\$ 22,903
Mercer	\$ 50,601	\$ 51,710	\$ 826	\$ (1,632)
Middlesex**	\$ 60,299	\$ 48,443	\$ 37,959	\$ 37,959
Monmouth	\$ 371,475	\$ 369,824	\$ 4,766	\$ 4,766
Morris	\$ 212,783	\$ 241,398	\$ 27,631	\$ 27,631
Ocean	\$ 239,263	\$ 187,395	\$ 58,116	\$ 58,116
Passaic	\$ 191,044	\$ 188,633	\$ 2,470	\$ 2,470
Salem	\$ 61,722	\$ 65,320	\$ 13,070	\$ 13,070
Somerset	\$ 564,509	\$ 456,218	\$ 194,702	\$ 194,314
Sussex	\$ 94,027	\$ 79,977	\$ 16,300	\$ 16,300
Union***				
Warren**	\$ 21,001	\$ 17,566	\$ 4,323	\$ 4,323
Republicans-Total	\$4,019,208	\$3,851,172	\$ 487,917	\$1,140,845

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

** Through September 30, 2013.

***Not Available

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by 5 p.m. on January 24. 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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