



NEWS RELEASE

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The 2013 state elections, which featured the most candidates since 2001, has left the so-called “Big Six” fundraising committees with depleted coffers, according to an analysis by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Reports filed by the two state parties and four legislative leadership committees revealed a combined reserve of just \$750,904. That is less than a third of the \$2.6 million cash balance at this point last year when the same groups were mobilizing for fall elections.

Not since 2001 has the campaign for governor taken place during the same year elections were held for both legislative houses.

**TABLE 1
FUNDRAISING BY “BIG SIX” COMMITTEES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH MARCH 31 2014**

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT**	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$194,109	\$345,344	\$261,128	\$ 26,954
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 40,606	\$ 24,914	\$ 71,927	\$ 71,927
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 67,503	\$ 40,642	\$ 67,574	\$ 67,574
Sub Total-Republicans	\$302,218	\$410,900	\$400,629	\$166,455
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$ 34,170	\$ 52,372	\$140,820	\$117,579
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 76,018	\$136,896	\$ 24,759	\$ 4,759
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$188,120	\$ 94,053	\$184,696	\$154,257
Sub Total-Democrats	\$298,308	\$283,321	\$350,275	\$276,595
Total-Both Parties	\$600,526	\$694,221	\$750,904	\$443,050

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

**Some spending totals exceed fundraising totals because of reserves carried over from last year.

“The parties definitely are tapped out. But that is part of the normal fund-raising cycle,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director. “I’m sure the tempo will pick up as they start gearing up for the 2015 Assembly elections.”

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Looking at first quarter totals dating back to 2010, the combined 2014 party totals for fundraising and net worth- cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the committee- are the lowest during that period.

However, the parties jointly spent more this year than they did during the first quarter of 2013, and reported a higher cash-on-hand figure this year than after the first quarter of 2012.

TABLE 2
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY “BIG SIX”
AT END OF 1ST QUARTER BY YEAR

BOTH PARTIES	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH
2010	\$ 885,123	\$ 694,309	\$1,474,272	\$1,290,437
2011	\$1,738,239	\$ 777,847	\$2,500,926	\$2,191,738
2012	\$1,293,649	\$1,617,192	\$ 704,601	\$ 503,541
2013	\$1,464,033	\$ 583,756	\$2,564,802	\$2,421,411
2014	\$ 600,526	\$ 694,221	\$ 750,904	\$ 443,050

“It is clear that party fundraising is a shadow of what it was ten years ago. Tighter contribution limits for public contractors, a big surge in independent spending by special interest groups and other trends have made it harder for the “Big Six” committees to attract campaign funds,” Brindle said.

“That said, the first quarter after an election year is a traditional low point. Fundraising activity should be picking up in coming months,” he said.

State Parties and Legislative Leadership Committees are required to report their financial activity to the Commission on a quarterly basis. The reports are available on ELEC’s website at www.elec.state.nj.us. ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/elecny).

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