



NEWS RELEASE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:
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County party committees collectively spent \$7.6 million during 2014, the second lowest total since 2001, 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 2001-2014**

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†
2014	\$ 7,633,924	\$ 7,560,342	No

†Elections with both legislative houses and gubernatorial candidates running.

Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director, said it was not surprising that county party spending was on the low side given the lack of statewide elections in 2014, and just a few county campaigns, notably Bergen, Burlington and Essex County, that drew much spending. The total was larger than the \$5.9 million expended in 2012, another year without statewide elections.

"County parties, just like state parties, face many challenges," Brindle said. "These include competition from independent special interest groups, contribution limits that have not been adjusted for inflation for several years, the loss of wealthy gubernatorial candidates that used to give them large checks, and stiff restrictions on contributions from public contracts."

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COUNTY PARTIES 4TH QUARTER 2014

JANUARY 29, 2015

“At the same time, you have to keep in mind that there were no statewide elections last year, and relatively few county races that drew heavy spending. The coming year will be a better barometer of the health of county parties,” Brindle said.

Brindle noted that county parties did raise and spend more in 2013 than they did in 2011. Both of those years featured statewide elections. But 2013 was unusual because it was the first time since 2001 that there was a gubernatorial campaign at the same time all 120 legislators faced reelection.

Making independent groups follow the same disclosure rules as parties and candidates, reforming pay-to-play laws, and adjusted contribution limits to offset inflation could help stem the decline of county and state parties, he said.

Measuring 2014 totals against comparable totals from 2010, Democrats raised slightly more money, and reported higher cash-on-hand and net worth totals than four years earlier even though they spent less. Republican party committees raised less and had slightly less cash, but reported higher spending and net worth than in 2010.

TABLE 2
SUMMARY OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY COUNTY
COMMITTEES JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31
2010 VERSUS 2014

	RAISED-2010	SPENT-2010	CASH-ON-HAND-2010	NET WORTH-2010*
Democratic County Party Committees	\$4,526,071	\$5,807,354	\$ 765,111	\$ 282,173
Republican County Party Committees	\$2,852,608	\$2,685,876	\$ 470,063	\$ 922,695
TOTAL- BOTH PARTIES	\$7,378,679	\$8,493,230	\$ 1,235,174	\$ 1,204,869
	RAISED-2014	SPENT-2014	CASH-ON-HAND-2014	NETWORTH-2014*
Democratic County Party Committees	\$4,943,216	\$4,868,915	\$ 964,926	\$ 523,831
Republican County Party Committees	\$2,690,708	\$2,691,427	\$ 462,151	\$1,349,156
TOTAL- BOTH PARTIES	\$7,633,924	\$7,560,342	\$ 1,427,077	\$1,872,987
Difference 2010 versus 2014				
Democratic County Party Committees	9%	-16%	26%	86%
Republican County Party Committees	-6%	0.2%	-2%	46%
TOTAL- BOTH PARTIES	3%	-11%	16%	55%

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

COUNTY PARTIES 4TH QUARTER 2014

JANUARY 29, 2015

Two Democratic county party committees- Camden and Passaic - reported cash-on-hand totals above \$100,000 at the end of 2014. 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 DECEMBER 31, 2014**

COUNTY	RAISED JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014	SPENT JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014	CASH-ON-HAND ON DECEMBER 31, 2014	NET WORTH ON DECEMBER 31, 2014
Atlantic	\$ 60,726	\$ 35,752	\$ 34,588	\$ 34,588
Bergen	\$ 959,180	\$ 954,276	\$ 5,129	\$ 6,946
Burlington	\$ 120,570	\$ 123,727	\$ 427	\$ (85,540)
Camden	\$ 478,110	\$ 438,504	\$127,808	\$ 127,808
Cape May	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,047	\$ 4,191	\$ 4,191
Cumberland*	\$ 40,075	\$ 45,551	\$ 2,014	\$ 2,014
Essex	\$ 322,275	\$ 389,301	\$ 51,369	\$ 51,369
Gloucester	\$ 438,149	\$ 410,872	\$ 83,572	\$ 45,451
Hudson	\$ 301,491	\$ 260,606	\$ 97,926	\$ (209,611)
Hunterdon	\$ 49,253	\$ 35,394	\$ 18,818	\$ 18,818
Mercer	\$ 159,355	\$ 129,677	\$ 62,795	\$ 62,795
Middlesex	\$ 542,048	\$ 527,467	\$ 26,807	\$ 26,807
Monmouth	\$ 375,800	\$ 393,689	\$ 3,001	\$ 3,001
Morris	\$ 84,136	\$ 99,548	\$ 6,715	\$ 6,715
Ocean	\$ 60,301	\$ 67,142	\$ 6,774	\$ 22,940
Passaic	\$ 468,255	\$ 406,400	\$317,028	\$ 317,028
Salem	\$ 9,775	\$ 49,997	\$ 12,377	\$ 12,377
Somerset	\$ 203,060	\$ 223,784	\$ 568	\$ 568
Sussex	\$ 5,745	\$ 7,118	\$ 3,297	\$ 3,297
Union	\$ 254,634	\$ 259,605	\$ 96,330	\$ 68,887
Warren	\$ 6,779	\$ 6,458	\$ 3,392	\$ 3,383
DEMOCRATS TOTAL	\$4,943,216	\$4,868,915	\$964,926	\$ 523,831

*Through September 30, 2014.

COUNTY PARTIES 4TH QUARTER 2014

JANUARY 29, 2015

Somerset County was the sole Republican committee reporting cash reserves larger than \$100,000. No Republican county reported a negative net worth.

**TABLE 4
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY REPUBLICAN COUNTY
PARTY COMMITTEES JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014**

COUNTY	RAISED JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014	SPENT JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014	CASH-ON-HAND ON DECEMBER 31, 2014	NET WORTH ON DECEMBER 31, 2014
Atlantic	\$ 29,109	\$ 66,349	\$ 5,563	\$ 5,563
Bergen	\$ 290,848	\$ 277,325	\$ 22,075	\$ 22,075
Burlington	\$ 741,918	\$ 748,098	\$ 10,153	\$ 922,225
Camden	\$ 22,753	\$ 25,411	\$ 19,313	\$ 19,313
Cape May	\$ 85,600	\$ 88,977	\$ 8,569	\$ 8,569
Cumberland	\$ 82,205	\$ 61,802	\$ 21,567	\$ 21,567
Essex	\$ 46,825	\$ 45,446	\$ 2,272	\$ 2,272
Gloucester	\$ 54,910	\$ 51,847	\$ 4,251	\$ 4,251
Hudson**				
Hunterdon	\$ 59,236	\$ 59,377	\$ 22,763	\$ 22,763
Mercer	\$ 23,527	\$ 21,244	\$ 3,109	\$ 3,109
Middlesex	\$ 41,349	\$ 26,604	\$ 23,318	NA
Monmouth	\$ 330,597	\$ 310,482	\$ 24,881	\$ 24,881
Morris	\$ 119,992	\$ 132,916	\$ 14,707	\$ 13,840
Ocean	\$ 146,442	\$ 201,303	\$ 3,255	\$ 3,255
Passaic*	\$ 67,784	\$ 47,287	\$ 19,111	\$ 19,111
Salem*	\$ 35,008	\$ 38,128	\$ 10,261	\$ 10,261
Somerset	\$ 375,986	\$ 373,087	\$197,601	\$ 196,719
Sussex	\$ 20,189	\$ 31,911	\$ 4,579	\$ 4,579
Union	\$ 94,205	\$ 59,281	\$ 34,934	\$ 34,934
Warren	\$ 22,225	\$ 24,552	\$ 9,867	\$ 9,867
REPUBLICANS TOTAL	\$2,690,708	\$2,691,427	\$462,151	\$1,349,156

* Through September 30, 2014.

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

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by noon on January 28. 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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