



# NEWS RELEASE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:  
October 28, 2016

The decades long slide in political party financial activity reflected in last week's big six report is now reinforced through fundraising and spending totals reported by the county party committees, according to an analysis completed by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Third quarter reports show that the county party committees raised \$4.2 million and spent \$3.6 million over the first nine months of 2016.

According to the analysis, these figures compare negatively to \$5.5 million raised and \$4.4 million spent by the third quarter 2008, a similar year in which there were no state elections.

"These figures, representing a 24 percent reduction in fundraising and a 18 percent decrease in spending, demonstrate that there has been a weakening of the political party system in New Jersey," said Jeff Brindle, Executive Director of ELEC.

"Furthermore," said Brindle, "the fall-off in financial activity from 2008 would have been worse if not for the contributions from potential 2017 gubernatorial candidates."

Potential gubernatorial candidates have given over \$2.1 million in contributions to county committees since 2012.

The analysis does show that there has been a slight increase in financial activity by county parties over 2012.

Brindle said, however, that "the increase of 3 percent in both fundraising and spending over 2012 in no way negates the fact that the long-term trend reveals a party system in deep trouble."

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He noted that 20 years ago in 1996, county party committees raised \$9.4 million. Adjusted for inflation that figure rises to \$14.5 million.

“The county party system was revived 20 years ago by reforms in 1993. What is needed now are similar reforms that will strengthen the political parties by reforming pay-to-play and requiring registration and disclosure by independent groups,” said Brindle.

The precipitous decline in county party financial activity was facilitated by the enactment of the complex pay-to-play law in 2006 and the accompanying uptick in independent group and special interest PAC spending.

The analysis shows that the Democratic county committees raised \$2.3 million while the Republican county committees raised \$1.9 million.

Through the third quarter 2016, the Democratic county committees spent \$2.1 million, or about 31 percent more than the Republican county committees, which spent \$1.6 million.

The data shows that from 2008 the Democratic county committees did take the biggest hit. Their fundraising declined by 33 percent and spending by 41 percent, compared to Republican county committees, whose fundraising declined by 8 percent but whose spending increased by 61 percent.

Brindle speculated that one reason for the Democratic decrease is the fact that majority of independent group spending over the last couple of years has been on the Democratic side.

For the Democratic committees, Bergen County led the way, raising \$352,604 and spending \$249,192.

The Burlington County Republican County Committee raised \$629,061 and spent \$629,134, to lead all county committees in financial activity this year.

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**TABLE 1**  
**CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY OF COUNTY**  
**PARTIES THROUGH THIRD QUARTER**  
**2008-2016**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>STATE ELECTION?</b>
2008	\$5,517,282	\$5,078,682	\$2,400,031	No
2009	\$7,398,692	\$6,375,763	\$2,952,853	Yes
2010	\$4,402,872	\$4,288,652	\$2,365,419	No
2011	\$4,798,299	\$3,694,423	\$2,134,219	Yes
2012	\$3,662,456	\$3,189,326	\$1,573,648	No
2013	\$5,319,655	\$4,447,403	\$2,456,395	Yes
2014	\$4,410,348	\$3,764,798	\$1,980,600	No
2015	\$4,843,498	\$4,176,856	\$2,123,801	Yes
2016	\$4,199,012	\$3,625,063	\$2,328,583	No

**TABLE 2**  
**SUMMARY OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY COUNTY PARTY COMMITTEES**  
**JANUARY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**

	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH*</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 2,326,378	\$ 2,067,022	\$ 1,478,313	\$ 1,264,784
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 1,872,634	\$ 1,558,041	\$ 850,270	\$ 1,519,354
<b>TOTAL-BOTH PARTIES</b>	<b>\$ 4,199,012</b>	<b>\$ 3,625,063</b>	<b>\$ 2,328,583</b>	<b>\$ 2,784,138</b>

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

**TABLE 3**  
**SUMMARY OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY COUNTY PARTY COMMITTEES**  
**JANUARY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

	<b>RAISED-2008</b>	<b>SPENT-2008</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH*</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 3,492,625	\$ 3,478,057	\$ 1,809,356	\$ 1,559,908
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 2,024,657	\$ 969,031	\$ 802,228	\$ 1,689,000
<b>TOTAL-BOTH PARTIES</b>	<b>\$ 5,517,282</b>	<b>\$ 4,447,088</b>	<b>\$ 2,611,584</b>	<b>\$ 3,248,908</b>
Difference 2016 versus 2008				
Democratic County Party Committees	-33%	-41%	-18%	-19%
Republican County Party Committees	-8%	+61%	+6%	-10%
<b>TOTAL-BOTH PARTIES</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>-14%</b>

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

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**TABLE 4**  
**CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY OF**  
**DEMOCRATIC COUNTY PARTY COMMITTEES**  
**JANUARY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**

	<b>DEMOCRATS</b>	<b>RAISED JANUARY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016</b>	<b>SPENT JANUARY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2016</b>	<b>NET WORTH* ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2016</b>
100	Atlantic	\$ 38,694	\$ 27,977	\$ 13,765	\$ 13,765
200	Bergen	\$ 352,604	\$ 249,192	\$ 169,954	\$ 87,956
300	Burlington	NA	NA	NA	NA
400	Camden	\$ 339,735	\$ 370,260	\$ 179,802	\$ 179,802
500	Cape May	NA	NA	NA	NA
600	Cumberland	\$ 34,650	\$ 39,598	\$ 241	\$ 241
700	Essex	\$ 291,987	\$ 241,532	\$ 101,844	\$ 101,844
800	Gloucester	\$ 342,430	\$ 200,008	\$ 159,668	\$ 159,668
900	Hudson	\$ 169,102	\$ 146,608	\$ 84,844	\$ (54,301)
1000	Hunterdon	\$ 13,205	\$ 15,958	\$ 5,027	\$ 5,027
1100	Mercer	\$ 900	\$ 45,643	\$ 4,206	\$ 4,206
1200	Middlesex	\$ 211,755	\$ 308,576	\$ 13,016	\$ 13,016
1300	Monmouth	\$ 292,901	\$ 212,888	\$ 95,743	\$ 95,743
1400	Morris	NA	NA	NA	NA
1500	Ocean	\$ 35,770	\$ 23,053	\$ 24,206	\$ 40,373
1600	Passaic	NA	NA	\$ 453,593	\$ 453,593
1700	Salem	\$ 15,530	\$ 7,079	\$ 34,731	\$ 34,731
1800	Somerset	\$ 102,470	\$ 71,984	\$ 38,164	\$ 38,164
1900	Sussex	\$ 17,253	\$ 21,118	\$ 7,289	\$ 7,289
2000	Union	\$ 67,391	\$ 85,548	\$ 92,221	\$ 83,667
2100	Warren	NA	NA	NA	NA
	<b>DEMOCRATS- TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,326,377</b>	<b>\$ 2,067,022</b>	<b>\$ 1,478,314</b>	<b>\$1,264,784</b>

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

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**TABLE 5  
 CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY OF  
 REPUBLICAN COUNTY PARTY COMMITTEES  
 JANUARY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**

	<b>REPUBLICANS</b>	<b>RAISED JANUARY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016</b>	<b>SPENT JANUARY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2016</b>	<b>NET WORTH* ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2016</b>
100	Atlantic	\$ 13,006	\$ 13,059	\$ 1,482	\$ 1,482
200	Bergen	\$ 208,942	\$ 147,174	\$ 61,267	\$ 51,267
300	Burlington	\$ 629,061	\$ 629,134	\$ 17,732	\$ 699,458
400	Camden	\$ 10,796	\$ 7,735	\$ 8,364	\$ 8,364
500	Cape May	NA	NA	NA	NA
600	Cumberland	\$ 63,355	\$ 26,829	\$ 65,086	\$ 65,086
700	Essex	\$ 6,500	\$ 11,885	\$ 1,292	\$ 1,292
800	Gloucester	\$ 29,998	\$ 29,179	\$ 9,004	\$ 9,004
900	Hudson	NA	NA	NA	NA
1000	Hunterdon	\$ 38,980	\$ 45,479	\$ 5,650	\$ 5,650
1100	Mercer	\$ 13,440	\$ 12,763	\$ 6,233	\$ 6,233
1200	Middlesex	\$ 53,642	\$ 23,814	\$ 43,560	\$ 43,560
1300	Monmouth	\$ 235,590	\$ 186,008	\$ 56,325	\$ 56,325
1400	Morris	\$ 89,665	\$ 66,557	\$ 45,972	\$ 44,600
1500	Ocean	\$ 80,943	\$ 86,766	\$ 4,538	\$ 4,538
1600	Passaic	\$ 38,288	\$ 29,364	\$ 9,276	\$ 9,276
1700	Salem	NA	NA	NA	NA
1800	Somerset	\$ 246,333	\$ 147,611	\$ 438,642	\$ 437,372
1900	Sussex	\$ 33,005	\$ 26,930	\$ 16,761	\$ 16,761
2000	Union	\$ 57,445	\$ 45,004	\$ 55,078	\$ 55,078
2100	Warren	\$ 23,645	\$ 22,750	\$ 4,009	\$ 4,009
	<b>REPUBLICANS- TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,872,634</b>	<b>\$ 1,558,041</b>	<b>\$ 850,271</b>	<b>\$ 1,519,355</b>
	<b>BOTH PARTIES- TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,199,011</b>	<b>\$ 3,625,063</b>	<b>\$ 2,328,585</b>	<b>\$ 2,784,139</b>

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

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by noon October 26, 2016. They have yet to be verified by ELEC staff, and should be considered preliminary.

Interested parties are encouraged to review individual reports at ELEC's website ([www.elec.state.nj.us](http://www.elec.state.nj.us)).

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