



NEWS RELEASE

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With the governor's office and both legislative houses facing reelection, the so-called "Big Six" fund-raising committees have raised and spent the most funds since 2013, the last year when political stakes were so high, according to reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Reports that reflect spending through September 30, 2017 indicate that the two state parties and four legislative leadership committees have raised a combined \$5.8 million, spent \$5.3 million and had \$2.3 million cash-on-hand. Those numbers top comparable totals for 2014, 2015 and 2016. But they lag behind 2013 totals, which also were driven by a gubernatorial and full legislative election.

"While the Big Six committees are doing better than the past three years, their fund-raising totals still are lower than four of the five elections dating back to 2007," said Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director. "Restrictions on contributions by public contractors and the decision by special interests to spend more of their campaign money independent of candidates and parties clearly are having an impact."

**Table 1
Campaign Finance Activity by "Big Six"
January 1 through September 30, 2017**

BOTH PARTIES	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH	STATEWIDE ELECTION
2007	\$9,322,604	\$6,713,165	\$7,368,421	\$7,095,891	Senate and Assembly
2008	\$4,457,887	\$3,508,376	\$1,519,083	\$1,134,427	
2009	\$6,309,496	\$5,098,191	\$3,073,241	\$2,746,784	Governor and Assembly
2010	\$3,160,458	\$2,859,927	\$1,664,237	\$1,457,787	
2011	\$6,913,921	\$5,025,694	\$3,428,259	\$3,123,885	Senate and Assembly
2012	\$4,083,910	\$3,971,806	\$1,331,432	\$1,192,473	
2013	\$7,203,008	\$5,917,331	\$2,970,203	\$2,884,025	Governor and Both Houses
2014	\$2,444,799	\$1,887,661	\$1,388,946	\$ 765,268	
2015	\$3,896,539	\$3,579,018	\$1,984,629	\$1,346,849	Assembly only
2016	\$2,195,300	\$1,985,370	\$1,188,706	\$1,039,918	
2017	\$5,835,574	\$5,354,876	\$2,317,953	\$2,233,450	Governor and Both Houses

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Democratic committees have raised and spent more during the first nine months of the year than Republicans. Republicans report having more cash in reserve and a higher net worth. Net worth is cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the committee.

Table 2
Fundraising by “Big Six” Committees
January 1 through September 30, 2017

ACTIVITY FIRST THREE QUARTERS 2017				
REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 585,683	\$ 489,188	\$ 207,619	\$ 207,619
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 645,855	\$ 613,483	\$ 638,258	\$ 638,258
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 408,715	\$ 355,828	\$ 408,591	\$ 408,591
SUB TOTAL- REPUBLICANS	\$1,640,253	\$1,458,499	\$1,254,468	\$1,254,468
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$2,847,028	\$2,615,353	\$ 346,087	\$ 312,023
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 706,204	\$ 736,859	\$ 466,430	\$ 446,430
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 642,089	\$ 544,165	\$ 250,968	\$ 220,529
SUB-TOTAL- DEMOCRATS	\$4,195,321	\$3,896,377	\$1,063,485	\$ 978,982
TOTAL- BOTH PARTIES				
	\$5,835,574	\$5,354,876	\$2,317,953	\$2,233,450

Compared to this point four years ago, Democrats are raising and spending more, while Republican fundraising and spending is down. Both parties report lower cash-on-hand and net worth totals.

Table 3
Fundraising by “Big Six” Committees
through September 30-
2017 versus 2013

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH
2013	\$ 3,962,602	\$ 3,480,487	\$ 1,439,612	\$ 1,427,112
2017	\$ 1,640,253	\$ 1,458,499	\$ 1,254,468	\$ 1,254,468
Difference-Dollars	\$(2,322,349)	\$(2,021,988)	\$ (185,144)	\$ (172,644)
Difference-%	-59%	-58%	-13%	-12%
DEMOCRATS				
2013	\$3,240,406	\$ 2,436,844	\$ 1,530,591	\$ 1,456,913
2017	\$4,195,321	\$ 3,896,377	\$ 1,063,485	\$ 978,982
Difference-Dollars	\$ 954,915	\$ 1,459,533	\$ (467,106)	\$ (477,931)
Difference-%	29%	60%	-31%	-33%
BOTH PARTIES				
2013	\$ 7,203,008	\$ 5,917,331	\$ 2,970,203	\$ 2,884,025
2017	\$ 5,835,574	\$ 5,354,876	\$ 2,317,953	\$ 2,233,450
Difference-Dollars	\$(1,367,434)	\$ (562,455)	\$ (652,250)	\$ (650,575)
Difference-%	-19%	-10%	-22%	-23%

Both parties spent heavily in the most recent quarter, which extended from June 30 through September 30. Democrats had roughly a two-to-one advantage in fundraising and spending.

Table 4
Fundraising by “Big Six” Committees
During Third Quarter 2017

THIRD QUARTER 2017		
REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 448,480	\$ 305,650
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 245,605	\$ 415,522
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 166,050	\$ 241,597
SUB TOTAL- REPUBLICANS	\$ 860,135	\$ 962,769
DEMOCRATS		
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$1,617,858	\$1,454,171
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 427,020	\$ 186,435
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 179,300	\$ 472,882
SUB-TOTAL- DEMOCRATS	\$2,224,178	\$2,113,488
TOTAL- BOTH PARTIES	\$3,084,313	\$3,076,257

Brindle said bi-partisan legislation pending in the Legislature could strengthen the state’s political parties by raising the size of contributions they can accept, exempting them from pay-to-play restrictions and by requiring independent committees to fully disclose their campaign finance activities in New Jersey campaigns.

“Absent these reforms, the trendline for state and county parties is likely to continue downward,” said Brindle.

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/elecnj).

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