



NEWS RELEASE

Respond to:
P.O. Box 185
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0185

(609) 292-8700 or Toll Free Within NJ 1-888-313-ELEC (3532)

CONTACT: JEFF BRINDLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:
November 9, 2021

Gubernatorial Election Year Helps Pump Up County Coffers

Fueled by a major state election year, combined county party fund-raising has reached levels not seen since 2009, according to quarterly reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Through September 30, 2021, county parties have raised \$8 million and spent \$6.1 million. Those represent the largest totals since 2009, when fund-raising reached \$7.4 million and spending totaled \$6.4 million. The combined \$4.9 million cash-on-hand also is a high for the period.

Table 1
County Party Fundraising and Spending
through Third Quarter 2009-2021

YEAR	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	ELECTIONS
2009	\$7,398,692	\$6,375,763	\$2,952,853	G/A
2010	\$4,526,290	\$4,393,487	\$2,365,419	H
2011	\$4,798,299	\$3,694,423	\$2,134,219	S/A
2012	\$3,662,456	\$3,189,326	\$1,573,648	P/S/H
2013	\$5,319,655	\$4,447,403	\$2,456,395	G/S/A
2014	\$4,410,348	\$3,764,798	\$1,980,600	S/H
2015	\$4,843,498	\$4,176,856	\$2,123,801	A
2016	\$4,199,012	\$3,625,063	\$2,328,583	P/H
2017	\$6,661,677	\$5,527,347	\$3,266,399	G/S/A
2018	\$5,769,747	\$4,793,929	\$3,571,919	S/H
2019	\$4,890,874	\$5,073,468	\$2,958,486	A
2020	\$3,750,559	\$3,723,794	\$2,399,612	P/S/H
2021	\$8,011,780	\$6,138,085	\$4,949,267	G/S/A

G=Gubernatorial;A=State Assembly;S=Senate;P=Presidential;H=House

“Looking at the average of the four gubernatorial elections since and including 2009, and nine non-gubernatorial elections during the same period, county parties on average have raised 42.3 percent more during gubernatorial election years,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director. “They also have spent an average of 34.6 percent more.”

Table 2
Average Fundraising and Spending Through
Third Quarter by County Party Committees

Election Type		Fundraising	Spending
Non-Gubernatorial Election Years	Average	\$4,539,009	\$4,048,349
Gubernatorial Election Years	Average	\$6,847,951	\$5,622,150
	Increase	42.3%	34.6%

Brindle said county parties need more money in gubernatorial election years because they help support not just the top of the ticket but also state legislative and local elections.

“In those years, they also tend to get larger-than-usual infusions from national party committees, unions, and wealthy donors,” he said.

Democratic county committees not only are outraising and spending Republican county committees, but they have fatter cash reserves. Democratic totals are up compared to the last gubernatorial election year in 2017. Republican totals are down from 2017.

Table 3
Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County
Committees January 1 through September 30-
2021 Versus 2017

2021	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Democratic County Party Committees	\$6,535,186	\$4,880,971	\$4,294,674	\$4,165,691
Republican County Party Committees	\$1,476,594	\$1,257,114	\$ 654,593	\$1,142,715
Total-Both Parties	\$8,011,780	\$6,138,085	\$4,949,267	\$5,308,406
2017	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Democratic County Party Committees	\$4,737,259	\$3,712,037	\$2,556,555	\$2,350,813
Republican County Party Committees	\$1,924,418	\$1,815,310	\$ 709,844	\$1,276,604
Total-Both Parties	\$6,661,677	\$5,527,347	\$3,266,399	\$3,627,418
Difference 2021 versus 2017	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Democratic County Party Committees	38.0%	31.5%	68.0%	77.2%
Republican County Party Committees	-23.3%	-30.7%	-7.8%	-10.5%
Total-Both Parties	20.3%	11.0%	51.5%	46.3%

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

Among Democratic county committees that have filed their quarterly reports, eleven committees- Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Mercer, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset and Union- reported cash balances above \$100,000.

Table 4
Campaign Finance Activity of
Democratic County Party Committees
January 1 through September 30, 2021

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Atlantic	\$208,222	\$170,399	\$ 42,664	\$ 42,664
Bergen	\$658,826	\$391,086	\$496,053	\$496,053
Burlington	\$208,659	\$134,035	\$261,193	\$254,818
Camden	\$413,993	\$384,506	\$190,200	\$190,200
Cape May	\$ 56,225	\$ 42,322	\$ 19,848	\$ 19,848
Cumberland	\$ 53,600	\$ 17,439	\$ 37,156	\$ 37,156
Essex	\$856,568	\$615,940	\$367,528	\$367,528
Gloucester	\$314,114	\$431,980	\$459,081	\$459,081
Hudson	\$254,326	\$212,190	\$93,962	\$(44,812)
Hunterdon	\$101,663	\$ 41,128	\$ 88,497	\$ 88,497
Mercer	\$284,488	\$ 36,910	\$506,018	\$506,018
Middlesex	\$584,172	\$706,602	\$ 20,250	\$ 20,250
Monmouth	\$328,589	\$264,491	\$ 64,181	\$ 64,181
Morris	\$330,969	\$292,027	\$ 47,079	\$ 47,079
Ocean	\$230,685	\$129,989	\$114,389	\$130,556
Passaic	\$606,819	\$290,753	\$696,791	\$696,791
Salem	\$ 7,750	\$ 22,115	\$101,172	\$101,172
Somerset	\$330,799	\$212,502	\$205,587	\$205,587
Sussex	\$ 25,741	\$ 21,912	\$ 17,117	\$ 17,117
Union	\$515,824	\$372,194	\$384,360	\$384,360
Warren	\$163,154	\$ 90,450	\$ 81,547	\$ 81,547
Democrats-Total	\$6,535,186	\$4,880,971	\$4,294,674	\$4,165,691

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

NA-not available

The Union county committee was the only Republican committee reporting a cash balance above \$100,000.

Table 5
Campaign Finance Activity of
Republican County Party Committees
January 1 through September 30, 2021

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Atlantic	\$ 66,948	\$ 37,559	\$ 36,699	\$ 36,699
Bergen	\$ 59,173	\$ 75,438	\$ 8,078	\$ (1,922)
Burlington	\$ 77,878	\$ 80,457	\$ 11,408	\$517,131
Camden	\$ 21,626	\$ 22,645	\$ 10,288	\$ 10,288
Cape May	\$ 94,917	\$ 88,063	\$ 50,621	\$ 50,621
Cumberland	\$ 38,364	\$ 18,204	\$ 23,382	\$ 23,382
Essex	\$ 12,500	\$ 19,922	\$ 18,911	\$ 18,911
Gloucester	\$ 27,910	\$ 46,697	\$ 33,031	\$ 33,031
Hudson**	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hunterdon***	\$ 63,053	\$ 55,082	\$ 20,633	\$ 20,633
Mercer	\$ 15,113	\$ 5,830	\$ 9,707	\$ 9,706
Middlesex	\$ 6,389	\$ 17,182	\$ 1,781	\$ 1,781
Monmouth	\$245,825	\$220,413	\$ 79,223	\$ 79,223
Morris	\$136,436	\$118,997	\$ 36,994	\$ 29,394
Ocean	\$118,070	\$112,349	\$ 61,391	\$ 61,391
Passaic	\$210,070	\$186,786	\$ 56,372	\$ 56,372
Salem	NA	NA	NA	NA
Somerset	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sussex	\$ 87,808	\$ 50,048	\$ 57,447	\$ 57,447
Union	\$130,111	\$ 61,467	\$106,190	\$106,190
Warren	\$ 64,404	\$ 39,974	\$ 32,440	\$ 32,440
Republicans-Total	\$1,476,594	\$1,257,114	\$654,593	\$1,142,715

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

** Does not expect to spend more than \$7,200 in 2021.

NA-not available

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by noon November 8, 2021. They have yet to be verified by ELEC staff, and should be considered preliminary.

Individual reports can be reviewed on ELEC's website (www.elec.state.nj.us).

###