



NEWS RELEASE

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“Big Six” Fund-raising Committees Begin 2023 Flusher Than Usual

With both legislative houses facing reelection this year, the “Big Six” fund-raising committees- the two state political parties and four legislative leadership committees- have entered 2023 with larger-than usual cash reserves, according to year-end reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

The two parties combined have \$2.8 million stockpiled for the coming showdown- the largest in a decade and 107 percent above average.

The three Democratic committees jointly reported \$2.2 million- the highest in a decade and 175 percent above the party average. Republican counterparts reported \$624,898 in the bank- 11 percent above average and the highest since 2016.

**Table 1
Year-End Big Six Cash-on-Hand Totals 2012-2022**

Year	Both Parties	Democrats	Republicans
2012	\$1,684,525	\$ 727,028	\$ 957,497
2013	\$ 841,599	\$ 332,288	\$ 509,311
2014	\$1,662,052	\$ 667,584	\$ 994,468
2015	\$ 979,220	\$ 338,245	\$ 640,975
2016	\$1,667,465	\$ 624,725	\$1,042,740
2017	\$ 738,454	\$ 484,264	\$ 254,190
2018	\$1,546,522	\$1,069,437	\$ 477,085
2019	\$ 660,067	\$ 454,940	\$ 205,127
2020	\$1,378,385	\$ 996,336	\$ 382,049
2021	\$1,017,094	\$ 895,341	\$ 121,753
2022	\$2,820,447	\$2,195,548	\$ 624,898
2012-2022 Average	\$1,363,257	\$ 798,703	\$ 564,554
Versus 2022	107%	175%	11%

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said the relatively large cash totals could reflect the importance of this year’s legislative elections.

Republicans have not controlled both legislative houses since 2001. But during the past two legislative elections, Democrats have lost two seats in the Senate and eight seats in the Assembly.

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Democrats still hold a 24-to-16 margin in the state Senate and a 46-to-34 margin in the state Assembly.

“Money isn’t everything. But having more money means you can afford more on media buys, direct mail, get-out-the-vote and other campaign purposes,” Brindle said.

“Naturally, the majority wants to retain control while the minority wants to win it back. Both parties this year have an incentive to stash away as much cash as possible.”

Compared to four years ago, Democratic fundraising and spending totals are down though cash reserves are higher. Republican fundraising is up, spending is down while cash reserves are plumper.

Table 2
Campaign Finance Activity by “Big Six” Committees
for 2022 Versus 2018

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 797,968	\$ 830,702	\$ 21,682	\$ 21,682
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 429,277	\$ 246,861	\$ 191,491	\$ 191,491
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 507,673	\$ 154,210	\$ 411,726	\$ 411,726
Total – Republicans – 2022	\$1,734,918	\$1,231,772	\$ 624,898	\$ 624,898
2018 Totals	\$1,495,886	\$1,279,094	\$ 477,085	\$ 477,085
Versus 2018 (Percent)	14%	-4%	24%	24%
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$1,797,876	\$2,066,240	\$ 220,889	\$ 206,921
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 989,659	\$ 237,487	\$1,002,675	\$1,002,675
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$1,349,561	\$ 536,102	\$ 971,984	\$ 941,545
Total – Democrats – 2022	\$4,137,096	\$2,839,829	\$2,195,548	\$2,151,141
2018 Totals	\$4,698,746	\$4,114,075	\$1,069,437	\$ 953,276
Versus 2018 (Percent)	-14%	-45%	51%	56%
BOTH PARTIES				
Total Both Parties– 2022	\$5,872,014	\$4,071,602	\$2,820,447	\$2,776,040
2018 Totals	\$6,194,632	\$5,393,169	\$1,546,522	\$1,430,361
Versus 2018 (Percent)	-5%	-32%	45%	48%

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

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Big Six fund-raising and spending tends to be lower in federal election years than state election years. Totals for 2022 followed this trend.

Table 3
Campaign Finance Activity by “Big Six”
January 1 through December 31

BOTH PARTIES	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	STATE OR FEDERAL	ELECTION TYPE
2012	\$ 7,063,133	\$ 6,391,757	\$1,684,525	Federal	P/S/H
2013	\$13,885,028	\$14,727,957	\$ 841,599	State	G/S/A
2014	\$ 4,872,907	\$ 4,048,955	\$1,662,052	Federal	S/H
2015	\$ 8,027,793	\$ 8,661,126	\$ 979,220	State	A
2016	\$ 4,518,172	\$ 3,842,223	\$1,667,465	Federal	P/H
2017	\$12,243,328	\$13,348,131	\$ 738,454	State	G/S/A
2018	\$ 6,194,632	\$ 5,393,169	\$1,546,522	Federal	S/H
2019	\$ 7,155,435	\$ 8,016,939	\$ 660,067	State	A
2020	\$ 4,260,928	\$ 3,542,610	\$1,378,385	Federal	P/S/H
2021	\$16,892,473	\$17,046,596	\$1,017,094	State	G/S/A
2022	\$ 5,872,014	\$ 4,071,602	\$2,820,447	Federal	H

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

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).

