



NEWS RELEASE

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With State Elections Looming, County Party Committees Have Extra Gas in Their Tanks

Democratic and Republican county party committees entered a state election year with above-average coffers, according to year-end reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission.

Democratic committees collectively reported cash reserves of \$2.5 million as of December 31, 2022. That is 26 percent more than the nearly \$2 million year-end average dating back to 2012.

Republicans as a group reported \$622,636. That represents 12 percent more than the \$555,822 average for the period.

Table 1
Year-End County Party Cash-on-Hand Totals 2012-2022

YEAR	BOTH PARTIES	DEMOCRATS	REPUBLICANS
2012	\$1,611,619	\$1,301,627	\$309,992
2013	\$1,448,541	\$ 960,624	\$487,917
2014	\$1,427,077	\$ 964,926	\$462,151
2015	\$1,724,814	\$1,134,676	\$590,138
2016	\$2,217,708	\$1,622,023	\$595,685
2017	\$3,132,815	\$2,529,074	\$603,741
2018	\$3,435,910	\$2,474,730	\$961,180
2019	\$2,504,889	\$2,018,930	\$485,959
2020	\$3,069,844	\$2,626,349	\$443,496
2021	\$4,170,046	\$3,618,903	\$551,143
2022	\$3,114,672	\$2,492,036	\$622,636
<i>2012-2022 Average</i>	<i>\$2,532,540</i>	<i>\$1,976,718</i>	<i>\$555,822</i>
<i>2022 Versus Average</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>12%</i>

“Cash in the bank is one key measure of political firepower,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director. “Both parties are starting the election year with solid reserves compared to past years.”

Along with many county and local elections, all 120 seats in the state Legislature are up for reelection in 2023. County parties perform many election-related tasks, including making contributions to candidates, voter turnout drives, polling and other functions.

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The \$3.1 million in combined cash reserves at the end of 2022 was well below the \$4.2 million sum a year earlier. But it was 23 percent above the decade average of \$2.5 million. Plus, cash leftover in 2021 was a record high. It followed an unusually large influx of checks from outside New Jersey that especially swelled Democratic coffers and seemed geared to prime the party committees for 2022 federal elections.

During 2022, Democrats raised and spent more than Republicans and reported larger cash reserves.

Table 2
Year-End Snapshot of 2022 Campaign
Finance Activity by County Parties

PARTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH
Democrats	\$5,403,837	\$6,458,533	\$2,492,036	\$2,347,591
Republicans	\$3,297,134	\$3,234,372	\$ 622,636	\$1,093,665
Combined	\$8,700,972	\$9,692,905	\$3,114,672	\$3,441,256

Federal election years feature regularly scheduled elections for president, U.S. Senate and/or the House of Representatives. State election years feature elections for governor and/or one or both state legislative houses. Some federal election years also include special state elections to fill vacancies and vice versa.

Last year was a federal election year with all 12 House seats up for reelection. County party committees typically raise and spend less money in federal years compared to state election years.

A comparison of 2022 campaign finance activity to the average for federal and state election years since 2012 bears this out. For instance, fundraising in 2022 was 29 percent below the average state election year since 2012 while spending was down 14 percent.

Compared to the average for all years, fundraising was 8 percent less though spending was 5 percent more.

Numbers were up compared to the average for federal years. Fundraising was 9 percent above average while spending was up 25 percent.

Table 3
2022 Campaign Finance Activity
Compared to Averages Since 2012

PERIOD- 2012-2022	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND
2022- (Federal Election Year)	\$ 8,700,972	\$ 9,692,905	\$3,114,672
Average Federal Election Year	\$ 7,953,016	\$ 7,743,272	\$2,479,472
Average State Election Year	\$11,224,722	\$11,024,671	\$2,596,221
Average All Years	\$ 9,440,155	\$ 9,234,817	\$2,532,540
2022 Versus Federal Election Year Average- %	9%	25%	26%
2022 Versus State Election Year Average- %	-29%	-14%	17%
2022 Versus All Years Average- %	-8%	5%	23%

Cash reserves at the end of 2022 topped all three averages.

Among Democratic county committees that have filed their quarterly reports, seven committees- Camden, Essex, Mercer, Middlesex, Passaic, Somerset, and Union - reported cash balances above \$100,000. Gloucester, Hudson and Warren committees reported negative balances adjusting for outstanding debts.

Table 4
Campaign Finance Activity of
Democratic County Party Committees
January 1 through December 31, 2022

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Atlantic	\$ 139,198	\$ 124,126	\$ 21,523	\$ 14,561
Bergen	\$1,023,053	\$1,150,426	\$ 18,869	\$ 18,869
Burlington	\$ 238,566	\$ 309,817	\$ 26,919	\$ 20,544
Camden	\$ 481,637	\$ 541,836	\$ 277,063	\$ 277,063
Cape May	\$ 28,475	\$ 22,279	\$ 7,251	\$ 7,251
Cumberland	\$ 98,287	\$ 42,595	\$ 58,814	\$ 51,814
Essex	\$ 468,989	\$ 463,574	\$ 358,089	\$ 358,089
Gloucester	\$ 427,239	\$ 670,382	\$ 9,140	\$ (15,674)
Hudson	\$ 108,007	\$ 208,460	\$ 26,182	\$ (82,593)
Hunterdon	\$ 70,051	\$ 102,545	\$ 19,594	\$ 19,594
Mercer	\$ 80,328	\$ 147,708	\$ 362,957	\$ 362,957
Middlesex	\$ 538,776	\$ 610,059	\$ 110,778	\$ 110,778
Monmouth	\$ 190,365	\$ 233,458	\$ 29,141	\$ 29,141
Morris	\$ 178,252	\$ 161,544	\$ 26,875	\$ 26,874
Ocean	\$ 70,212	\$ 144,680	\$ 20,962	\$ 37,128
Passaic	\$ 458,870	\$ 745,657	\$ 312,710	\$ 312,710
Salem**	\$ 20,612	\$ 31,562	\$ 78,249	\$ 77,450
Somerset	\$ 384,185	\$ 270,791	\$ 248,908	\$ 248,908
Sussex	\$ 40,332	\$ 47,381	\$ 12,182	\$ 12,182
Union	\$ 333,397	\$ 379,150	\$ 464,768	\$ 464,768
Warren	\$ 25,006	\$ 50,503	\$ 1,062	\$ (4,824)
Democrats-Total	\$5,403,837	\$6,458,533	\$2,492,036	\$2,347,591

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

**Through third quarter

As for Republican county committees, Cape May County committee reported a cash balance above \$100,000. Bergen, Camden and Morris committees reported negative balances adjusting for outstanding debts.

Table 5
Campaign Finance Activity of
Republican County Party Committees
January 1 through December 31, 2022

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Atlantic	\$ 171,951	\$ 165,863	\$ 37,925	\$ 37,925
Bergen	\$ 228,057	\$ 229,852	\$ 1,138	\$ (8,862)
Burlington	\$ 128,341	\$ 146,417	\$ 22,645	\$ 518,760
Camden	\$ 22,074	\$ 24,980	\$ (809)	\$ (809)
Cape May	\$ 182,879	\$ 123,347	\$191,119	\$ 191,119
Cumberland	\$ 140,215	\$ 138,812	\$ 3,271	\$ 3,271
Essex	\$ 60,800	\$ 51,098	\$ 27,681	\$ 27,681
Gloucester	\$ 137,264	\$ 149,738	\$ 3,187	\$ 3,187
Hudson	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hunterdon	\$ 246,500	\$ 242,915	\$ 24,138	\$ 24,138
Mercer	\$ 2,900	\$ 1,908	\$ 2,563	\$ 2,562
Middlesex	\$ 68,247	\$ 63,505	\$ 12,749	\$ 12,664
Monmouth	\$ 619,637	\$ 615,364	\$ 53,609	\$ 53,609
Morris	\$ 241,621	\$ 238,402	\$ 8,073	\$ (6,927)
Ocean	\$ 284,413	\$ 242,482	\$ 61,317	\$ 61,317
Passaic	\$ 415,907	\$ 437,765	\$ 3,199	\$ 3,199
Salem	\$ 23,853	\$ 18,594	\$ 29,538	\$ 29,538
Somerset***	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sussex	\$ 140,885	\$ 160,679	\$ 72,240	\$ 72,240
Union	\$ 65,433	\$ 83,943	\$ 38,016	\$ 38,016
Warren**	\$ 116,157	\$ 98,708	\$ 31,040	\$ 31,040
Republicans-Total	\$3,297,134	\$3,234,372	\$622,636	\$1,093,665

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

**Through third quarter

*** No reports filed in 2022 NA-not available

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by noon February 3, 2023. 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).

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