



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Contributions Reported by Public Contractors Dip After Gubernatorial Election Year

Political contributions reported by public contractors fell 15 percent in 2022 in the year after the Governor and Legislature shared the ballot, according to annual reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Contractors disclosed \$8.8 million in 2022 versus \$10.4 million in 2021.

<b>Table 1</b>					
<b>Campaign Contributions Reported by Public Contractors in Annual Disclosure Reports by Year</b>					
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>CHANGE-%</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>CHANGE-%</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>\$ 8,829,972*</b>	<b>-15%</b>	2013	\$10,713,401	34%
2021	\$10,380,131	19%	2012	\$ 7,988,882	-20%
2020	\$ 8,710,331	-7%	2011	\$ 9,982,696	3%
2019	\$ 9,407,907	-5%	2010	\$ 9,725,922	-12%
2018	\$ 9,947,802	-5%	2009	\$11,078,713	-9%
2017	\$10,485,779	15%	2008	\$12,120,923	-26%
2016	\$ 9,083,938	-1%	2007	\$16,436,039	8%
2015	\$ 9,215,463	-6%	2006	\$15,157,941	
2014	\$ 9,843,769	-8%			

\*Preliminary

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said contractor contributions surged above \$10 million in all four gubernatorial elections dating back to 2009.

“Political donations ebb and flow. Just as a bay rises when there is a storm surge, contributions swell during a major election,” he said.

An analysis by sector shows that engineers gave nearly \$4 million (44 percent) while lawyers contributed \$2.3 million (26 percent). They make up 70 percent of the total contributions.

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<b>BUSINESS SECTOR</b>	<b>REPORTED CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Engineers</b>	<b>\$3,929,235</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>Lawyers</b>	<b>\$2,303,893</b>	<b>26%</b>
Insurance	\$ 641,131	7%
Construction	\$ 527,387	6%
Accountants	\$ 262,084	3%
Lobbyists	\$ 206,350	2%
Finance	\$ 203,323	2%
Public Relations	\$ 161,350	2%
Architects	\$ 136,450	2%
Medical	\$ 79,613	1%
All Others	\$ 379,157	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,829,972</b>	<b>100%</b>

Among the top ten contracting firms that make contributions, *nine* were engineering firms while *one was a* law firm. The top ten alone made 33 percent of the contributions while receiving two percent of total contracts.

<b>BUSINESS ENTITIES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>CONTRACTS</b>
Remington & Vernick Engineers	\$ 588,350	\$ 55,982,050
CME Associates	\$ 472,250	\$ 50,194,491
<b><i>Colliers Engineering &amp; Design Inc. dba Maser Consulting</i></b>	<b>\$ 366,050</b>	<b>\$ 44,989,042</b>
T&M Associates	\$ 356,050	\$ 33,128,237
Richard A. Alaimo Business Entities <sup>1</sup>	\$ 448,700	\$ 10,718,164
Pennoni Associates Inc.	\$ 229,025	\$ 16,113,147
French and Parrello Associates PA	\$ 201,460	\$ 9,087,020
Johnston GP Inc.	\$ 184,150	\$ 68,328,574
Rainone Coughlin Minchello LLC	\$ 168,800	\$ 7,570,637
Neglia Engineering Associates	\$ 141,625	\$ 13,207,757
<b>Top Ten Totals</b>	<b>\$3,156,460</b>	<b>\$309,319,117</b>
<b>Top Ten as % of Overall Totals</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>2%</b>

<sup>1</sup> The Alaimo Group Inc., Richard A. Alaimo Associates, Richard A. Alaimo Association of Engineers, Richard A. Alaimo Engineering Associates, Richard A. Alaimo Engineering Company.

The top ten recipients of contractor checks included committees representing six county candidates, two state Senate candidates and two political action committees.

<b>RECIPIENT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Charles Kenny for Commissioner (Middlesex County)	\$100,250
Claribel Azcona-Barber for Commissioner (Middlesex County)	\$ 90,800
Mildred Scott for Sheriff (Middlesex County)	\$ 89,850
EFO Edward McDonnell for Commissioner (Camden County)	\$ 87,450
Nicholas Scutari for Senate	\$ 87,000
Chanelle Scott McCullum for Commissioner (Middlesex County)	\$ 86,400
Frank DiMarco & Denise DiCarlo for Commissioner (Gloucester County)	\$ 86,200
Constructors For Good Government ( UTCA )	\$ 81,877
Quest Diagnostics Inc. PAC	\$ 77,213
Steve Sweeney for Senate	\$ 77,100

Total contracts reached a new high for the second year in a row in 2022. Business entities reported more than \$15.1 billion in their 2022 disclosure reports. It was an increase of 10 percent.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>TOTAL CONTRACTS</b>	<b>CHANGE-%</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>\$15,091,401,001*</b>	<b>10%</b>
2021	\$13,669,329,602	47%
2020	\$ 9,284,752,772	-5%
2019	\$ 9,793,935,301	-2%
2018	\$ 9,984,386,903	-4%
2017	\$10,395,932,831	19%
2016	\$ 8,747,203,681	6%
2015	\$ 8,280,639,442	19%
2014	\$ 6,982,725,369	3%
2013	\$ 6,752,690,921	13%
2012	\$ 5,954,013,939	8%
2011	\$ 5,509,000,868	-6%
2010	\$ 5,831,430,755	-4%
2009	\$ 6,061,413,903	21%
2008	\$ 5,003,469,665	-12%
2007	\$ 5,686,393,016	-45%
2006	\$10,396,758,835	

\*Preliminary

The number of contracts for 2022 was 20,214, down 0.1 percent. The total number of business entities filing reports is 1,986- five percent fewer than in 2021.

Numbers in this report reflect information available to the Commission through April 5, 2023 and should be considered preliminary. Some contractors are likely to submit reports or amendments after that date that could change the totals. Totals before 2022 may be different than those in last year’s press release for these reasons. All reports are available at ELEC’s website at <https://www.elec.nj.gov/>

Under pay-to-play laws, all businesses that have received \$50,000 or more through public contracts must indicate whether they have made any reportable contributions and if so, must disclose contracts and contributions to ELEC by March 30<sup>th</sup> for the previous calendar year.

With some exceptions, most firms with state contracts in excess of \$17,500 are barred from contributing more than \$300 to gubernatorial candidates, other candidates, state political parties, legislative leadership committees, county political parties and municipal political party committees. Firms that exceed this limit must seek refunds of excess contributions within a necessary time period or relinquish their contracts for four years.

The average contribution made by contractors in 2022 was \$1,252- a 0.2 percent increase. The record high average was \$1,372 in 2020.

The top ten contractors, led by affiliates of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield, received \$12.9 billion worth of contracts. That represents 86 percent of the total contracts. The group gave \$165,573 in contributions- two percent of the total.

Horizon, the state’s largest health insurer, has numerous contracts with state and local government bodies that swells its total.

<b>Table 6 Top Ten Business Entities That Reported Largest Contract Totals in 2022*</b>		
<b>BUSINESS ENTITY</b>	<b>CONTRACTS</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTIONS**</b>
Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield Affiliates <sup>2</sup>	\$10,408,565,891	\$ 39,500
Verizon New Jersey Inc.	\$ 1,067,471,245	\$ 47,500
Spencer Savings Bank, SLA	\$ 452,101,308	\$ 600
South State Inc.	\$ 238,542,192	\$ 10,475
Magyar Bank/Bancorp	\$ 142,858,450	\$ 1,323
Joseph M. Sanzari, Inc.	\$ 133,299,798	\$ 5,900
AECOM Technical Services Inc. (aka Earth Tech Inc.)	\$ 129,605,946	\$ 5,900
Earle Asphalt Company	\$ 118,809,064	\$ 24,200
George Harms Construction Co., Inc.	\$ 115,618,243	\$ 22,975
J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc.	\$ 101,556,603	\$ 7,200
<b>Top Ten Totals</b>	<b>\$12,908,428,741</b>	<b>\$165,573</b>
<b>Top Ten as % of Overall Total</b>	<b>86 %</b>	<b>2%</b>

\*Lists only public contractors that made reportable political contributions. \*\*Some totals adjusted to avoid double-counting.

<sup>2</sup> Horizon Healthcare of NJ Inc., Horizon Insurance Co., Horizon Casualty Services Inc., and Horizon Healthcare Dental Inc.

The New Jersey Department of Human Services tops the top ten list of government entities reported in public contractor disclosure reports for 2022.

<b>Table 7 Top Ten Contracting Agencies in 2022</b>	
<b>CONTRACTING AGENCY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
New Jersey Department of Human Services	\$8,440,111,797
New Jersey Department of Treasury	\$1,176,500,508
New Jersey Department of Transportation	\$ 637,308,382
New Jersey Turnpike Authority	\$ 329,713,983
New Jersey Transit	\$ 157,355,582
Middlesex County	\$ 141,010,877
Bergen County	\$ 135,102,571
City of Jersey City	\$ 130,456,775
City of Elizabeth	\$ 107,430,481
Paterson Board of Education	\$ 87,863,612
<b>Total- Top Ten</b>	<b>\$11,342,854,568</b>
<b>Top Ten as % of Overall Total</b>	<b>75%</b>

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