



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:
January 31, 2025

County Parties End 2024 on a Fundraising High Note

County political party committees ended 2024 with their best fundraising during a federal election year and flushest combined reserves in more than a decade, according to quarterly reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Through December 31, 2024, the 42 parties together reported \$13 million in fundraising, \$12.3 million in spending, and \$4.6 million in cash-on-hand.

Table 1
Fund-raising by County Party Committees
Through December 31, 2024

PERIOD	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON HAND
2024 (Federal Election Year)	\$13,052,944	\$12,299,707	\$4,625,482
Versus Average All Elections Since 2009	27%	23%	56%
Versus Average for Federal Election Years Since 2009	42%	37%	56%
Versus Average for State Election Years Since 2009	13%	10%	56%

“County parties are in their best financial shape entering a state election year since at least 2009,” said Joe Donohue, ELEC’s Deputy Director. “They have never raised more than \$10 million in a federal election year during that period.”

Campaign finance activity by county parties typically is higher during state election years.

Year-end fundraising, spending and cash totals were all higher in 2024 than even the average for state election years.

Fundraising was 13 percent more, spending was 10 percent higher while the cash balance is 56 percent over the average for state election years.

Donohue said the improved finances of the party committees is more evidence of the impact of a 2023 campaign finance law.

Contribution limits for all party committees in New Jersey were raised when Governor Phil Murphy signed the law (P.L. 2023, Chapter 30) on April 3, 2023.

The law doubled the maximum annual contribution to county party committees from \$37,500 to \$75,000- the first increase since 2005. In addition, the law created new “housekeeping” accounts. A donor can give \$75,000 to regular campaign accounts and \$37,500 to the new housekeeping accounts for a total of \$112,500 each year.

Those higher limits were further increased on January 1, 2025 under inflation adjustments that take effect every two years under the law for non-gubernatorial contributions. Donors now can give a general contribution of \$79,000 plus \$39,500 to housekeeping accounts- a total of \$118,500 annually.

Housekeeping accounts are earmarked solely for expenses deemed administrative, including mortgages, rent, taxes, compliance costs, legal bills and collective bargaining outlays. Only the two state parties and the 42 county parties can create such accounts.

Table 2
Annual Campaign Finance Activity
By County Party Committees

Year	Raised	Spent	Cash on Hand	State/Federal
2009	\$13,854,662	\$13,306,296	\$2,794,158	State
2010	\$ 7,591,065	\$ 8,712,802	\$1,235,174	Federal
2011	\$ 8,449,211	\$ 8,545,440	\$1,113,770	State
2012	\$ 6,407,139	\$ 5,885,971	\$1,611,619	Federal
2013	\$ 9,908,851	\$10,069,188	\$1,448,541	State
2014	\$ 7,633,924	\$ 7,560,342	\$1,427,077	Federal
2015	\$ 9,161,877	\$ 8,883,225	\$1,724,814	State
2016	\$ 8,389,170	\$ 8,055,559	\$2,217,708	Federal
2017	\$14,564,574	\$14,114,921	\$3,132,815	State
2018	\$ 9,709,931	\$ 9,018,198	\$3,435,910	Federal
2019	\$ 8,191,320	\$ 8,821,224	\$2,504,889	State
2020	\$ 6,876,961	\$ 6,246,655	\$3,069,844	Federal
2021	\$14,296,990	\$13,234,794	\$4,170,046	State
2022	\$ 8,700,972	\$ 9,692,905	\$3,114,672	Federal
2023	\$12,868,223	\$12,075,641	\$3,907,188	State
2024	\$13,052,944	\$12,299,707	\$4,625,482	Federal

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Democratic county committees raised and spent more funds than their GOP counterparts and reported larger cash reserves.

Table 3
2024 Campaign Finance
Activity by Party Breakdown

PARTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Democrats	\$ 9,319,184	\$ 8,622,846	\$3,688,236	\$3,391,121
Republicans	\$ 3,733,760	\$ 3,676,861	\$ 937,245	\$1,349,235
Combined	\$13,052,944	\$12,299,707	\$4,625,482	\$4,740,357

*Cash-on-hand plus or minus debts owed to or by committee.

Among Democratic county committees that have filed their quarterly reports, nine committees- Bergen, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Passaic, Somerset, and Union - reported cash balances above \$100,000. Camden reported a negative net worth when debts are subtracted from cash-on-hand.

Table 4
Campaign Finance Activity of
Democratic County Party Committees
January 1 through December 31, 2024

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Atlantic	\$ 152,845	\$ 143,919	\$ 11,273	\$ 11,273
Bergen	\$1,508,990	\$1,009,324	\$ 825,106	\$ 825,106
Burlington	\$ 471,767	\$ 477,564	\$ 48,797	\$ 42,422
Camden	\$ 487,991	\$ 683,346	\$ 86,958	\$ (48,042)
Cape May*	\$ 38,719	\$ 23,283	\$ 33,140	\$ 33,140
Cumberland	\$ 43,470	\$ 45,779	\$ 16,341	\$ 16,341
Essex	\$ 797,046	\$ 824,009	\$ 222,469	\$ 222,469
Gloucester	\$ 694,316	\$ 671,552	\$ 235,898	\$ 217,739
Hudson	\$ 822,367	\$ 386,698	\$ 464,264	\$ 311,413
Hunterdon*	\$ 54,429	\$ 45,442	\$ 35,029	\$ 35,029
Mercer	\$ 128,599	\$ 85,135	\$ 384,180	\$ 384,180
Middlesex	\$1,306,832	\$1,451,662	\$ 213,788	\$ 213,788
Monmouth	\$ 373,001	\$ 282,579	\$ 92,333	\$ 92,333
Morris	\$ 202,662	\$ 242,926	\$ 17,925	\$ 17,924
Ocean	\$ 55,001	\$ 47,319	\$ 44,431	\$ 60,597
Passaic	\$1,098,860	\$1,158,233	\$ 183,512	\$ 183,512
Salem*	\$ 49,128	\$ 58,325	\$ 57,468	\$ 57,468
Somerset	\$ 485,115	\$ 480,331	\$ 232,229	\$ 232,229
Sussex	\$ 90,878	\$ 64,087	\$ 65,800	\$ 65,800
Union	\$ 452,014	\$ 437,781	\$ 413,878	\$ 413,878
Warren**	\$ 5,155	\$ 3,553	\$ 3,418	\$ 2,522
Democrats-Total	\$9,319,184	\$8,622,846	\$3,688,236	\$3,391,121

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

*Third quarter totals **Second quarter totals

As for Republican committees, Cape May reported a cash balance above \$100,000 at year’s end. Burlington reported a net worth above \$100,000 when factoring in payments owed to the committee. Hudson reported a negative balance while Morris and Passaic reported a negative balance adjusting for outstanding debts.

Table 5
Campaign Finance Activity of
Republican County Party Committees
January 1 through December 31, 2024

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Atlantic	\$ 253,207	\$ 293,656	\$ 31,851	\$ 31,851
Bergen	\$ 176,093	\$ 145,188	\$ 42,033	\$ 42,033
Burlington	\$ 129,561	\$ 120,804	\$ 25,767	\$ 535,183
Camden	\$ 61,116	\$ 40,970	\$ 28,272	\$ 28,240
Cape May	\$ 257,665	\$ 246,793	\$378,608	\$ 378,608
Cumberland	\$ 185,927	\$ 194,066	\$ 34,150	\$ 34,150
Essex	\$ 65,000	\$ 64,709	\$ 3,101	\$ 3,101
Gloucester	\$ 69,155	\$ 47,400	\$ 23,793	\$ 23,793
Hudson*	NA	\$ 725	\$ (725)	\$ (725)
Hunterdon	\$ 202,662	\$ 206,775	\$ 6,347	\$ 1,347
Mercer	\$ 38,882	\$ 22,068	\$ 23,072	\$ 23,072
Middlesex	\$ 74,387	\$ 74,961	\$ 19,760	\$ 19,527
Monmouth	\$ 448,293	\$ 469,376	\$ 86,845	\$ 86,845
Morris	\$ 190,227	\$ 210,111	\$ 3,383	\$ (20,756)
Ocean	\$ 584,566	\$ 576,544	\$ 18,246	\$ 18,246
Passaic	\$ 306,465	\$ 306,960	\$ 18,438	\$ (8,331)
Salem	\$ 94,882	\$ 87,502	\$ 45,890	\$ 45,890
Somerset	\$ 232,212	\$ 177,724	\$ 73,616	\$ 32,362
Sussex	\$ 100,815	\$ 86,239	\$ 25,914	\$ 25,914
Union	\$ 143,492	\$ 169,977	\$ 29,975	\$ 29,975
Warren	\$ 119,153	\$ 134,313	\$ 18,911	\$ 18,911
Republicans-Total	\$3,733,760	\$3,676,861	\$937,245	\$1,349,235

*Net worth is cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the committee. NA-not available *First quarter total

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by noon January 31, 2025. Individual reports can be reviewed on ELEC’s website (www.elec.state.nj.us).

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