



NEWS RELEASE

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PRESS ADVISORY

Candidates for the General Assembly have raised and spent significantly less money thus far this year than at the same time four years ago, according to Jeff Brindle, Executive Director of the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

The 29-day pre-election reports show Assembly candidates have raised \$9.7 million and spent \$5.2 million thus far in the 2009 campaign.

Brindle said “these figures represent a 21 percent drop in fundraising and an almost 19 percent decrease in spending.”

He said that in 2005, a similar year in which there were contests for Governor and Assembly, but not for State Senate, Assembly candidates reported raising \$12.2 million and spending \$6.4 million.

“Not only does the reduction in Assembly financial activity follow the trend highlighted in the Governor’s race,” said Brindle, “but it corroborates a trend first noted in two previous Commission reports analyzing the legislative elections in 2005 and 2007.”

“In those reports,” added Brindle, “it was shown that the increase in financial activity slowed to just five percent over previous years, the smallest ever. Now, we see financial activity actually decreasing.”

Brindle said that the “perceptible reduction in financial activity this year can be attributed to a weakened economy, Pay-to-Play laws, and money being siphoned off by the gubernatorial contest.”

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According to the reports, Democratic Assembly candidates have outdistanced Republicans in both fundraising and spending.

Democratic Assembly candidates raised \$6.8 million and spent \$4 million compared with Republican Assembly candidates who raised almost \$2.9 million and spent \$1.2 million. Independent candidates have raised \$84,000 and reported minimal spending.

According to the reports, Democratic candidates have reported over \$2.7 million as cash-on-hand and Republican candidates reported a balance of over \$1.6 million.

The legislative reports are available on-line today at 10:00 a.m. on ELEC's website at www.elec.state.nj.us.

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