



# NEWS RELEASE

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Total reported donations from public contractors have fallen 29 percent since state law first required such reports four years ago under “pay-to-play” restrictions, Jeff Brindle, Executive Director of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), announced today.

Contractors last year acknowledged \$10.7 million in political contributions, down from \$15.1 million in 2006.

YEAR	AMOUNT	FOUR-YEAR TRENDS	
2009	\$ 10,713,173	\$ (4,428,918)	-29%
2008	\$ 12,100,568		
2007	\$ 16,288,394		
2006	\$ 15,142,091		

Brindle said the first four years of data from public contractors shows pay-to-play laws have had a huge impact on campaign financing in New Jersey. It reinforces previous studies that showed total fundraising has declined sharply for state and county fundraising committees since the advent of laws aimed at curbing the influence of government vendors.

For instance, gross receipts reported last year by the “big six” fundraising committees, the two state parties and four legislative leadership PACs were down 36 percent compared to similar reports in 2005. Fundraising by county party committees fell 28 percent during the same time.

“It appears that a growing number of contractors simply have stopped making donations due to pay-to-play restrictions,” Brindle said. “Many firms apparently are fearful of losing government business by making a wrong donation.”

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In ELEC White Paper No. 20, entitled, “Legislative General Elections 2007: An Analysis of Trends in State Senate and Assembly Elections” Brindle, the author, said the impact of pay-to-play rules was noticeable even before the recession, which also put a damper on campaign giving.

“The pay-to-play reforms of recent years appear to be reversing somewhat the dominance of political party entities that grew steadily from the earlier reforms enacted in 1993,” he said. The White Paper is available at: [www.elec.state.nj.us/pdffiles/whitepapers/white20.pdf](http://www.elec.state.nj.us/pdffiles/whitepapers/white20.pdf).

In 2009, 1,820 business entities with public work filed reports with ELEC. That is a reduction of 21 percent from four years ago.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>FOUR YEAR TREND</b>	
2009	1,820	(479)	-21%
2008	1,806		
2007	1,971		
2006	2,299		

Under pay-to-play laws, all businesses that have received \$50,000 or more in total public contracts must report their contracts and donations to ELEC each spring. Those with state contracts are prohibited from contributing more than \$300 to gubernatorial candidates, state political parties, county political parties, and legislative leadership committees. Firms that exceed this limit must refund the excess donations within a necessary time period or relinquish their contracts for four years.

Similar limits apply to municipal or county contractors unless local officials adopt a “fair and open” bidding process intended to encourage competition. Where “fair and open” rules are adopted, normal contribution limits apply to contractors.

These range from \$2,600 per election from individuals or corporations to candidate committees to \$37,000 annually to county party committees. During the four-year period, the average donation from contractors fell 6 percent from \$1,223 to \$1,150.

Since 2006, the number of contractor donations dropped 25 percent to 9,315.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>FOUR YEAR TREND</b>	
2009	9,315	(3,068)	-25%
2008	10,004		
2007	13,342		
2006	12,383		

Brindle said the 1,820 contractors that have filed with ELEC reported having \$5.9 billion in public contracts last year. That figure is down 43 percent from the \$10.4 billion in contracts in 2006.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>FOUR YEAR TREND</b>	
2009	\$ 5,897,356,448	\$ (4,497,891,478)	-43%
2008	\$ 4,981,174,299		
2007	\$ 5,677,331,757		
2006	\$10,395,247,926		

The following ten firms reported the largest contract totals for 2009:

<b>BUSINESS NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Horizon Healthcare of New Jersey, Inc.	\$1,220,031,118
The Prudential Insurance Company of America	\$ 523,594,004
Sussex Bank	\$ 468,232,308
Amerigroup New Jersey, Inc.	\$ 298,480,790
Parsons Commercial Technology Group Inc	\$ 286,588,433
South State, Inc.	\$ 204,888,571
Tilcon New York, Inc.	\$ 168,216,558
George Harms Construction Co., Inc.	\$ 140,610,169
Colonial Bank FSB	\$ 133,622,151
Creamer-Sanzari Joint Venture	\$ 86,436,217

The following firms reported the largest contribution totals for 2009:

<b>BUSINESS NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
T&M Associates	\$ 534,300
CME Associates	\$ 499,370
Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc.	\$ 356,325
Maser Consulting P.A.	\$ 227,711
Pennoni Associates Inc.	\$ 210,079
Parker McCay PA	\$ 207,030
Richard A. Alaimo Associates	\$ 201,000
Birdsall Services Group	\$ 191,850
Adams, Rehmann & Heggan Assoc.	\$ 178,140
Capehart Scatchard P.A.	\$ 154,317