



NEWS RELEASE

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With Tuesday's primary looming, legislative candidates from both parties have raised \$2.1 million and spent \$1.5 million in recent weeks, according to the latest reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission.

"Candidates by law are required to file disclosure reports 29 days and 11 days before the primary election. The latest reports show the amounts raised and spent in the 18 days between those cutoff dates," said Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director.

Democrats, who currently control two-thirds of the seats in the Legislature, showed a two-to-one fundraising advantage during the period. They raised \$1.4 million compared to the nearly \$700,000 raised by Republican candidates. They also spent about twice as much- nearly \$1 million versus about \$500,000 for Republicans.

Table 1
Amount Raised and Spent
Between May 6 and May 24

PARTY	RAISED	SPENT
Democrats	\$ 1,389,506	\$ 972,395
Republicans	\$ 690,076	\$ 501,456
Both Parties	\$ 2,079,582	\$ 1,473,851

The Democratic advantage also is reflected in totals that date back to the beginning of each campaign, which for some incumbents began as long as four years ago.

Table 2
Amount Raised and Spent Since
Inception of Legislative Campaigns

PARTY	RAISED	SPENT
Democrats	\$ 20,627,825	\$ 12,028,377
Republicans	\$ 10,542,917	\$ 6,229,180
Both Parties	\$ 31,170,741	\$ 18,257,557

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Several of the top fundraisers during the 18-day period between disclosure reports are in contested primaries or so-called “swing” districts that either party could capture this fall.

**Table 3
Top Ten Fundraisers
Between May 6 and May 24**

CANDIDATE OR COMMITTEE	RAISED
Lesniak, Cryan & Quijano	\$ 174,000
Senator Brian P. Stack	\$ 136,983
Dunn, Cedenó & Monteiro	\$ 122,711
Senator Anthony Bucco	\$ 88,465
Senator Raymond J. Lesniak	\$ 77,775
Assemblyman Joseph Cryan	\$ 74,388
Senator James Whelan	\$ 65,495
Ravi S. Bhalla	\$ 62,266
Assemblyman Vincent J. Polistina	\$ 57,490
Assemblyman Wayne P. DeAngelo	\$ 43,287

Brindle said since few incumbents face serious primary challenges, both parties increased their cash reserves, or cash-on-hand, with an eye toward the fall campaigns.

“Traditionally, incumbents save a significant portion of the funds raised during primary campaigns for the general election,” he said.

**Table 4
Cash-on-hand Totals
May 6 and May 24**

PARTY	CASH-ON-HAND MAY 6	CASH-ON-HAND MAY 24	CHANGE
Democrats	\$ 8,247,345	\$ 8,623,706	5%
Republicans	\$ 3,965,403	\$ 4,288,418	8%
Both Parties	\$ 12,212,748	\$ 12,912,124	6%

Since some incumbents have been raising money for up to four years, and many carried over money from past campaigns, they enjoy a large fundraising edge over challengers through this point in the election.

**Table 5
Incumbents Versus Challengers
Since Inception of Campaigns**

CANDIDATE TYPE	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND
Incumbents	\$ 28,739,362	\$ 17,027,274	\$ 11,700,923
Challengers	\$ 2,431,379	\$ 1,230,283	\$ 1,211,201
Combined	\$ 31,170,741	\$ 18,257,557	\$ 12,912,124

However, with challengers now more actively engaged, the more recent campaign finance activity shows that the fundraising gap is shrinking.

Table 6
Incumbents Versus Challengers
Between May 6 and May 24

CANDIDATE TYPE	RAISED	SPENT
Incumbents	\$ 1,434,073	\$ 1,139,375
Challengers	\$ 645,509	\$ 334,476
Combined	\$ 2,079,582	\$ 1,473,851

Numbers contained in this analysis should be considered preliminary because some candidates still had not filed their reports by 5 p.m. on June 1, which was used as a cutoff point.

Reports filed by legislative candidates are available online today at 10 a.m. on ELEC's website at www.elec.state.nj.us.

A downloadable summary of data from those reports is available in both spreadsheet and PDF formats at <http://www.elec.state.nj.us/publicinformation/statistics.htm>.

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