



# NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: JEFF BRINDLE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:  
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With legislative elections looming, county political party committees boosted their financial reserves by nearly \$700,000 but there were continuing signs that fundraising is more difficult than in the past, according to quarterly reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission.

Democratic committees reported larger financial reserves as of September 30, 2011, which was six weeks before the Nov. 8 legislative elections. County party committees usually are major participants in legislative elections.

**Table 1**  
**Comparison of Combined Financial Reserves of County Party Committees**  
**as of September 30, 2011**

	<b>Cash-on-Hand September 30, 2011</b>	<b>Cash-on-Hand June 30, 2011</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 1,570,616	\$ 883,810	\$ 686,806
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 563,603	\$ 560,598	\$ 3,005
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>\$ 2,134,219</b>	<b>\$ 1,444,408</b>	<b>\$ 689,811</b>

On a year-to-date basis, Democrats also have an edge over Republicans in both fundraising and spending.

**Table 2**  
**Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County Party Committees**  
**from January 1 through September 30, 2011**

	<b>Raised</b>	<b>Spent</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 3,088,330	\$ 2,104,344
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 1,709,969	\$ 1,590,079
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>\$ 4,798,299</b>	<b>\$ 3,694,423</b>

Compared to four years ago, which was the last time all 120 legislative seats were up for re-election, fundraising by county committees of both parties was down. The drop was larger for Democratic committees than Republicans.

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**Table 3**  
**Summary of Combined County Party Receipts**  
**2007 Versus 2011**

	<b>Raised January 1 through September 30, 2007</b>	<b>Raised January 1 through September 30 2011</b>	<b>Difference-%</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 5,667,196	\$ 3,088,330	-46%
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 2,005,192	\$ 1,709,969	-15%
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>\$ 7,672,388</b>	<b>\$ 4,798,299</b>	<b>-37%</b>

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said these figures are continuing indications that tight restrictions on political contributions by state contractors, as well as the lagging economy, are taking a toll on party fundraising.

Another factor- Democratic county party committees in 2007 received \$450,000 from former Gov. Jon Corzine, a major contributor before he left office in January 2010.

“All of these factors have created headwinds as county chair people across the state try to raise money for their political activities. It certainly isn’t as easy these days,” Brindle said. He added that the same downward trend was seen in figures released last week for individual fundraising by legislators as well as for the Big Six committees.

“Following the reforms of 1993, county party organizations became increasingly powerful due to limits on contributions to them that were very generous and their ability to spend unlimited amounts on their candidates. The pay-to-play reforms reversed that trend, leading to the power and influence of the county parties being diminished somewhat,” said Brindle.

During just the quarter that extends from July 1 through September 30, Democratic committees raised three times more funds and spent more than Republican committees.

**Table 4**  
**Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County Party Committees**  
**from July 1 through September 30, 2011**

	<b>Raised</b>	<b>Spent</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 1,500,281	\$ 815,247
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 512,032	\$ 509,000
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>\$ 2,012,313</b>	<b>\$ 1,324,247</b>

Statewide, five Democratic county party committees had a net worth greater than \$100,000 as of September 30, 2011. They are Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Mercer and Passaic. Two committees- Burlington and Hudson- were in the red if outstanding debts are subtracted from cash-on-hand.

**Table 5**  
**Campaign Finance Activity by Democratic County Party Committees**  
**from January 1 through September 30, 2011**

<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Raised</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Cash-on-Hand</b>	<b>Net Worth*</b>
Atlantic	\$ 32,201	\$ 15,216	\$ 21,037	\$ 21,037
Bergen	\$ 372,838	\$ 161,808	\$ 42,724	\$ 93,706
Burlington	\$ 37,297	\$ 27,076	\$ 12,201	\$ (105,567)
Camden	\$ 371,355	\$ 277,461	\$ 153,222	\$ 153,222
Cape May	\$ 1,200	\$ 2,411	\$ 5,028	\$ 5,028
Cumberland	\$ 71,599	\$ 70,601	\$ 2,892	\$ 2,892
Essex	\$ 191,685	\$ 132,498	\$ 135,385	\$ 135,385
Gloucester	\$ 409,725	\$ 200,583	\$ 234,332	\$ 138,593
Hudson	\$ 239,318	\$ 199,912	\$ 55,634	\$ (208,347)
Hunterdon	\$ 17,882	\$ 12,062	\$ 21,505	\$ 21,505
Mercer	\$ 176,180	\$ 66,393	\$ 133,592	\$ 113,592
Middlesex	\$ 364,155	\$ 302,241	\$ 84,283	\$ 79,677
Monmouth	\$ 62,560	\$ 51,128	\$ 15,714	\$ 62,311
Morris	\$ 36,422	\$ 32,985	\$ 10,654	\$ 10,654
Ocean	\$ 30,039	\$ 32,674	\$ 19,506	\$ 79,962
Passaic	\$ 338,600	\$ 171,221	\$ 506,407	\$ 506,407
Salem	\$ 14,070	\$ 14,697	\$ 50,666	\$ 50,666
Somerset	\$ 82,483	\$ 98,448	\$ 467	\$ 467
Sussex	\$ 7,559	\$ 7,453	\$ 3,126	\$ 3,126
Union	\$ 231,162	\$ 227,476	\$ 62,241	\$ 81,856
Warren	na	na	na	na
<b>Democrats Totals</b>	<b>\$ 3,088,330</b>	<b>\$ 2,104,344</b>	<b>\$ 1,570,616</b>	<b>\$ 1,246,172</b>

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

Two Republican county party committees- Burlington and Somerset- reported a net worth of more than \$100,000. One GOP county party committee- Hunterdon- reported a negative balance.

**Table 6**  
**Campaign Finance Activity by Republican County Party Committees**  
**from January 1 through September 30, 2011**

<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Raised</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Cash-on-Hand</b>	<b>Net Worth**</b>
Atlantic	\$ 138,111	\$ 62,867	\$ 87,833	\$ 87,833
Bergen	\$ 187,523	\$ 179,974	\$ 56,871	\$ 56,871
Burlington	\$ 399,695	\$ 398,667	\$ 19,046	\$ 347,180
Camden	\$ 41,686	\$ 70,962	\$ 20,119	\$ 21,012
Cape May	\$ 52,541	\$ 67,488	\$ 43,628	\$ 43,628
Cumberland	\$ 36,494	\$ 34,765	\$ 5,147	\$ 5,147
Essex	\$ 10,076	\$ 11,018	\$ 4,712	\$ 4,712
Gloucester	\$ 25,032	\$ 24,729	\$ 899	\$ 899
Hudson*	na	na	na	na
Hunterdon	\$ 32,606	\$ 21,989	\$ 22,310	\$ (45,630)
Mercer	\$ 46,813	\$ 62,971	\$ 3,329	\$ 3,329
Middlesex	\$ 41,602	\$ 18,365	\$ 38,443	\$ 28,443
Monmouth	\$ 116,055	\$ 112,649	\$ 29,952	\$ 30,579
Morris	\$ 68,436	\$ 61,380	\$ 46,084	\$ 46,084
Ocean	\$ 65,930	\$ 61,703	\$ 6,864	\$ 6,864
Passaic	\$ 79,966	\$ 75,338	\$ 7,618	\$ 7,618
Salem	\$ 37,924	\$ 48,668	\$ 16,932	\$ 16,932
Somerset	\$ 181,961	\$ 139,422	\$ 125,610	\$ 124,672
Sussex	\$ 57,551	\$ 44,582	\$ 16,746	\$ 13,072
Union	\$ 59,246	\$ 67,069	\$ 4,841	\$ 4,841
Warren	\$ 30,721	\$ 25,473	\$ 6,619	\$ 6,619
<b>Republicans Totals</b>	\$ 1,709,969	\$ 1,590,079	\$ 563,603	\$ 810,705

\*Does not expect to raise more than \$4,900 this year.

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

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports that have yet to be verified by ELEC and should be considered preliminary. Interested parties are encouraged to review individual reports at ELEC's website ([www.elec.state.nj.us](http://www.elec.state.nj.us)).