



# NEWS RELEASE

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Contributions by public contractors in 2014 fell 15 percent to \$9.1 million in a year when no state officials were running for reelection, according to an Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) analysis of annual disclosure reports filed recently.

**Table 1**  
**Campaign Contributions Reported by Public Contractors in Annual Disclosure Reports**

YEAR	AMOUNT	CHANGE-\$	CHANGE-%
2014	\$ 9,115,395	\$ (1,584,306)	-15%
2013	\$ 10,699,701	\$ 2,711,819	34%
2012	\$ 7,987,882	\$ (1,992,564)	-20%
2011	\$ 9,980,446	\$ 254,524	3%
2010	\$ 9,725,922	\$ (1,352,791)	-12%
2009	\$ 11,078,713	\$ (1,042,210)	-9%
2008	\$ 12,120,923	\$ (4,315,116)	-26%
2007	\$ 16,436,039	\$ 1,278,098	8%
2006	\$ 15,157,941		

While total contributions were down, contractors increased the number of checks they sent to political action committees (PACs) and other groups that operate independently of parties and candidates, said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director.

**Table 2**  
**Contributions to PACs and Independent Groups**

YEAR	AMOUNT	CHANGE-%	% OF TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
2014	\$1,863,693	16%	20%
2013	\$1,604,014	58%	15%
2012	\$1,017,353	-42%	13%
2011	\$1,746,947		18%

“Even without state elections in 2014, contributions to PACs and independent groups rose to nearly \$1.9 million- the largest amount since ELEC began tracking this activity four years ago,” said Brindle. “On a percentage basis, contributions to outside groups represented 20 percent of the total contributions,” he said.

One explanation for the increase was contractor involvement in Newark’s local elections in 2014, which cost nearly \$12.6 million.

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Adjusting for inflation, the Newark election was the second most expensive local election since 1974, according to ELEC White Paper No. 25- “Top Local Elections in New Jersey- A Tale of Two Cities and More.”

The election was marked by the largest amount of independent spending ever in a local race in New Jersey- \$5.5 million.

The biggest spender, called Newark First, spent \$4.5 million in support of Shavar Jeffries, who lost to Newark Mayor Ras Baraka. Newark First received \$400,000 from contractor Bloomberg Finance LP. Bloomberg also contributed \$15,000 directly to the Jeffries slate.

Two subsidiaries of Hartz Mountain Industries Inc. that are contractors contributed a total of \$12,000 to the Committee for Economic Growth and Social Justice, a federal Super PAC that supported Baraka.

“Independent groups are becoming a major force in politics, both nationally and in New Jersey,” said Brindle. “The fact that contractors are contributing to these groups is another sign of the growing significance of independent groups.”

Another \$320,050 went from various contractors directly to candidate committees, bringing the total estimated contractor participation in the Newark races to \$732,050.

Statewide, total reported contracts rose nearly \$302 million in 2014 to nearly \$6.9 billion. It was a five percent increase and the third increase in a row.

**Table 3**  
**Total Value of Contracts Reported Annually**  
**by Business Entities Subject to Pay-to-Play Law**

YEAR	AMOUNT	CHANGE-\$	CHANGE-%
2014	\$ 6,872,020,718	\$ 302,195,403	5%
2013	\$ 6,569,825,315	\$ 616,137,251	10%
2012	\$ 5,953,688,064	\$ 444,848,248	8%
2011	\$ 5,508,839,816	\$ (322,590,939)	-6%
2010	\$ 5,831,430,755	\$ (229,983,148)	-4%
2009	\$ 6,061,413,903	\$ 1,057,944,238	21%
2008	\$ 5,003,469,665	\$ (682,923,351)	-12%
2007	\$ 5,686,393,016	\$ (4,710,365,819)	-45%
2006	\$ 10,396,758,835		

The top ten contractors ranked by their contributions gave a combined \$2.8 million in 2014, representing 31 percent of all contributions.

**Table 4**  
**Business Entities that Made Most Contributions in 2014**

BUSINESS NAME	AMOUNT
Bloomberg Finance L.P.	\$422,800
T&M Associates	\$379,150
Alaimo Group	\$376,100
Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc.	\$359,450
CME Associates	\$323,160
Pennonni Associates, Inc.	\$287,180
Adams Rehmann & Heggan Associates, Inc.	\$200,450
Assured Partners of NJ LLC D/B/A AJM Insurance Management	\$171,525
Pershing Square Capital Management, L.P.	\$151,400
Capehart Scatchard P.A.	\$137,370

While the Newark campaign drew considerable support from contractors, freeholder candidates in Camden, Gloucester, Middlesex and Union Counties also were among the top 10 recipients of contractor contributions in 2014.

**Table 5**  
**Top Ten Recipients of Contractor Contributions in 2014**

<b>RECIPIENT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Newark First	\$ 400,000
Jeffries Team for Newark 2014	\$ 285,250
Simmons Barnes and Taliaferro for Freeholder (Gloucester County)	\$ 238,770
Victory 2014 - Estrada Hudak and Wright for Freeholder (Union County)	\$ 176,395
Steve Sweeney for Senate	\$ 155,972
EFO Cappelli and McCray for Freeholder (Camden County)	\$ 140,999
Barrett for Freeholder (Middlesex County)	\$ 133,750
Tomaro for Freeholder (Middlesex County)	\$ 124,050
Republican Governors Association	\$ 100,000
GOPAC	\$ 95,250

While the overall value of contracts was up, the number was down 11 percent.

**Table 6**  
**Total Number of Contracts Reported Annually  
 by Business Entities Subject to Pay-To-Play Law**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>	<b>CHANGE-%</b>
2014	18,317	(2,230)	-11%
2013	20,547	(309)	-1%
2012	20,856	(3,847)	-16%
2011	24,703	6,030	32%
2010	18,673	(2,771)	-13%
2009	21,444	(1,388)	-6%
2008	22,832	244	1%
2007	22,588	(2,347)	-9%
2006	24,935		

While the number of business entities reporting is slightly lower than in 2013, it has been relatively steady since 2007.

**Table 7**  
**Total Number of Business Entities**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>	<b>CHANGE-%</b>
2014	2,019	(171)	-8%
2013	2,190	(32)	-1%
2012	2,222	46	2%
2011	2,176	(6)	0%
2010	2,182	88	4%
2009	2,094	223	12%
2008	1,871	(146)	-7%
2007	2,017	(320)	-14%
2006	2,337		

The numbers in this report reflect information available to the Commission through April 1, 2015 and should be considered preliminary. Some contractors are likely to submit reports or amendments after that date that could change the totals. Numbers earlier than 2014 reflect these revisions and could differ from those reported in prior press releases. All reports are available at ELEC's website at [www.elec.state.nj.us](http://www.elec.state.nj.us).

Under pay-to-play laws, all businesses that have received \$50,000 or more through public contracts must indicate whether they have made any reportable contributions and if so, must disclose contracts and contributions to ELEC by March 30<sup>th</sup> for the previous calendar year.

With some exceptions, most firms with state contracts in excess of \$17,500 are barred from contributing more than \$300 to gubernatorial candidates, state political parties, legislative leadership committees, county political parties and municipal political party committees. Firms that exceed this limit must refund the excess contributions within a necessary time period or relinquish their contracts for four years.

The average contribution made by contractors in 2014 was \$1,208, the largest since the \$1,222 average in 2007. By comparison, the average was \$1,097 in 2013 while the lowest average ever was \$1,082 in 2011.

Two health insurance companies topped the list of contract recipients.

**Table 8**  
**Top Ten Business Entities that Reported Largest Contract Totals in 2014**

<b>BUSINESS NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Horizon Healthcare of New Jersey, Inc.	\$ 3,251,786,563
Amerigroup New Jersey, Inc.	\$ 892,174,089
Verizon New Jersey Inc.	\$ 118,479,664
George Harms Construction Co. Inc.	\$ 110,783,837
Union Paving & Construction Co. Inc.	\$ 98,698,058
FirstEnergy Solutions Corp	\$ 95,493,411
Colonial Bank FSB	\$ 93,878,284
Apple Inc.	\$ 75,547,189
PKF-Mark III Inc.	\$ 72,986,529
Magyar Bank	\$ 68,580,883

As usual, state government was the largest source of contracts in 2014. Independent authorities, municipalities, school boards, counties, fire districts and the Legislature follow in descending order.

**Table 9**  
**Contracts by Public Entity Type in 2014**

<b>PUBLIC ENTITY TYPE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
State	\$ 4,809,344,467	70%	879
Independent Authority	\$ 774,251,268	11%	2,340
Municipality	\$ 578,513,724	8%	9,079
School Board	\$ 402,843,745	6%	3,932
County	\$ 301,651,651	4%	1,584
Fire District	\$ 4,227,106	<1%	453
Legislature	\$ 1,188,758	<1%	6
No Information			44
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,872,020,718</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18,317</b>

Contract awards by the state Department of Human Services dwarfed those of other public entities in 2014.

**Table 10**  
**Top Ten Contracting Agencies in 2014**

<b>CONTRACTING AGENCY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
NJ Department of Human Services	\$ 4,105,982,713
NJ Department of Transportation	\$ 443,136,292
New Jersey Turnpike Authority	\$ 405,074,615
NJ Department of Treasury	\$ 168,867,496
New Jersey Schools Development Authority	\$ 47,772,886
Board of Education of Bergen County	\$ 44,839,439
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey	\$ 42,024,129
City of New Brunswick	\$ 40,067,965
New Jersey Transit	\$ 38,840,176
Ocean County	\$ 38,072,571

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