



# NEWS RELEASE

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An unprecedented wave of independent special interest spending drove the cost of the 2013 legislative general election to **\$58.8** million, the most ever without adjusting for inflation, according to a new analysis by the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

“In the 2013 fall election, at least **\$15.4** million was spent outside the direct control of parties and candidates. That’s a staggering *eight* times more than the 2011 total. It is most likely low due to current limits on disclosure,” said Joseph Donohue, ELEC’s Deputy Director and the author of the study.

**Table 1**  
**Total Fundraising and Spending**  
**in Legislative Elections\***

YEAR	RAISED BY LEGISLATORS	SPENT BY LEGISLATORS	BOTH HOUSES?	INDEPENDENT SPENDING	TOTAL SPENDING	TOTAL SPENDING ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION
2003	\$47,911,008	\$44,990,255	Yes	\$ 4,857	\$44,995,112	\$58,152,514
2005	\$25,081,696	\$23,713,193	No	\$ 3,476	\$23,716,669	\$28,878,354
2007	\$50,797,317	\$47,231,847	Yes	\$ 165,000	\$47,396,847	\$54,360,463
2009	\$20,457,342	\$18,584,098	No	\$ 15,999	\$18,600,097	\$20,617,404
2011	\$45,656,674	\$44,024,272	Yes	\$ 1,835,000	\$45,859,772	\$48,482,847
2013	\$46,691,108	\$43,446,977	Yes	<b><i>\$ 15,375,071**</i></b>	<b><i>\$58,822,048</i></b>	<b><i>\$59,847,205</i></b>

\*Includes first quarterly reports filed by candidates after the election.

\*\*Excludes **\$650,623** in primary spending

Entitled “White Paper 26-Legislative Elections 2013- Big Spending, Little Change Plus a History of Self-Financing by Legislators and Others,” the analysis also found that so-called “outside” groups topped parties and candidates in spending on research and polling and get-out-the-vote. Both were new records.

“Before the recent explosion of independent spending, independent groups mainly focused on political advertising. But with the surge in spending, some of those groups are assuming campaign functions traditionally performed by parties and candidates,” Donohue said.

The latest white paper also includes a first-ever historical review of self-financed candidacies by legislators and other New Jersey candidates. It found that at least 101 legislative candidates since the 1980s have spent at least \$15,000 on their campaigns. The combined outlay- \$9.8 million in inflation adjusted dollars. Among the top 50 self-funders identified by the analysis, 18 were legislative candidates (a few also ran for other offices).

“While some of the most dramatic examples of self-financing have involved gubernatorial elections, most candidates for governor rely on the state’s public financing matching funds along with checks from private contributors,” Donohue said. “In other elections where public financing isn’t available, self-financing is more common. Those include Congressional and legislative campaigns.”

The ten candidates listed below spent the most solely on legislative campaigns.

**Table 2**  
**Top 10 Self-Funding Legislative Candidates**

CANDIDATE	AMOUNT*	OFFICES HELD	CAMPAIGNS WITH SELF-FUNDING
MacInnes, Gordon	\$ 846,009	Assemblyman, Senator	4
Manzo, Louis	\$ 694,659	Assemblyman	3
Mancuso, Peter	\$ 520,838	Not elected	2
Shain, Joel	\$ 398,832	Not elected	1
MacInnes, Blair	\$ 364,462	Not elected	1
Munoz, Eric	\$ 336,434	Assemblyman	4
Genovese, Gina	\$ 269,527	Not elected	1
Oroho, Steven	\$ 244,868	Senator	1
Honig, Barry	\$ 233,282	Not elected	1
Casha, Lawrence	\$ 231,106	Not elected	1

\*Inflation adjusted; does not include repayments.

No candidate spent more of their personal funds on a New Jersey election than former Governor and US Senator Jon Corzine. He sank \$167 million (in 2015 dollars) of his own money into his three campaigns.

**Table 3**  
**Top 10 Elections Involving Self-Funding by New Jersey Candidates**

	CANDIDATE	YEAR	OFFICE	AMOUNT	INFLATION ADJUSTED
1	Corzine, Jon	2000	US Senate	\$60,198,967	\$83,311,920
2	Forbes, Steve	1996	President	\$37,394,000	\$56,878,443
3	Forbes, Steve	2000	President	\$38,675,038	\$53,596,595
4	Corzine, Jon	2005	Governor	\$43,135,570	\$52,711,092
5	Forrester, Doug	2005	Governor	\$29,927,189	\$36,570,627
6	Corzine, Jon	2009	Governor	\$27,460,000	\$30,546,893
7	Lautenberg, Frank	1982	US Senate	\$ 5,100,000	\$12,611,956
8	Forrester, Doug	2002	US Senate	\$ 7,485,000	\$ 9,929,545
9	MacArthur, Tom	2014	House	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,115,021
10	Sullivan, Joseph “Bo”	1981	Governor	\$ 1,842,000	\$ 4,836,091

In reviewing the 2013 legislative campaign, there were signs that online advertising is on the rise and may have topped \$1.1 million. “Internet advertising is soaring in national campaigns and we are beginning to see the impact in New Jersey,” said Donohue.

All 26 white papers are available on ELEC’s website at [www.elec.state.nj.us/aboutelec/whitepapers.htm](http://www.elec.state.nj.us/aboutelec/whitepapers.htm).