



NEWS RELEASE

Respond to:
P.O. Box 185
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0185

(609) 292-8700 or Toll Free Within NJ 1-888-313-ELEC (3532)

CONTACT: JEFF BRINDLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:
July 19, 2016

The “Big Six” fundraising committees report a combined cash reserve of \$1.1 million, the second lowest mid-year total since 2007, according to an analysis by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

The two state parties and four legislative leadership committees have raised a combined \$1.7 million so far this year, and spent a combined \$1.5 million.

“It is not unusual during a year with no election involving the governor or the legislature for fundraising to lag,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director. “But party coffers also have been steadily declining since pay-to-play laws cut off cash from public contractors a decade ago. That used to be a major source of funding for both parties.”

**TABLE 1
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY “BIG SIX”
AT END OF SECOND QUARTER BY YEAR**

BOTH PARTIES	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*	STATE ELECTIONS
2007	\$5,776,859	\$2,328,316	\$8,015,277	\$7,911,808	Senate and Assembly
2008	\$3,438,622	\$2,238,356	\$1,577,591	\$ 918,612	
2009	\$3,653,103	\$1,811,223	\$3,682,236	\$3,548,060	Governor and Assembly
2010	\$2,175,742	\$1,637,673	\$1,835,526	\$1,666,742	
2011	\$3,684,467	\$1,915,020	\$3,329,478	\$3,051,770	Senate and Assembly
2012	\$2,988,610	\$2,590,387	\$1,426,366	\$1,193,221	
2013	\$3,382,737	\$1,874,081	\$3,189,889	\$3,093,711	Governor and Both Houses
2014	\$1,276,109	\$1,319,714	\$ 800,994	\$ 287,246	
2015	\$2,476,599	\$1,983,389	\$2,160,318	\$1,624,601	Assembly
2016	\$1,661,559	\$1,513,987	\$1,127,086	\$ 979,443	

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

Brindle said other factors also have curtailed party fundraising, most notably the fact that many special interest groups now are spending their money independently of parties and candidates.

--more--

Brindle said several ELEC recommendations may help reverse the slide.

These include combining the maze of so-called “pay-to-play” contribution restrictions into a single law, allowing public contractors to make larger contributions particularly to parties, adjusting other contribution limits higher for inflation, and making independent special interest groups follow the same disclosure laws as parties and candidates.

“It is very encouraging that both Assembly Minority Leader John Bramnick (R-21) and Assemblyman Troy Singleton (D-7th) have introduced bills that incorporate ELEC’s suggestions. We hope there will be movement on the bills this fall,” Brindle said.

Democratic committees as a whole raised more money both during the quarter and since January 1. But the Republican State Committee has raised the most funds of any committee this year, mostly during the recent quarter. It had been saddled with a half-million-dollar debt for more than a year. For the first time since April 30, 2015, its cash reserves this quarter exceeded its debts. The Democratic State Committee, which ended last year’s election with a smaller debt than the Republicans, continues to report a negative net worth. Net worth is cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the committee.

TABLE 2
FUNDRAISING BY “BIG SIX” COMMITTEES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT**	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 454,035	\$ 575,592	\$ 61,286	\$ 38,597
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 98,800	\$ 80,334	\$ 385,248	\$385,248
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 145,484	\$ 72,776	\$ 164,057	\$164,057
Sub Total-Republicans	\$ 698,319	\$ 728,702	\$ 610,591	\$587,902
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$ 345,389	\$ 390,759	\$ 8,720	\$ (65,796)
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 255,637	\$ 115,299	\$ 381,115	\$361,115
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 362,214	\$ 279,227	\$ 126,660	\$ 96,222
Sub Total-Democrats	\$ 963,240	\$ 785,285	\$ 516,495	\$391,541
Total-Both Parties	\$1,661,559	\$1,513,987	\$1,127,086	\$979,443

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

**Some spending totals exceed fundraising totals because cash reserves were used as well as recent contributions.

Democrats and Republicans have spent roughly the same through six months this year. Republicans reported higher combined cash-on-hand and net worth.

State Parties and Legislative Leadership Committees are required to report their financial activity to the Commission on a quarterly basis. The reports are available on ELEC’s website at www.elec.state.nj.us. ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/elecnj).