



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR RELEASE:  
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A gubernatorial election year has helped boost county party fund-raising to the highest level in eight years, according to reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Combined county fundraising reached \$6.7 million through September 30, 2017, the highest total since the 2009 gubernatorial election year, when combined receipts totaled nearly \$7.4 million.

**Table 1  
 Fundraising by County Parties in Statewide Election  
 Years 2009-2017 Through September 30**

	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	Versus 2009	Versus 2013
Democratic County Committees	\$5,692,392	\$3,088,330	\$3,050,941	\$2,900,986	\$4,737,259	-17%	55%
Republican County Committees	\$1,706,300	\$1,709,969	\$2,268,714	\$1,942,512	\$1,924,418	13%	-15%
All Counties	\$7,398,692	\$4,798,299	\$5,319,655	\$4,843,498	\$6,661,677	-10%	25%
Elections*	G,A	A,S	G,S,A	A	G,S,A		

\* G=Gubernatorial, S=Senate, A=Assembly

“This year, only New Jersey and Virginia have gubernatorial contests. So there is a national focus on the November 7 election,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director. “Fund-raising related to the governor’s race has boosted the combined county coffers to their highest level since 2009.”

An ELEC analysis found that Democratic county committees are benefiting the most from the national attention. The Democratic Governors Association has sent \$666,000 to county party committees. Also, unions, including three national affiliates of New Jersey locals, have send forty-six checks worth \$37,000 - the maximum a contributor can give a county party. Those contributions alone have provided Democrats with \$1.7 million.

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Democrats have raised the most money since 2009 and are 55 percent above fundraising totals for the 2013 election- the last one when there was a gubernatorial election and both legislative houses up for reelection. While Republican totals are higher than 2009, they are down from 2013. GOP county committees have received just three checks worth \$37,000.

While the Republican Governors Association has not directly financed GOP county parties since the 2005 election, it has spent \$1.6 million on media this year to help elect Republican gubernatorial candidate Kimberly Guadagno. It also sent a maximum allowable \$4,300 to Guadagno's campaign for the general election.

In addition to its direct contributions to county parties, the Democratic Governors Association also has spent \$800,434 on independent advertisements to assist Democratic candidate Phil Murphy.

It sent a maximum allowable \$4,300 check to Murphy for the general election, plus another \$15,600 to local party committees. Combined, the two associations already have spent more than \$3.1 million on the New Jersey campaign.

**Table 2**  
**Expenditures to Date by Democratic and Republican**  
**Governors Associations on New Jersey Campaign**

	<b>Democratic Governors Association</b>	<b>Republican Governors Association</b>	<b>Both Associations</b>
Independent Spending	\$ 800,434	\$1,614,567	
Contributions to County Parties	\$ 666,000		
Contributions to Local Parties	\$ 15,600		
Contributions to Gubernatorial Candidates	\$ 4,300	\$ 4,300	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,486,334</b>	<b>\$1,618,867</b>	<b>\$3,105,201</b>

Brindle said the direct contributions to county parties most likely will be used to help get voters to the polls on Election Day. "Getting out the vote is a critical part of campaigns, and county parties traditionally have played a key role in GOTV operations."

Brindle said even with the temporary windfall Democratic county committees have reaped due to the gubernatorial election, Democrats still have raised 17 percent less than they did in 2009. Republicans based on reported amounts to date have raised less than their last peak fund-raising year of 2013.

“Due to restrictions on contributions by public contractors, competition for contributions from independent committees and other factors, the temporary surge witnessed so far by county parties may turn out to be an illusion,” he said.

“Legislation has been introduced by both parties that could help reverse the long-term downward fund-raising trend of state and county parties in New Jersey,” he said. He noted that the legislation would let public contractors and other donors give more to party warchests, and expand disclosure requirements for independent groups.

While Democrats overall have raised more money than Republicans, the Burlington County Republican Committee so far has raised the most this year- \$744,003. Four Democratic counties round out the top five. Burlington Republicans also have spent more than any other county- \$736,024.

Passaic County Democrats have the most cash set aside for the election’s final push- \$536,372.

**Table 3**  
**Top Five County Party Committees**  
**By Category through September 30, 2017**

<b>County</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Raised</b>
Burlington	Republicans	\$744,003
Essex	Democrats	\$521,761
Bergen	Democrats	\$419,485
Monmouth	Democrats	\$354,550
Camden	Democrats	\$324,204
<b>County</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Spent</b>
Burlington	Republicans	\$736,024
Essex	Democrats	\$376,839
Gloucester	Democrats	\$369,622
Bergen	Democrats	\$335,988
Middlesex	Democrats	\$321,448
<b>County</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Cash-On-Hand</b>
Passaic	Democrats	\$536,372
Essex	Democrats	\$259,265
Mercer	Democrats	\$235,930
Union	Democrats	\$229,777
Somerset	Republicans	\$224,052

Nine Democratic county party committees- Bergen, Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Morris, Passaic, and Union- report cash-on-hand totals larger than \$100,000. Burlington reports a negative net worth due to outstanding debts.

**Table 4**  
**Campaign Finance Activity of Democratic County**  
**Party Committees January 1 through September 30, 2017**

<b>County</b>	<b>Raised</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Cash-On-Hand</b>	<b>Net Worth*</b>
Atlantic	\$ 21,277	\$ 18,500	\$ 37,637	\$ 37,637
Bergen	\$ 419,485	\$ 335,988	\$ 111,784	\$ 55,153
Burlington	\$ 200,865	\$ 193,361	\$ 9,752	\$ (7,827)
Camden	\$ 324,204	\$ 268,409	\$ 193,378	\$ 193,378
Cape May	\$ 158,203	\$ 120,671	\$ 38,727	\$ 38,727
Cumberland	\$ 227,965	\$ 142,990	\$ 98,587	\$ 98,587
Essex	\$ 521,761	\$ 376,839	\$ 259,265	\$ 259,265
Gloucester	\$ 200,779	\$ 369,622	\$ 159,024	\$ 159,024
Hudson	\$ 275,683	\$ 166,500	\$ 192,427	\$ 53,282
Hunterdon	\$ 95,690	\$ 94,578	\$ 9,227	\$ 9,227
Mercer	\$ 306,819	\$ 143,097	\$ 235,930	\$ 235,930
Middlesex	\$ 310,764	\$ 321,448	\$ 91,146	\$ 91,146
Monmouth	\$ 354,550	\$ 314,415	\$ 46,228	\$ 46,228
Morris	\$ 304,861	\$ 149,606	\$ 167,392	\$ 167,392
Ocean***	\$ 21,429	\$ 26,999	\$ 8,469	\$ 24,636
Passaic	\$ 311,262	\$ 208,408	\$ 536,372	\$ 536,372
Salem	\$ 154,082	\$ 118,601	\$ 64,441	\$ 64,441
Somerset	\$ 137,213	\$ 74,298	\$ 52,912	\$ 52,912
Sussex	\$ 85,070	\$ 81,491	\$ 13,316	\$ 13,316
Union	\$ 278,501	\$ 156,566	\$ 229,777	\$ 221,223
Warren**	\$ 26,795	\$ 29,649	\$ 764	\$ 764
<b>Democrats-Total</b>	<b>\$4,737,259</b>	<b>\$3,712,037</b>	<b>\$2,556,555</b>	<b>\$2,350,813</b>

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

\*\*First Quarter Report \*\*\*Second Quarter Report

Among Republican committees, only Somerset County reported cash-on-hand above \$100,000.

**Table 5**  
**Campaign Finance Activity of Republican County**  
**Party Committees Through September 30, 2017**

County	Raised	Spent	Cash-On-Hand	Net Worth*
Atlantic	\$ 13,675	\$ 14,351	\$ 1,843	\$ 1,843
Bergen	\$ 66,498	\$ 103,572	\$ 14,020	\$ 14,020
Burlington	\$ 744,003	\$ 736,024	\$ 11,594	\$ 582,175
Camden	\$ 11,387	\$ 14,486	\$ 15,991	\$ 15,991
Cape May**	\$ 81,480	\$ 42,065	\$ 52,357	\$ 52,357
Cumberland	\$ 97,882	\$ 48,065	\$ 85,738	\$ 85,738
Essex	\$ 12,500	\$ 20,029	\$ 828	\$ 828
Gloucester	\$ 38,020	\$ 28,548	\$ 17,245	\$ 17,245
Hudson	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hunterdon	\$ 54,740	\$ 55,465	\$ 8,977	\$ 8,977
Mercer	\$ 17,180	\$ 10,309	\$ 11,461	\$ 11,461
Middlesex	\$ 23,339	\$ 22,835	\$ 34,154	\$ 34,154
Monmouth	\$ 270,679	\$ 212,266	\$ 68,038	\$ 68,038
Morris	\$ 71,464	\$ 72,254	\$ 22,662	\$ 22,662
Ocean	\$ 85,709	\$ 80,664	\$ 19,491	\$ 19,491
Passaic	\$ 11,058	\$ 39,598	\$ 757	\$ 757
Salem	\$ 51,010	\$ 60,560	\$ 9,975	\$ 9,975
Somerset	\$ 158,823	\$ 167,494	\$224,052	\$ 223,646
Sussex	\$ 12,442	\$ 10,290	\$ 24,776	\$ 24,776
Union	\$ 69,081	\$ 45,504	\$ 76,562	\$ 76,562
Warren	\$ 33,450	\$ 30,932	\$ 9,323	\$ 5,908
<b>Republicans- Total</b>	<b>\$1,924,418</b>	<b>\$1,815,310</b>	<b>\$709,844</b>	<b>\$1,276,604</b>

\*Net worth is cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by committee; NA=Not Available

\*\*First quarter totals

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by noon October 26, 2017. They have yet to be verified by ELEC staff, and should be considered preliminary. Individual reports can be reviewed on ELEC's website ([www.elec.state.nj.us](http://www.elec.state.nj.us)).

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