



# NEWS RELEASE

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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

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## Through Third Quarter, Big Six Totals Lag Other Recent Election Years

The so-called Big Six political fund-raising committees have raised \$3.8 million so far this year while spending \$3.7 million, according to reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

The two state parties and four legislative leadership committees also had a combined \$1.5 million socked away in cash reserves.

With all 80 Assembly seats up for reelection this year plus a special election for the first legislative district state Senate spot, the numbers are below par for state election years dating back to 2007.

**Table 1**  
**Campaign Finance Activity by “Big Six”**  
**January 1 through September 30, 2019**

BOTH PARTIES	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH	STATEWIDE ELECTIONS (NON-FEDERAL)
2007	\$9,322,604	\$6,713,165	\$7,368,421	\$7,095,891	Senate and Assembly
2008	\$4,457,887	\$3,508,376	\$1,519,083	\$1,134,427	
2009	\$6,309,496	\$5,098,191	\$3,073,241	\$2,746,784	Governor and Assembly
2010	\$3,160,458	\$2,859,927	\$1,664,237	\$1,457,787	
2011	\$6,913,921	\$5,025,694	\$3,428,259	\$3,123,885	Senate and Assembly
2012	\$4,083,910	\$3,971,806	\$1,331,432	\$1,192,473	
2013	\$7,203,008	\$5,917,331	\$2,970,203	\$2,884,025	Governor and Both Houses
2014	\$2,444,799	\$1,887,661	\$1,388,946	\$ 765,268	
2015	\$3,896,539	\$3,579,018	\$1,984,629	\$1,346,849	Assembly only
2016	\$2,195,300	\$1,985,370	\$1,188,706	\$1,039,918	
2017	\$5,835,574	\$5,354,876	\$2,317,953	\$2,233,450	Governor and Both Houses
2018	\$3,846,796	\$3,293,435	\$1,298,934	\$1,214,430	
2019	<b><i>\$3,767,926</i></b>	<b><i>\$3,717,128</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,476,354</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,390,647</i></b>	Assembly Only*

\*Also, one special Senate election

“The latest Big Six numbers are another sign of the nagging fundraising woes faced by parties within the state. Combined fundraising for the same six committees was 2.5 times greater in 2007, or more than \$9 million,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director.

Through September 30, Democrats have raised and spent more than Republicans and report larger joint coffers.

**Table 2**  
**Fundraising by “Big Six” Committees**  
**January 1 through September 30, 2019**

<b>ACTIVITY FIRST THREE QUARTERS 2019</b>				
<b>REPUBLICANS</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH</b>
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 802,100	\$ 595,872	\$ 324,030	\$ 324,030
Senate Republican Majority	<b>\$ 439,250</b>	<b>\$ 346,223</b>	<b>\$ 59,943</b>	<b>\$ 59,543</b>
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 439,250	\$ 346,223	\$ 280,059	\$ 259,303
<b>SUB TOTAL- REPUBLICANS</b>	<b>\$1,443,442</b>	<b>\$1,256,495</b>	<b>\$568,018</b>	<b>\$562,168</b>
<b>DEMOCRATS</b>				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$ 876,249	\$ 852,103	\$ 126,827	\$ 97,409
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 392,525	\$ 209,088	\$ 489,418	\$ 469,418
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$1,055,710	<b>\$1,399,442</b>	<b>\$292,091</b>	<b>\$261,652</b>
<b>SUB-TOTAL- DEMOCRATS</b>	<b>\$2,324,484</b>	<b>\$2,460,633</b>	<b>\$908,336</b>	<b>\$828,479</b>
<b>TOTAL- BOTH PARTIES</b>	<b>\$3,767,926</b>	<b>\$3,717,128</b>	<b>\$1,476,354</b>	<b>\$1,390,647</b>

While the fundraising totals of both parties are smaller than a decade ago, Democratic fundraising has improved since 2015 while Republican numbers are down.

**Table 3**  
**Fundraising by “Big Six” Committees**  
**through September 30**  
**2019 versus 2015**

<b>REPUBLICANS</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH</b>
2015	\$2,043,497	\$1,776,238	\$1,261,726	\$ 714,128
2019	<b>\$1,443,442</b>	<b>\$1,256,495</b>	<b>\$568,018</b>	<b>\$562,168</b>
Difference-Dollars	<b>\$(600,055)</b>	<b>\$(519,743)</b>	<b>\$(693,708)</b>	<b>\$(151,960)</b>
Difference-%	<b>-29%</b>	<b>-29%</b>	<b>-55%</b>	<b>-21%</b>
<b>DEMOCRATS</b>				
2015	\$1,853,042	\$1,802,780	\$722,903	\$ 632,721
2019	\$2,324,484	<b>\$2,460,633</b>	<b>\$908,336</b>	<b>\$828,479</b>
Difference-Dollars	\$ 471,442	<b>\$657,853</b>	<b>\$185,433</b>	<b>\$195,758</b>
Difference-%	25%	<b>36%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>BOTH PARTIES</b>				
2015	\$3,896,539	\$3,579,018	\$1,984,629	\$1,346,849
2019	<b>\$3,767,926</b>	<b>\$3,717,128</b>	<b>\$1,476,354</b>	<b>\$1,390,647</b>
Difference-Dollars	<b>\$(128,613)</b>	<b>\$138,110</b>	<b>\$(508,275)</b>	<b>\$43,798</b>
Difference-%	<b>-3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>3%</b>

Brindle said party fundraising has declined steadily since tight restrictions on contributions by public contractors took effect around 2005.

Special interest groups also have been more inclined to participate in elections on their own instead of mailing checks to candidates and parties after federal court rulings swept away contribution limits for independent spending committees.

Bi-partisan legislation recommended by ELEC and pending in the Legislature could help fortify the state's political parties by allowing them to accept larger contributions and free them from pay-to-play restrictions.

“The decline of the parties has increased the clout of independent groups, which are far less accountable and transparent. These groups now dominate the electoral process in New Jersey and nationally,” Brindle said. “ELEC’s legislative fixes should help reverse this trend.”

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](http://www.elec.state.nj.us). ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw](https://www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/elecny](https://www.twitter.com/elecny)).

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