



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:
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Reporting Lag May Be Depressing County Party Receipts

With reports from six of 42 county party committees still outstanding, county parties as a group have reported raising just \$695,644 for the first three months of 2021, according to reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director, said it is surprising that during a major election year that a number of county committees have not yet submitted reports. Reports from county party committees were due April 15.

"It is understandable that the pandemic has caused some difficulties for candidates and parties during the past year. But fund-raising by county party committees seemed to be improving during the second half of last year and it had been anticipated that financial activity would increase," he said. "Missing reports make a difference."

YEAR	RAISED	SPENT*	CASH-ON-HAND	STATE/FEDERAL ELECTION YEAR?
2010	\$1,023,791	\$1,199,044	\$2,078,378	Federal
2011	\$1,088,038	\$1,108,475	\$1,141,821	State
2012	\$ 891,658	\$ 978,826	\$1,023,935	Federal
2013	\$ 957,098	\$ 980,628	\$1,457,253	State
2014	\$1,048,455	\$1,099,335	\$1,312,788	Federal
2015	\$1,080,157	\$1,118,813	\$1,437,520	State
2016	\$1,499,334	\$ 970,613	\$2,027,203	Federal
2017	\$1,195,248	\$1,250,534	\$2,086,933	State
2018	\$1,371,138	\$1,378,945	\$2,657,429	Federal
2019	\$1,648,413	\$1,654,402	\$3,341,448	State
2020	\$1,234,693	\$1,290,897	\$2,155,834	Federal
2021	\$ 695,644	\$ 897,135	\$2,657,845	State

*Spending can exceed fund-raising due to use of reserves or borrowing.

Two Democratic and four Republican county party committees still have not submitted their first quarter reports.

Brindle said candidates, party officials and treasurers are now able to file reports electronically, better facilitating the filing of reports.

“The fact that ELEC now accepts all reports electronically will in the long run lead to better compliance. It is my expectation that those county organizations that have not yet filed will do so quickly,” Brindle said.

Both the governor’s seat and all 120 legislative posts are up for election this year along with dozens of county offices. County parties often are involved with both state and county elections, particularly in get-out-the-vote efforts.

Like other candidates and committees, county parties receive reminders of filing deadlines. ELEC also can fine committees that file late.

But Brindle emphasized that New Jersey’s campaign finance reporting system largely relies on voluntary compliance and compliance generally tops 90 percent or more. Eight-six percent of county parties have filed their first quarter reports so far.

Even with six reports still missing, county party committees are heading into an election year sitting on sizeable cash reserves- nearly \$2.7 million. That is the second largest total in two decades not adjusting for inflation.

With the governor’s seat in contention this year, there also is the possibility that the Democratic Governors Association (DGA) and/or the Republican Governors Association (RGA) will be sending large checks to county parties this year to assist on the campaign. This year, Governor Phil Murphy is running for reelection, He also is the finance chairman for DGA.

While both governors associations have run political ad campaigns and contributed to gubernatorial candidates during several New Jersey elections, the DGA more recently steered funds to Democratic county party committees.

In 2017, DGA doled out \$703,000 to Democratic county party committees. RGA last sent checks to Republican county parties in 2005. The total was \$522,000.

Among party committees that have filed their reports, Democrats hold a more than five-to-one advantage over Republicans in cash reserves. The edge is smaller when debts owed to or by counties are factored in.

Table 2				
Fundraising By County Party Committees				
January 1 Through March 31				
Party	RAISED	SPENT**	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Democratic County Party Committees	\$378,350	\$628,643	\$2,249,612	\$2,120,629
Republican County Party Committees	\$317,294	\$268,492	\$ 408,233	\$ 898,751
Total- Both Parties	\$695,644	\$897,135	\$2,657,845	\$3,019,380

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

**Spending can exceed fundraising due to use of reserves or borrowing.

Among Democratic counties, Essex and Morris counties have yet to file their first quarter reports.

Of those in compliance, eight Democratic county party committees – Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Mercer, Passaic, Salem, and Union- reported cash reserves above \$100,000 for the quarter.

Hudson County reported a negative net worth due to outstanding debts.

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Atlantic	\$ 21,060	\$ 15,237	\$ 10,664	\$ 10,664
Bergen	\$ 10,920	\$ 52,717	\$ 186,517	\$ 186,517
Burlington	\$ 16,500	\$ 2,275	\$ 200,795	\$ 194,420
Camden	\$106,852	\$137,629	\$ 129,937	\$ 129,937
Cape May**	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cumberland	\$ 4,250	\$ 2,399	\$ 2,846	\$ 2,846
Essex	NA	NA	NA	NA
Gloucester	\$ 14,500	\$ 90,603	\$ 500,844	\$ 500,844
Hudson	\$ 711	\$ 18,802	\$ 33,734	\$ (105,040)
Hunterdon	\$ 9,365	\$ 3,763	\$ 33,565	\$ 33,565
Mercer	\$ 20	\$ 7,414	\$ 251,046	\$ 251,046
Middlesex	\$ 56,648	\$172,453	\$ 26,875	\$ 26,875
Monmouth	\$ 23,958	\$ 20,100	\$ 3,941	\$ 3,941
Morris	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ocean	\$ 12,634	\$ 4,323	\$ 22,005	\$ 38,172
Passaic	\$ 9,700	\$ 19,422	\$ 371,003	\$ 371,003
Salem	\$ -	\$ 307	\$ 115,231	\$ 115,231
Somerset	\$ 18,848	\$ 27,407	\$ 88,001	\$ 88,001
Sussex	\$ 588	\$ 1,499	\$ 12,377	\$ 12,377
Union	\$ 71,797	\$ 52,295	\$ 260,232	\$ 260,232
Warren**	NA	NA	NA	NA
Democrats-Total	\$378,350	\$628,643	\$2,249,612	\$2,120,629

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

NA= Not Available **Does not expect to spent more than \$7,200.

Among Republican counties, Cape May, Passaic, Salem and Somerset Counties have yet to file their first quarter reports. No Republican county party committees that have filed a report showed a cash reserve larger than \$100,000.

Burlington reported a net worth of more than \$100,000 since it is owed money by others.

Table 4 Campaign Finance Activity of Republican County Party Committees January 1 through March 31, 2021				
COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Atlantic	\$ 2,075	\$ 4,930	\$ 4,455	\$ 4,455
Bergen	\$ 30,613	\$ 23,507	\$ 31,449	\$ 21,449
Burlington	\$ 16,895	\$ 18,978	\$ 11,904	\$520,022
Camden	\$ 5,900	\$ 6,359	\$ 10,847	\$ 10,847
Cape May	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cumberland	\$ 9,350	\$ 3,542	\$ 9,030	\$ 9,030
Essex	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,333	\$ 26,333
Gloucester	\$ 12,872	\$ 18,337	\$ 46,354	\$ 46,354
Hudson**	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hunterdon	\$ 46,663	\$ 25,738	\$ 33,587	\$ 33,587
Mercer	\$ 3,350	\$ 705	\$ 3,069	\$ 3,069
Middlesex	\$ 3,700	\$ 670	\$ 15,603	\$ 15,603
Monmouth	\$ 42,716	\$ 51,839	\$ 44,688	\$ 44,688
Morris	\$ 28,825	\$ 34,265	\$ 14,115	\$ 6,515
Ocean	\$ 8,200	\$ 54,156	\$ 9,714	\$ 9,714
Passaic	NA	NA	NA	NA
Salem	NA	NA	NA	NA
Somerset	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sussex	\$ 39,934	\$ 7,170	\$ 53,624	\$ 53,624
Union	\$ 58,955	\$ 10,940	\$ 85,561	\$ 85,561
Warren	\$ 7,245	\$ 7,357	\$ 7,899	\$ 7,899
Republicans-Total	\$317,294	\$268,492	\$408,233	\$898,751

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

NA=Not available. **Does not expect to spend more than \$7,200

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by 3 pm June 2, 2021. 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).