



NEWS RELEASE

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Big Six Committees Have Raised \$10.1 Million And Spent \$8.9 million So Far; Most In 14 Years

With key state elections underway, the so-called “Big Six” fund-raising committees have raised and spent the most funds since 2007 based on reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

As of September 30, the two state parties and four legislative leadership committees combined had raised \$10.1 million and spent \$8.9 million, the most in 14 years.

Democratic Governor Phil Murphy is trying to win reelection on November 2 while his party, which controls both legislative houses, is hoping to avoid a loss of seats that occurred two years ago. Most of the uptick in fundraising and spending is on the Democratic side.

**Table 1
Campaign Finance Activity by “Big Six”
January 1 through September 30, 2021**

BOTH PARTIES	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH	STATEWIDE ELECTION*
2007 ¹	\$ 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	<i>\$ 3,767,926</i>	<i>\$3,717,128</i>	<i>\$1,476,354</i>	<i>\$1,390,647</i>	Assembly only
2020	\$ 2,577,166	\$2,173,600	\$1,063,632	\$ 985,996	
2021	<i>\$10,105,364</i>	<i>\$8,878,871</i>	<i>\$2,597,809</i>	<i>\$2,514,477</i>	Governor and Both Houses

*Excludes special elections

¹ \$12,333,649 raised and \$8,881,405 spent if adjusted for inflation

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So far this year, Democrats have raised more than four times as much as Republicans, spent five times more money and report having twice the funds in reserve.

“The party in power usually has a fund-raising edge, and the cumulative totals to date bear out that trend,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director. “Another factor is that election years featuring a campaign for governor and both legislative houses tend to be the costliest. This year is no exception.”

Table 2
Fundraising by “Big Six” Committees
January 1 through September 30, 2021

ACTIVITY FIRST THREE QUARTERS 2021				
REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 889,258	\$ 680,872	\$ 367,169	\$ 367,169
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 583,234	\$ 490,529	\$ 135,346	\$ 116,421
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 445,919	\$ 308,004	\$ 318,471	\$ 318,471
SUB TOTAL- REPUBLICANS	\$ 1,918,411	\$1,479,405	\$ 820,986	\$ 802,061
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$ 5,830,973	\$4,757,362	\$1,261,238	\$1,247,270
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 784,282	\$ 875,284	\$ 350,940	\$ 330,940
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 1,571,698	\$1,766,820	\$ 164,645	\$ 134,206
SUB-TOTAL- DEMOCRATS	\$ 8,186,953	\$7,399,466	\$1,776,823	\$1,712,415
TOTAL- BOTH PARTIES	\$10,105,364	\$8,878,871	\$2,597,809	\$2,514,477

Brindle said a third influence on fund-raising total is an influx of checks from national committees.

“New Jersey and Virginia are the only states with gubernatorial elections this year. So the Garden State’s election tends to draw national interest,” he said.

For instance, the Democratic National Committee has given a maximum check of \$72,000 to the Democratic State Committee.

The Democratic Governors Association has sent \$25,000 to the Democratic State Committee and \$25,000 to the Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee.

The Republican State Leadership Committee has contributed \$25,000 to the Republican State Committee and \$25,000 to the Senate Republican Majority.

Compared to the last gubernatorial election year (2017), Democratic and Republican fund-raising and spending are higher so far in 2021.

Table 3
Fundraising by “Big Six” Committees
through September 30-
2021 versus 2017

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH
2017	\$ 1,640,253	\$1,458,499	\$1,254,468	\$1,254,468
2021	\$ 1,918,411	\$1,479,405	\$ 820,986	\$ 802,061
Difference-Dollars	\$ 278,158	\$20,906	\$ (433,482)	\$ (452,407)
Difference-%	17%	1%	-35%	-36%
DEMOCRATS				
2017	\$ 4,195,321	\$3,896,377	\$1,063,485	\$ 978,982
2021	\$ 8,186,953	\$7,399,466	\$1,776,823	\$1,712,415
Difference-Dollars	\$ 3,991,632	\$3,503,089	\$ 713,338	\$ 733,433
Difference-%	95%	90%	67%	75%
BOTH PARTIES				
2017	\$ 5,835,574	\$5,354,876	\$2,317,953	\$2,233,450
2021	\$10,105,364	\$8,878,871	\$2,597,809	\$2,514,477
Difference-Dollars	\$ 4,269,790	\$3,523,995	\$ 279,856	\$ 281,027
Difference-%	73%	66%	12%	13%

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.nj.gov.

ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/elecnj).

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