



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:

January 19, 2017

State political party entities have been diminished over the last decade, according to an analysis by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

The report by the Commission shows that during 2016, the “Big Six” state party and legislative leadership committees raised a combined \$4.5 million and spent \$3.8 million.

Jeff Brindle, the Commission’s executive director, said that “compared to 2008, a similar year to 2016, Big Six receipts have fallen by 32 percent and spending by 26 percent.

Fundraising reached \$6.7 million in 2008 and spending amounted to \$5.2 million.

“The decline in state party entity financial activity was even more precipitous when comparing 2016 with 2012,” said Brindle. “Fundraising dropped by 36 percent and spending by 40 percent from four years ago.”

In 2012, a similar election year, receipts totaled \$7.1 million and spending \$6.4 million.

“Once again, these figures underscore the need for political parties to be strengthened,” said Brindle. “They and candidates alike are losing ground to independent, often anonymous groups that are ever increasing their influence over the electoral process in New Jersey.”

Brindle noted that in the 2016 election cycle, independent groups spent approximately \$28 million on ballot questions, which included ones on casinos and transportation as well as local ballot initiatives.

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“Independent spending will far exceed this figure in 2017 and, in all probability, will exceed the record \$40 million spent by outside groups in the gubernatorial election and legislative elections of 2013,” Brindle said.

According to the analysis, the Democratic committees have raised \$2.5 million and spent \$2.2 million in 2016, with cash-on-hand amounting to \$624,725.

Republican Big Six Committees raised \$2 million and spent \$1.6 million with cash-on-hand worth slightly more than \$1 million.

Over the course of the year, the New Jersey Democratic State Committee led the way raising \$1.4 million and spending \$1.4 million.

Among the legislative leadership committees, the Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee raised the most at \$661,779 and spent \$572,428.

“These figures for 2016 show a subtle shift to the Democrats in terms of financial activity,” added Brindle.

**TABLE 1
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY “BIG SIX”
JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31**

BOTH PARTIES	RAISED	SPENT**	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*	STATE ELECTIONS?
2007	\$19,177,655	\$23,367,064	\$ 377,324	\$ (521,409)	YES
2008	\$ 6,653,676	\$ 5,186,294	\$1,844,704	\$1,669,848	NO
2009	\$12,368,082	\$12,919,862	\$1,297,457	\$1,107,532	YES
2010	\$ 6,180,605	\$ 5,918,029	\$1,540,032	\$1,305,667	NO
2011	\$15,035,468	\$15,547,359	\$1,028,142	\$ 705,787	YES
2012	\$ 7,063,133	\$ 6,391,757	\$1,684,525	\$1,516,187	NO
2013	\$13,885,028	\$14,727,957	\$ 841,599	\$ 755,419	YES
2014	\$ 4,872,907	\$ 4,048,955	\$1,662,052	\$1,008,612	NO
2015	\$ 8,027,793	\$ 8,661,126	\$ 979,220	\$ 262,353	YES
2016	\$ 4,518,172	\$ 3,842,223	\$1,667,465	\$1,511,597	NO

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

**Spending totals may exceed fundraising because reserves were used to offset the extra spending.

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TABLE 2
FUNDRAISING BY "BIG SIX" COMMITTEES
JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NETWORTH
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$1,213,290	\$1,314,983	\$ 81,150	\$ 50,236
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 383,815	\$ 144,711	\$ 605,886	\$ 605,886
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 431,384	\$ 167,030	\$ 355,704	\$ 355,704
SUBTOTAL – REPUBLICANS	\$2,028,489	\$1,626,724	\$1,042,740	\$1,011,826
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$1,426,870	\$1,366,548	\$ 114,412	\$ 39,897
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 401,014	\$ 276,523	\$ 377,268	\$ 357,268
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 661,799	\$ 572,428	\$ 133,045	\$ 102,606
SUBTOTAL - DEMOCRATS	\$2,489,683	\$2,215,499	\$ 624,725	\$ 499,771
TOTAL – BOTH PARTIES	\$4,518,172	\$3,842,223	\$1,667,465	\$1,511,597

FOURTH QUARTER 2016

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 596,615	\$ 610,362
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 183,515	\$ 35,976
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 144,100	\$ 49,899
SUB TOTAL – REPUBLICANS	\$ 924,230	\$ 696,237
DEMOCRATS		
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$1,027,230	\$ 936,753
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 131,176	\$ 74,996
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 252,536	\$ 148,428
SUBTOTAL - DEMOCRATS	\$1,410,942	\$1,160,177
TOTAL – BOTH PARTIES	\$2,335,172	\$1,856,414

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