



Newsletter

ELECtronic

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AN ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION NEWSLETTER
"Furthering the Interest of an Informed Citizenry"

Comments from the Chairman Eric H. Jaso

"Don't worry about polls. But if you do, don't admit it." -- Rosalynn Carter

If the polls are correct, tomorrow's gubernatorial election will be a competitive one.

In part this is due to New Jersey's nationally recognized gubernatorial public financing program, administered by the Commission.

First implemented in the general election of 1977, this is the 12th running of the "Kentucky Derby" of public financing programs.

During this election cycle, both Governor Phil Murphy and his Republican challenger Jack Ciattarelli participated in the program.

A matching program, qualifying candidates receive two public dollars for every one dollar they raise privately.

The program contains a public funds cap, an expenditure limit, a contribution limit, and a qualifying threshold. All limits and thresholds are determined every four years by a unique campaign cost index developed by the Commission in 1989 and subsequently enacted into law.

The index accounts for inflation because the U.S. Supreme Court has determined the constitutionality of contribution limits in part based on whether they are too low to allow challengers effectively to compete against incumbents. States that have cut their contribution limits or allowed them to shrink through inflation have had those restrictions struck down.

The purpose of the public financing program is to enable well-qualified candidates of limited financial means to run for governor and to eliminate undue financial influence from the process.

The program also requires participating candidates to engage in two public debates and their lieutenant governor running mates to have one debate.

This year's debates were not only vigorous but provided the public with important information about the candidates and their positions on issues crucial to New Jersey.

The Commission is proud of its continuing role in administering this highly regarded program that since 1977 has proven its benefit to the public.

2021 Gubernatorial Finance Limits/Thresholds

Limit/Threshold	Amount
Contribution Limit	\$ 4,900
Qualification Threshold	\$ 490,000
Amount Not Matched	\$ 156,000
Primary Public Fund Cap	\$ 4,600,000
Primary Expenditure Limit	\$ 7,300,000
General Public Fund Cap	\$10,500,000
General Expenditure Limit	\$15,600,000

IN THIS ISSUE

- Comments from the Chairman
- Executive Director's Thoughts
- Former ELEC Legal Counsel James P. Wyse Has Passed Away
- Independent Spending in NJ Governor's Election Already a New High at \$39 Million
- Legislative Districts 2 & 8 Continue to Draw Heaviest Spending As Nov. 2 Election Looms
- Gubernatorial Campaign Spending Soars as November 2 Election Nears
- Big Six Committees Have Raised \$10.1 Million and Spent \$8.9 Million So Far, Most in 14 Years
- Reporting Dates and Training Seminars

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- P. 4 Edwin R. Matthews, Legal Counsel
- P. 7
- P. 10
- P. 13
- P. 15

Executive Director's Thoughts

Jeff Brindle

Pandemic or Not, ELEC is Fulfilling Its Mission

Reprinted from insidernj.com

As state government eases toward employees returning to the office five days per week, it is fitting to address how the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) has carried out the responsibilities during the pandemic.

The past two months have seen employees gradually return to the office, two days per week in August and three days per week in September. Employees worked remotely the other days. This schedule will continue until November 29, the date the Governor has set for a full-week return to work for ELEC employees.

This approach has been taken to give staff time to rearrange their personal lives before 20 months of telework comes to an end and to allow agencies time to implement COVID-19 testing procedures.

This period of crisis has shown that government can function remotely, and for the most part, pretty well. In the case of ELEC, governmental responsibilities were carried out, perhaps not as easily, but certainly as effectively.

At the Commission, the approach taken by management was to try to keep some of the better aspects of the pre-pandemic era, such as having receptionists answer calls instead of

sending callers into a maze of voicemail menus. At the same time, staff took advantage of technological innovations such as teleconferencing to adapt to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 health threat.

ELEC has always been proud of its reputation as a service agency.

The unsung heroes of the pandemic period were the people who answered the phones and directed calls to the appropriate staff. Management believed it was more important than ever for citizens to encounter live people rather than a machine when they called the agency.

It may have been more efficient for the agency to have the public leave messages on an answering machine. It would not have been in the public-spirited tradition of the Commission.

The decision by management proved correct as Cheryl Lippincott, Samantha Schutzbank, Aracelis Brown, and Tamika McCoy fulfilled their public duties by answering the phones throughout the pandemic and reassuring the public that their concerns would be addressed.

Often overlooked, yet so vital to a well-functioning organization, is the work done by clerical staff. Also bolstering the efforts of ELEC during the pandemic were Elbia Zeppetelli, Maureen Tilbury, Monica Triplin-Nelson, and Tamico Flack.

Legal, Information Technology, Compliance, and Investigative functions continued as candidates, committees, lobbyists, and public contractors reported electronically while at the same time the public was

provided timely online access to those reports.

Moreover, with Information Technology staff support, virtual Commission meetings were held every month, including public hearings. Training sessions continued to be available, though virtually, by the Compliance staff with assistance from Information and Technology.

Legal and Investigative functions continued, with Legal having proposed and adopted regulations as well as litigating and resolving important cases.

As the pandemic carried over into this gubernatorial election year, the Gubernatorial Public Financing staff, under the supervision of the Compliance section, has processed public funds for qualifying candidates in both the primary and general elections and assisted with the public debates required of participating candidates.

Finally, a steady stream of analytical press releases, newsletters, white paper research reports, and columns have continued to be published to enable elected officials, the press, and the public to track emerging trends in campaign financing, lobbying, and other areas under ELEC's jurisdiction. This undertaking was of considerable importance during the hiatus in in-person government that occurred during the pandemic period.

Importantly as well, Compliance staff has continued to respond to phone calls and provide guidance to the filing community.

Before the virus arrived, ELEC and other government agencies were doing far more things online compared to ten or 15 years ago. Gone were the days when candidates and lobbyists lined up to file reports in person.

Efiling of reports, webinars, and the ability to view and download documents straight from the agency's website are among the time-saving conveniences the Commission began providing electronically years ago.

Because the Commission recognized that change is inevitable, and that technological innovations would offer new opportunities for service and progress, management knew it was important to embrace those innovations where it would improve service.

At the same time it realized that it was important to hold on to that which has historically worked well. In a nut shell, it has been the goal of the Commission's management to embrace the new but preserve the good of the past.

The experience of the past 17 months has been useful and will serve management well as staff returns and accommodations are made for future innovations and progress.

Despite the recent experience, it is hard to imagine government operating on an entirely impersonal, virtual model. Government exists to serve the public interest and it still does so best through face-to-face discussion and real person assistance as our receptionists proved during this pandemic.

Nevertheless, we are looking forward to combining the in-person service by our returning employees with improvements brought about by the age of technology to continue the Commission's tradition of exemplary service to the public.

Former ELEC Legal Counsel James P. Wyse Has Passed Away

By Joe Donohue

James P. Wyse, who served as legal counsel to the NJ Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) from 1995 to 2012, passed away on October 11, 2021. He was 70.

Perhaps his crowning moment with the Commission occurred when he successfully argued before the state Supreme Court on November 9, 2009 that payments in defense of federal criminal corruption charges are not "ordinary and necessary expenses of holding public office."

The case, [In re Election Law Enforcement Commission Advisory Opinion No. 01-2008](#) (A-83-08), was unanimously decided in the Commission's favor on March 8, 2010.

"Contributors do not expect that their candidate's election will be a steppingstone to a criminal indictment," the court said in its ruling.

Former ELEC Executive Director Frederick Herrmann said Wyse was a major asset to the Commission during his 17 years of service.

"Jim was a wonderful guy and a steady and calming presence as the Commission's counsel for many years,"

said Herrmann. "My years at the Commission were greatly enriched by the many amazing people with whom I got to work, and Jim was certainly a very special member of our ELEC family. It is very sad to lose him so young."

According to his obituary, a key focus of Wyse's law practice along with election law was environmental law. He dedicated his life and his career to the preservation of open space and ultimately helped to protect more than 75,000 acres of natural and farmland in New Jersey.

He represented the New Jersey Conservation Foundation for over thirty years, along with the Open Space Institute, The Trust for Public Land, the Nature Conservancy, Raritan Headwaters Association, Harding Land Trust, Tewksbury Land Trust, Lamington Conservancy, and The Friends of Frelinghuysen Arboretum, among others.

Jim received his B.S. from Bucknell University in 1973, and his Juris Doctorate with honors from Rutgers University School of Law School in 1977.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Garcia; his daughter, Melissa Wyse; his granddaughter, Lilly Peck; his son-in-law, Tim Peck; and his step-children, Maria Ruiz and Manuel Ruiz.

A memorial service will be held in the spring of 2022. In lieu of flowers, the family would be grateful for donations to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

Independent Spending in New Jersey Governor's Election Already a New High at \$39 Million

With more than \$4 million in outside group spending just since Monday in the New Jersey governor's race, independent spending for the election is well into record territory, according to reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Combined spending by these groups in the general election is now \$25.8 million. Together with \$13.4 million in pre-primary and primary spending, the total for the entire election is \$39.2 million. The numbers are preliminary since the election isn't until Tuesday, November 2.

Table 1
Independent Spending in New Jersey
Gubernatorial Elections Since 2009

YEAR	PRIMARY	GENERAL	TOTAL
2009	\$ 2,161,802	\$11,918,366	\$14,080,168
2013	\$13,011,027	\$ 8,339,592	\$21,350,619
2017	\$ 9,123,371	\$15,380,781	\$24,504,152
2021 (preliminary)	\$13,412,705	\$25,796,599	\$39,209,304

"Even this preliminary total already is a 60 percent increase over the previous high of \$24.5 million in 2017," said Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director. "For more than a decade, we at ELEC have spoken about the growing influence of these so-called outside or independent groups. This year's election already has taken it to new heights."

Part of the late influx this past week included nearly \$2.6 million in late spending by the Democratic and Republican Governors' Associations. Their combined spending in 2021 has now topped their 2017 total.

The Republican Governors Association (RGA) has outspent the Democratic Governors Association (DGA) \$3.8 million to \$2.7 million. The \$6.5 million in combined spending total tops the \$5.5 million spent here during the 2017 campaign, when Democratic Governor Phil Murphy first won election.

Murphy is running for reelection this year against Republican and former Republican state Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli. He also is DGA's finance chairman.

Table 2
Spending in New Jersey by Democratic and Republican
Governors Associations During 2021 Election

	DEMOCRATIC GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION	REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION	BOTH ASSOCIATIONS¹
Independent Spending			
Direct Independent Spending		\$3,768,013	
DGA Contribution to Our NJ	\$2,000,000		
DGA Contribution to Turnout Project	\$ 300,000		
Total Independent Spending	\$2,300,000	\$3,768,013	\$6,068,013
Contributions to Candidates or Parties			
County Parties	\$ 383,500		
Democratic State Committee Or Legislative Leadership PACs	\$ 50,000		
Local candidates	\$ 15,600		
Total Contributions to Candidates or Parties	\$ 449,100		\$ 449,100
Total All Spending	\$2,749,100	\$3,768,013	\$6,517,113

ELEC's last overview of gubernatorial campaign activity was released the morning of October 25.

RGA spent \$996,902 on television advertising that afternoon. DGA on October 26 contributed \$1 million to Our NJ, a state political committee set up by DGA to support Murphy's candidacy. On October 27, Our NJ spent \$1.1 million on television, radio and digital ads as well as fund-raising.

Today, RGA followed up with another \$616,764 in spending on television advertising and text messaging.

Another major Murphy supporter is New Jersey Education Association, the state's largest union. It operates Garden State Forward, a federal 527 political organization.

On October 25, it contributed \$500,000 to Committee to Build the Economy, another New Jersey political committee that backs the governor.

It spent \$475,000 on October 26 and 27 on consulting, digital ads and handouts.

To date, Garden State Forward has given \$3 million to Build the Economy and \$2.5 million to Our NJ.

¹ Both associations are 527 political organizations. While they cannot make contributions to federal candidates, they can make contributions to state and local candidates along with engaging in independent spending.

Table 3
Spending by Independent Committees

GROUP	SPENT
Our NJ	\$ 6,722,890
Garden State Forward*	\$ 5,500,000
Republican Governors Association	\$ 3,768,013
Committee to Build the Economy	\$ 2,875,404
Democratic Governors Association**	\$ 2,300,000
Working for Working Americans (Carpenters)***	\$ 1,500,000
Carpenters Action Fund***	\$ 1,000,000
Growing Economic Opportunities	\$ 900,000
Garden State Rescue	\$ 444,273
Fix NJ Now	\$ 286,233
New Direction for New Jersey	\$ 229,833
Unite Here TIP State and Local Fund***	\$ 150,000
NJ League of Conservation Voters Victory Fund	\$ 50,000
International Brotherhood of Teamsters	\$ 32,040
Tech for Campaigns	\$ 25,463
NEA (National Education Association) Advocacy Fund	\$ 12,450
Totals	\$25,796,599
Primary/ Pre-Primary	\$13,412,705
Grand Total	\$39,209,304

*Gave \$3,000,000 million to Our NJ and \$2.5 million to Build the Economy

**Contributed \$2,000,000 to Our NJ and \$300,000 to Turnout Project

***Contributions to Our NJ

Combined with candidate spending, the general election already has cost more than \$50 million while the total election has surpassed \$80 million.

Table 4
Latest General Election Campaign Finance Activity**

CANDIDATE	PARTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND
Murphy, Phil	Democrat	\$16,031,915	\$12,553,403	\$ 3,478,512
Ciattarelli, Jack	Republican	\$13,126,924	\$12,441,665	\$ 685,259
Mele, Gregg*	Libertarian	\$ 6,000	NA	NA
Hoffman, Madelyn*	Green	\$ 1,874	NA	NA
Kuniansky, Joanne*	Socialist Workers Party	NA	NA	NA
TOTAL - CANDIDATES		\$29,166,712	\$24,995,068	\$ 4,163,771
Independent Committees - General			\$25,796,599	
TOTAL - GENERAL			\$50,791,667	
Pre-Primary/ Primary				
Candidates			\$16,735,704	
Independents			\$13,412,705	
TOTAL - PRE-PRIMARY, PRIMARY AND GENERAL			\$80,940,076	

*Does not expect to spend more than \$5,800. **Through 10/19 for candidates and 10/28 for independent committees.

Fund-raising totals do not include \$198,000 raised by Murphy and \$328,100 raised by Ciattarelli since October 25.

The most expensive gubernatorial election was the \$87.8 million showdown between Democratic U.S. Senator Jon Corzine and Republican Doug Forrester in 2005. It was mostly financed by their personal fortunes and would cost more than \$123 million in today's dollars.

The next ELEC overview of gubernatorial campaign finance activity will be released November 24.

Legislative Districts 2 and 8 Continue to Draw Heaviest Spending as November 2 Election Looms

Two Southern New Jersey legislative districts remain the focal points for spending in this year's legislative elections, according to the latest reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director, said the most contested legislative districts typically are magnets for spending since incumbents in most other districts face little risk of defeat. "If you follow the money, most of it invariably ends up in so-called battleground districts," said Brindle.

"This year, both the Second Legislative District (Atlantic County) and the Eighth Legislative District (parts of Atlantic, Burlington and Camden Counties) each have drawn more than \$6.6 million in spending. Both races already rank among the top ten most expensive legislative races in New Jersey history," he said.

"The two districts alone have drawn \$13.3 million in spending- nearly four of every ten dollars sunk into this year's general election," said Brindle. "One quarter of all candidate spending, and 66 percent of spending by independent committees, has occurred in these two districts alone."

Table 1
Top Ten Legislative Districts by Spending

DISTRICT	CANDIDATES*	INDEPENDENT GROUPS**	TOTAL
8	\$ 2,640,871	\$ 4,071,831	\$ 6,712,702
2	\$ 2,589,459	\$ 4,053,819	\$ 6,643,278
11	\$ 3,012,657	\$ 222,536	\$ 3,235,193
16	\$ 2,182,881	\$ 110,646	\$ 2,293,527
3	\$ 1,808,103	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,818,103
21	\$ 1,332,002	\$ 208,675	\$ 1,540,677
25	\$ 985,562	\$ 17,500	\$ 1,003,062
39	\$ 568,925		\$ 568,925
14	\$ 467,864		\$ 467,864
36	\$ 466,828		\$ 466,828
Top 10 Districts	\$16,055,153	\$ 8,695,007	\$24,750,160
All 40 Districts	\$21,654,479	\$12,392,236	\$34,046,715
Top Two Districts Only	\$ 5,230,331	\$ 8,125,650	\$13,355,981
Top Two Districts as % of State Total	24%	66%	39%

*Through October 19 **Through October 26

The Eighth Legislative District race already has topped a previous high of \$4.4 million inflation adjusted in 2007. The Second Legislative District race ranks second all-time for the district and could surpass the record \$7.1 million cost in 2011. "Never before have two legislative races topped \$6 million in one election," Brindle said.

Table 2
Top Ten Costliest Legislative Races in New Jersey
History Ranked by Inflation-Adjusted Totals

DISTRICT	COUNTIES	YEAR	TOTAL SPENDING AT THE TIME	TOTAL SPENDING-INFLATION ADJUSTED
3	Gloucester/Salem/Cumberland	2017	\$24,100,941*	\$26,590,942
4	Camden/Gloucester	2003	\$ 6,142,441	\$ 9,157,245
12	Monmouth	2007	\$ 5,963,939	\$ 7,890,192
2	Atlantic	2011	\$ 5,806,467	\$ 7,080,906
38	Bergen/ Passaic	2013	\$ 5,910,318	\$ 6,959,479
3	Gloucester/Salem/Cumberland	2003	\$ 4,548,302	\$ 6,780,678
8	Atlantic/Burlington/Camden	2021	\$ 6,712,702	\$ 6,712,702
2	Atlantic	2021	\$ 6,643,278	\$ 6,643,278
1	Cape May/Cumberland	2007	\$ 4,975,772	\$ 6,582,863
38	Bergen/ Passaic	2011	\$ 5,183,499	\$ 6,321,205

*Believed to be the most expensive state legislative election in US history.

After the most expensive legislative election in New Jersey history in 2017, independent spending took a huge dip in 2019. However, the \$14.8 million spent so far already is the third most independent spending in a legislative general election since 2007.

Table 3
Spending by Independent Special Interest
Committees in New Jersey Legislative Elections

YEAR	PRIMARY	GENERAL	TOTAL
2007		\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000
2009		\$ 15,999	\$ 15,999
2011		\$ 1,835,500	\$ 1,835,500
2013	\$ 650,623	\$15,375,071	\$16,025,694
2015	\$ 927,561	\$10,908,983	\$11,836,544
2017	\$ 727,746	\$26,562,428	\$27,290,174
2019	\$ 15,000	\$ 9,283,402	\$ 9,298,402
2021 (preliminary)	\$2,421,314	\$12,392,236	\$14,813,549

American Democratic Majority, a federal 527 political organization run by South Jersey Democrats, so far is the biggest spender in the election. It has expended nearly \$4.5 million just in the general election. Most of its spending (\$3.7 million) has gone to the Eighth Legislative District.

Garden State Forward, a federal 527 political organization run by the New Jersey Education Association, the state's largest union, has spent \$3.6 million so far in the general election. Most of its funds (\$3.5 million) have been funneled into the Second Legislative District.

Table 4
Cumulative Spending to Date by Independent
Committees on 2021 Legislative Elections

GROUP	PRIMARY	GENERAL	BOTH ELECTIONS
American Democratic Majority	\$1,058,991	\$ 4,460,645	\$ 5,519,636
Garden State Forward (NJEA)	\$ 198,493	\$ 3,568,154	\$ 3,766,647
Working for Working Americans (Carpenters)*		\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Carpenters Action Fund*	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,025,000	\$ 1,050,000
New Jersey Coalition of Real Estate	\$ 533,887	\$ 275,897	\$ 809,784
Women for a Stronger New Jersey	\$ 63,512	\$ 533,554	\$ 597,066
Stronger Foundations Inc (Operating Engineers)	\$ 276,629	\$ 183,000	\$ 459,629
Republican State Leadership Committee ²		\$ 368,965	\$ 368,965
NJ League of Conservation Voters Victory Fund		\$ 180,627	\$ 180,627
Turnout Project		\$ 168,600	\$ 168,600
Growing Economic Opportunities (Laborers)	\$ 133,161		\$ 133,161
UA Political Action Fund (Plumbers)*		\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Building Stronger Communities	\$ 77,535		\$ 77,535
Better Days PAC	\$ 30,545		\$ 30,545
America's Future First	\$ 23,560		\$ 23,560
NJ Bankers Association		\$ 19,984	\$ 19,984
New Jersey Right to Life		\$ 7,810	\$ 7,810
Totals	\$2,421,314	\$12,392,236	\$14,813,549

*Contributions to American Democratic Majority.

Democrats, who hold majorities in both legislative houses, continue to dominate in fund-raising, spending and cash-on-hand.

Table 5
Breakdown of Legislative Campaign Finance Activity
by Party through October 19, 2021

PARTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND
Democratic Candidates	\$30,496,975	\$15,907,165	\$14,589,810
Republican Candidates	\$ 8,989,355	\$ 5,747,313	\$ 3,242,041
All Parties	\$39,486,330	\$21,654,479	\$17,831,852

Incumbents also hold a heavy advantage over challengers. They have raised three times more money, spent 1.6 times more, and have 11 times more cash in reserve.

Table 6
Breakdown of Spending by Incumbents
and Challengers through October 19, 2021

PARTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND
Incumbents	\$29,818,420	\$13,473,686	\$16,344,735
Challengers	\$ 9,667,910	\$ 8,180,793	\$ 1,487,117
All Candidates	\$39,486,330	\$21,654,479	\$17,831,852

Candidate totals in this analysis are based on 11-day pre-election day reports that reflect campaign finance activity through October 19, 2021. Independent spending totals are based on reports filed as recently as October 27, 2021.

Reports filed by legislative candidates and independent spenders are available online on ELEC's website at www.elec.nj.gov. A downloadable summary of data from candidate reports is available in both spreadsheet and PDF formats at www.elec.nj.gov/publicinformation/statistics.htm.

² RSLC has also directly donated \$164,000 to Republican candidates for primary and general elections in 2021. As a 527 political organization, it cannot donate to federal candidates. It can contribute to state candidates along with engaging in independent spending.

Gubernatorial Campaign Spending Soars as November 2 Elections Nears

Spending in the 2021 gubernatorial election has reached \$46 million, a jump of 65 percent from the last snapshot on October 6, according to the latest filings with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director, said the total combines the most recent spending by the two major candidates with a late influx from several independent committees aligned with them.

"With just two governor seats in play this year here and in Virginia, and the seeming tightening of polls in New Jersey, both parties seem to be viewing this as a high stakes race," said Brindle. "In the past week alone, independent groups spent more than **\$7.4 million.**"

Democratic Governor Phil Murphy, who is running for reelection, so far has raised \$16 million and spent \$12.5 million. With the November 2 election just eight days away, he has \$3.5 million in cash reserves.

Republican challenger Jack Ciattarelli has raised \$13.1 million and spent \$12.4 million. He has \$685,259 cash-on-hand.

Table 1
Latest General Election Campaign Finance Activity**

CANDIDATE	PARTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND
Murphy, Phil	Democrat	\$16,031,915	\$12,553,403	\$ 3,478,512
Ciattarelli, Jack	Republican	\$13,126,924	\$12,441,665	\$ 685,259
Mele, Gregg*	Libertarian	\$ 6,000	NA	NA
Hoffman, Madelyn*	Green	\$ 1,874	NA	NA
Kuniansky, Joanne*	Socialist Workers Party	NA	NA	NA
TOTAL - CANDIDATES		\$29,166,712	\$24,995,068	\$ 4,163,771
Independent Committees - General			\$21,056,018	
TOTAL - GENERAL			\$46,051,086	
Pre-Primary/ Primary				
Candidates			\$16,735,704	
Independents			\$13,412,705	
TOTAL - PRE-PRIMARY, PRIMARY AND GENERAL			\$76,199,495	

*Does not expect to spend more than \$5,800.

**Through 10/19 for candidates and 10/24 for independent committees

Brindle said the **\$46 million** in spending is nearly twice the \$23.8 million in spending reported at this point four years ago.

One reason is because Ciattarelli has had more success than other recent challengers raising money. New Jersey gubernatorial candidates are eligible for two public dollars for every one dollar they receive from private sources.

Murphy has received the full \$10.5 million available through the public financing program. Ciattarelli has received \$9.1 million to date- 87 percent of the full sum.

"Ciattarelli has received more than three times as much public funds as the Republican candidate in 2017 and nearly five times more than the Democratic contender in 2013," Brindle said. "He has raised more public funds than even Chris Christie in 2009, who defeated incumbent Governor Jon Corzine."

More public funds are available for the candidates this year than in 2017- a maximum of \$10.5 million in 2021 versus \$9.3 million in 2017. Public financing is adjusted upward every four years to account for inflation.

Table 2
Campaign Finance Activity by Independent Spending
Committees Involving Gubernatorial General Election

Supports	GROUP	SPENT
Murphy	Our NJ	\$ 5,577,673
Murphy	Garden State Forward (NJEA)*	\$ 5,000,000
Murphy	Committee to Build the Economy	\$ 2,400,404
Ciattarelli	Republican Governors Association	\$ 2,154,348
Murphy	Working for Working Americans (Carpenters)***	\$ 1,500,000
Murphy	Democratic Governors Association**	\$ 1,300,000
Murphy	Carpenters Action Fund***	\$ 1,000,000
Murphy	Growing Economic Opportunities (Laborers)***	\$ 900,000
Ciattarelli	Garden State Rescue	\$ 444,273
Murphy	New Direction for New Jersey	\$ 229,833
Ciattarelli	Fix NJ Now	\$ 286,233
Murphy	United HERE TIP State and Local Fund***	\$ 150,000
Murphy	NJ League of Conservation Voters	\$ 50,000
Murphy	International Brotherhood of Teamsters	\$ 32,040
Murphy	Tech for Campaigns	\$ 18,764
Murphy	NEA (National Education Association) Advocacy Fund	\$ 12,450
	Totals	\$21,056,018

*Gave \$2.5 million to Our NJ and \$2.5 million to Build the Economy

**Contributed \$1,000,000 to Our NJ and \$300,000 to Turnout Project

***Contributions to Our NJ

The election price tag also is up this year because independent spending is about twice what it was at this point four years ago- **\$21 million** versus \$10.6 million.

“Independent spending committees, which barely existed 15 years ago, now play a major role in state elections. A significant share of spending in each statewide election now comes from these groups,” he said.

At least so far, combined spending by the Democratic and Republican Governors Associations is below the total in 2017, when Democratic Governor Phil Murphy first won election.

The two associations combined have spent \$3.9 million on independent spending and contributions to candidates. In 2017, they spent a total of \$5.5 million. Both groups could be spending more in coming days. Murphy serves as DGA’s finance chairman.

Table 3
Spending in New Jersey by Democratic and Republican
Governors Associations During 2021 Election

	Democratic Governors Association	Republican Governors Association	Both Associations³
Independent Spending			
Direct Independent Spending		\$2,154,348	
DGA Contribution to Our NJ	\$1,000,000		
DGA Contribution to Turnout Project	\$ 300,000		
Total Independent Spending	\$1,300,000	\$2,154,348	\$3,454,348
Contributions to Candidates or Parties			
County Parties	\$ 383,500		
Democratic State Committee Or Legislative Leadership PACs	\$ 50,000		
Local candidates	\$ 15,600		
Total Contributions to Candidates or Parties	\$ 449,100		\$ 449,100
Total All Spending	\$1,749,100	\$2,154,348	\$3,903,448

Along with the spending by the two governors' associations, national unions usually send large checks to Democratic county parties during gubernatorial election years and that trend is occurring again in 2021. County parties play a key role in get-out-the-vote activities and other election-related efforts.

So far, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union has been the top union donor, sending \$377,500 to county parties while Laborers Political League has given \$231,500.

While not Washington, DC-based like these two unions, generous Republican benefactors also have emerged during a critical election year.

Bob Hugin, former Celgene CEO who spent \$36 million in an unsuccessful run for US Senate in 2018, now serves as chairman of the Republican State Committee.

He and his wife Kathy have already contributed \$520,875 to Republican party committees, candidates and Women for a Stronger New Jersey, an independent group that supports Republican women candidates.

The founder of that independent group, Laura Overdeck, has donated \$300,000 to the committee. Along with her husband John, she has given a total of \$427,100 to GOP candidates and committees.

³ Both associations are 527 political organizations. While they cannot make contributions to federal candidates, they can make contributions to state and local candidates along with engaging in independent spending.

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 ⁴	\$ 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	\$ 3,717,926	\$3,542,777	\$1,696,720	\$1,590,657	Assembly only
2020	\$ 2,577,166	\$2,173,600	\$1,063,632	\$ 985,996	
2021	\$10,105,364	\$8,878,871	\$2,597,809	\$2,514,477	Governor and Both Houses

*Excludes special elections

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.”

⁴ \$12,333,649 raised and \$8,881,405 spent if adjusted for inflation

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/elecny).

2021 Reporting Dates

	INCLUSION DATES	REPORT DUE DATE
FIRE COMMISSIONER – APRIL 20, 2021 – See Executive Order No. 211		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 3/19/2021	3/22/2021
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	3/20/2021 – 4/6/2021	4/9/2021
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	4/7/2021 – 5/7/2021	5/10/2021
48–Hour Notice Reports Start on 4/7/2021 through 4/20/2021		
SCHOOLBOARD – APRIL 20, 2021		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 3/19/2021	3/22/2021
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	3/20/2021 – 4/6/2021	4/9/2021
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	4/7/2021 – 5/7/2021	5/10/2021
48–Hour Notice Reports State on 4/7/2021 through 4/20/2021		
MAY MUNICIPAL – MAY 11, 2021		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 4/9/2021	4/12/2021
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	4/10/2021 – 4/27/2021	4/30/2021
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	4/28/2021 – 5/28/2021	6/1/2021
48–Hour Notice Reports State on 4/28/2021 through 5/11/2021		
RUNOFF (JUNE)** – JUNE 15, 2021		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	4/28/2021 – 6/1/2021	6/4/2021
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	6/2/2021 – 7/2/2021	7/6/2021
48–Hour Notice Reports Start on 6/2/2021 through 6/15/2021		
PRIMARY (90 DAY START DATE – MARCH 10, 2021)*** – JUNE 8, 2021		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign – 5/7/2021	5/10/2021
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	5/8/2021 – 5/25/2021	5/28/2021
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	5/26/2021 – 6/25/2021	6/28/2021
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 5/26/2021 – 6/8/2021		
GENERAL (90 DAY START DATE – AUGUST 4, 2021) – NOVEMBER 2, 2021		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	6/26/2021 – 10/1/2021	10/4/2021
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	10/2/2021 – 10/19/2021	10/22/2021
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	10/20/2021 – 11/19/2021	11/22/2021
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 10/20/2021 – 11/2/2021		
RUN–OFF (DECEMBER)** – December 7, 2021		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	10/20/2021 – 11/23/2021	11/26/2021
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	11/24/2021 – 12/24/2021	12/27/2021
48 Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 11/24/2021 through 12/7/2021		

PACS, PCFRS & CAMPAIGN QUARTERLY FILERS

1 st Quarter	1/1/2021 – 3/31/2021	4/15/2021
2 nd Quarter	4/1/2021 – 6/30/2021	7/15/2021
3 rd Quarter	7/1/2021 – 9/30/2021	10/15/2021
4 th Quarter	10/1/2021 – 12/31/2021	1/18/2022

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AGENTS (Q-4)

1 st Quarter	1/1/2021 – 3/31/2021	4/12/2021
2 nd Quarter	4/1/2021 – 6/30/2021	7/12/2021
3 rd Quarter	7/1/2021 – 9/30/2021	10/12/2021
4 th Quarter	10/1/2021 – 12/31/2021	1/10/2022

*Inception Date of Campaign (first time filers) or January 1, 2021 (Quarterly filers).

**A candidate committee or joint candidates committee that is filing in a 2021 Runoff election is not required to file a 20-day postelection report for the corresponding prior election (May Municipal or General).

*** Form PFD-1 is due April 15, 2021 for the Primary Election Candidates and June 21, 2021 for the Independent General Election Candidates.

Note: A fourth quarter 2020 filing is needed for the Primary 2021 candidates if they started their campaign prior to December 10, 2020.

A second quarter is needed by Independent/ Non-partisan General election candidates if they started their campaign prior to May 4, 2021.

Training Seminars

CPC WEBINARS

R-3 eFile ONLY Program Training	November 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM
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CANDIDATE WEBINARS

R-1 eFile ONLY Program Training	November 09, 2021 at 10:00 AM
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HOW TO CONTACT ELEC

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