



# NEWS RELEASE

Respond to:  
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

FOR RELEASE:  
April 23, 2012

With both parties still recovering from last year's expensive legislative elections, county party committees jointly reported raising and spending less than \$1 million during the first quarter of 2012, according to quarterly reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Republican committees raised more during the quarter and reported a higher net worth. Democratic committees spent more and reported more cash-on-hand. Net worth is cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed by or to a committee. In some cases, spending totals exceed funds raised because the committee had a prior reserve or borrowed funds.

**Table 1**  
**Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County Party Committees**  
**from January 1 through March 31, 2012**

	<b>Raised</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Cash-on-hand</b>	<b>Net Worth*</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 430,689	\$ 587,606	\$ 708,074	\$ 294,174
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 460,969	\$ 391,220	\$ 315,861	\$ 706,740
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>\$ 891,658</b>	<b>\$ 978,826</b>	<b>\$1,023,935</b>	<b>\$1,000,914</b>

\*Cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the fundraising committee

"Just as the state parties and legislative leadership PACs reported a relatively quiet quarter last week, county parties are feeling the effects from last year's legislative elections," said Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director. That race, he said, cost more than \$43 million.

He expects fundraising efforts to pick up as the year unfolds. "This year is an "off-year" since there are no major state races. However, there are local and federal races, and county parties undoubtedly will have a role to play in those campaigns," he said.

Following a recent trend, the total funds raised reported by county party committees were smaller than those reported for a corresponding quarter four years ago.

**Table 2**  
**Summary of Combined County Party Receipts - 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2008 versus 2012**

	<b>Raised -2008</b>	<b>Raised-2012</b>	<b>Difference-%</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 562,927	\$ 430,689	-23%
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 535,194	\$ 460,969	-14%
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>\$ 1,098,121</b>	<b>\$ 891,658</b>	<b>-19%</b>

“We’ve previously reported that state and county party receipts have declined since the advent of pay-to-play laws about six years ago,” Brindle said. “Pay-to-play laws greatly restrict the amount of contributions that public contractors can give, and some contractors have simply stopped making contributions.”

“We have, however, seen a trend that should cause considerable concern. More party-aligned political action committees (PACs) are being formed that are attracting a growing amount of contributions from contractors,” he said. “Absent pay-to-play laws, those checks probably would be going straight to party committees.”

“Right now, there is nothing stopping these PACs from passing through these contributions to county committees. While this is legal, it can serve to circumvent pay-to-play rules and contribution limits,” Brindle said. “The Commission has proposed that legislation be enacted to more tightly regulate these PACs.”

During the past quarter, the Bergen County Democratic Committee topped all counties by raising \$148,456 and spending \$133,504. The Passaic County Democratic Committee reported the largest reserve - \$263,672. Five Democratic counties reported a negative net worth- Burlington, Gloucester, Hudson, Monmouth and Somerset.

**Table 3**  
**Campaign Finance Activity by Democratic County Party Committees**  
**from January 1 through March 31, 2012**

<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Raised</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Cash-on-hand</b>	<b>Net Worth</b>
Atlantic	\$ 2,711	\$ 4,674	\$ 15,874	\$ 15,874
Bergen	\$ 148,356	\$ 133,504	\$ 17,141	\$ 152,934
Burlington	\$ 7,222	\$ 5,563	\$ 8,440	\$ (107,328)
Camden	\$ 38,299	\$ 86,743	\$ 26,223	\$ 26,223
Cape May	\$ 852	\$ 521	\$ 2,742	\$ 2,742
Cumberland	\$ 5,570	\$ 5,505	\$ 4,162	\$ 4,162
Essex	\$ 14,600	\$ 29,555	\$ 121,198	\$ 121,198
Gloucester	\$ 47,268	\$ 39,500	\$ 27,880	\$ (59,806)
Hudson	\$ -	\$ 2,277	\$ 1,487	\$ (316,718)
Hunterdon	\$ 7,867	\$ 2,835	\$ 18,798	\$ 18,798
Mercer	\$ 688	\$ 11,675	\$ 59,999	\$ 59,999
Middlesex	\$ 23,237	\$ 102,866	\$ 26,777	\$ 26,777
Monmouth	\$ 2,663	\$ 23,253	\$ 6,305	\$ (71,720)
Morris	\$ 11,855	\$ 12,561	\$ 9,508	\$ 9,508
Ocean	\$ 13,048	\$ 8,016	\$ 15,633	\$ 74,404
Passaic	\$ 60,700	\$ 45,576	\$ 263,672	\$ 263,672
Salem	\$ 10,605	\$ 6,274	\$ 58,655	\$ 58,655
Somerset	\$ 8,915	\$ 9,656	\$ 3,168	\$ (5,612)
Sussex	\$ 3,935	\$ 2,690	\$ 4,241	\$ 4,241
Union	\$ 22,298	\$ 54,362	\$ 16,171	\$ 16,171
Warren	na	na	na	na
<b>Democrats -Total</b>	<b>\$ 430,689</b>	<b>\$ 587,606</b>	<b>\$ 708,074</b>	<b>\$ 294,174</b>

Among Republicans, the Burlington County Republican Committee raised and spent the most during the quarter, and reported the highest net worth- \$493,051. Hunterdon reported a negative net worth.

**Table 4**  
**Campaign Finance Activity by Republican County Party Committees**  
**from January 1 through March 31, 2012**

<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Raised</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Cash-on-hand</b>	<b>Net Worth</b>
Atlantic	\$ 6,808	\$ 12,099	\$ 6,634	\$ 6,634
Bergen	\$ 44,272	\$ 50,322	\$ 13,190	\$ 3,190
Burlington	\$ 127,750	\$ 106,852	\$ 37,493	\$ 493,051
Camden	\$ 16,725	\$ 13,633	\$ 11,662	\$ 12,555
Cape May	\$ 29,540	\$ 27,627	\$ 19,401	\$ 19,401
Cumberland	\$ 8,815	\$ 15,268	\$ 551	\$ 551
Essex	-	\$ 150	\$ 4,303	\$ 4,303
Gloucester	\$ 10,324	\$ 8,633	\$ 1,969	\$ 1,969
Hudson	na	na	na	na
Hunterdon	\$ 13,275	\$ 16,780	\$ 15,576	\$ (26,424)
Mercer	\$ 1,725	\$ 2,997	\$ 2,373	\$ 2,373
Middlesex	\$ 4,810	\$ 4,882	\$ 21,296	\$ 11,296
Monmouth	\$ 17,406	\$ 24,109	\$ 3,345	\$ 3,345
Morris	\$ 47,271	\$ 25,669	\$ 42,489	\$ 42,467
Ocean	\$ 15,001	\$ 12,415	\$ 6,062	\$ 6,062
Passaic	-	\$ 1,650	\$ 1,045	\$ 1,045
Salem	\$ 8,095	\$ 10,580	\$ 18,611	\$ 18,611
Somerset	\$ 92,398	\$ 43,543	\$ 91,948	\$ 90,872
Sussex	\$ 8,604	\$ 9,386	\$ 13,813	\$ 11,339
Union	na	na	na	na
Warren	\$ 8,150	\$ 4,625	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,100
<b>Republicans -Total</b>	<b>\$ 460,969</b>	<b>\$ 391,220</b>	<b>\$ 315,861</b>	<b>\$ 706,740</b>

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by 5 p.m. April 20. They have yet to be verified by ELEC and should be considered preliminary. Interested parties are encouraged to review individual reports at ELEC's website ([www.elec.state.nj.us](http://www.elec.state.nj.us)).

###