



# NEWS RELEASE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:  
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County party committees continued to tread water as national politics dominates New Jersey elections this year and the parties don't appear to be focusing yet on next year's gubernatorial and legislative showdown.

Preliminary numbers indicate that through three quarters, the parties together have raised nearly \$3.7 million and spent just under \$3.2 million, Jeff Brindle, Executive Director of the NJ Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), announced today.

**Table 1**  
**County Party Fundraising and Spending**  
**through Third Quarter 2008-2012**

YEAR	RAISED	SPENT
2008	\$ 5,534,652	\$ 5,086,016
2009	\$ 7,146,798	\$ 6,190,215
2010	\$ 4,402,872	\$ 4,288,652
2011	\$ 4,798,299	\$ 3,694,423
2012	\$ 3,662,456	\$ 3,189,326

"These third quarter totals are the lowest we've seen for at least the past half decade," Brindle said.

"There are many factors that may help explain the dropoff. Pay-to-Play restrictions are probably the biggest one since they have sharply curtailed contributions from public contractors to county parties."

"Some individuals affiliated with parties appear to be creating special interest PACs as conduits to try to help county parties recoup some of this banned contractor cash. These PACs are also contributing money directly to candidates, further circumventing Pay-to-Play," he said.

Brindle said the sluggish economy also has put a damper on political fundraising. And former Gov. Jon Corzine, a previous major contributor to Democratic party committees, no longer is participating in state and local campaigns, he said.

"The numbers also are lagging because presidential and congressional campaigns are the main focus this year in New Jersey. We would expect fundraising to pick up once next year's gubernatorial and legislative elections get into full swing," Brindle added.

Brindle said Democratic committees continued to outraise and outspend Republican committees. They also reported larger cash-on-hand reserves. Republicans reported a larger net worth, meaning cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the committee.

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Located at: 28 W. State Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Trenton, New Jersey

**Table 2**  
**Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County Party Committees**  
**from January 1 through September 30, 2012**

	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH*</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 2,154,287	\$ 1,984,631	\$ 1,018,433	\$ 571,718
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 1,508,169	\$ 1,204,695	\$ 555,215	\$ 952,807
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>\$ 3,662,456</b>	<b>\$ 3,189,326</b>	<b>\$ 1,573,648</b>	<b>\$ 1,524,525</b>

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

**Table 3**  
**Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County Party Committees**  
**from January 1 through September 30, 2008**

	<b>RAISED-2008</b>	<b>SPENT-2008</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH*</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$ 3,507,823	\$ 3,459,122	\$ 1,809,356	\$ 1,559,916
Republican County Party Committees	\$ 2,026,829	\$ 1,626,894	\$ 591,600	\$ 847,314
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>\$ 5,534,652</b>	<b>\$ 5,086,016</b>	<b>\$ 2,400,956</b>	<b>\$ 2,407,230</b>
Difference 2012 versus 2008				
Democratic County Party Committees	-39%	-43%	-44%	-63%
Republican County Party Committees	-26%	-26%	-6%	12%
<b>Total- Both Parties</b>	<b>-34%</b>	<b>-37%</b>	<b>-34%</b>	<b>-37%</b>

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

“Both parties are raising and spending less money than they did four years ago, and have less cash-on-hand. Republicans did report slightly higher net worth,” Brindle said.

Among all committees, the Passaic County Democratic Committee continues to report the highest fundraising, spending and cash-on-hand totals. Five Democratic counties have raised more than \$150,000 this year- Bergen, Camden, Gloucester, Middlesex and Passaic. Three Democratic committees reported a negative net worth- Burlington, Hudson and Monmouth.

**Table 4**  
**Campaign Finance Activity by Democratic County Party Committees from**  
**January 1 through September 30, 2012**

<b>DEMOCRATS</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH</b>
Atlantic	\$ 31,767	\$ 33,401	\$ 16,202	\$ 16,202
Bergen	\$ 241,347	\$ 246,495	\$ 2,445	\$ 160,557
Burlington	\$ 59,223	\$ 29,366	\$ 18,570	\$ (74,397)
Camden	\$ 312,126	\$ 251,859	\$ 134,934	\$ 134,934
Cape May	\$ 6,702	\$ 3,538	\$ 3,863	\$ 3,863
Cumberland**	\$ 11,170	\$ 10,961	\$ 4,306	\$ 4,306
Essex	\$ 105,290	\$ 156,903	\$ 84,541	\$ 84,541
Gloucester	\$ 350,971	\$ 157,868	\$ 213,215	\$ 133,797
Hudson	\$ 46,643	\$ 46,709	\$ 3,698	\$ (358,332)
Hunterdon	\$ 37,537	\$ 30,390	\$ 20,912	\$ 20,912
Mercer	\$ 25,043	\$ 55,479	\$ 40,550	\$ 40,550
Middlesex	\$ 195,580	\$ 278,760	\$ 26,166	\$ 26,166
Monmouth**	\$ 4,996	\$ 26,230	\$ 957	\$ (77,068)
Morris	\$ 47,835	\$ 47,270	\$ 10,778	\$ 10,778
Ocean	\$ 35,633	\$ 27,195	\$ 24,071	\$ 40,238
Passaic	\$ 458,035	\$ 400,344	\$ 301,239	\$ 301,239
Salem	\$ 14,370	\$ 15,821	\$ 52,872	\$ 52,872
Somerset	\$ 59,485	\$ 42,854	\$ 20,539	\$ 20,539
Sussex	\$ 8,811	\$ 6,845	\$ 4,961	\$ 4,961
Union	\$ 101,723	\$ 116,343	\$ 33,614	\$ 25,060
Warren	na	na	na	na
<b>Democrats-Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,154,287</b>	<b>\$ 1,984,631</b>	<b>\$ 1,018,433</b>	<b>\$ 571,718</b>

\*\* Through June 30, 2012

Among Republicans, the Burlington County Republican Committee had the highest totals for fundraising, spending and net worth. Three Republican committees have raised more than \$150,000 this year- Bergen, Burlington, and Somerset. Somerset also reported the largest cash-on-hand. One Republican committee- Hunterdon- reported a negative net worth.

**Table 5**  
**Campaign Finance Activity by Republican County Party Committees**  
**from January 1 through September 30, 2012**

<b>REPUBLICANS</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH</b>
Atlantic	\$ 26,668	\$ 31,976	\$ 6,617	\$ 6,617
Bergen	\$ 192,185	\$ 147,772	\$ 63,653	\$ 63,653
Burlington	\$ 348,048	\$ 337,582	\$ 27,061	\$ 469,819
Camden	\$ 22,606	\$ 29,428	\$ 7,748	\$ 8,640
Cape May	\$ 87,440	\$ 61,789	\$ 43,938	\$ 43,938
Cumberland	\$ 73,123	\$ 48,814	\$ 31,313	\$ 31,313
Essex	\$ 22,410	\$ 13,529	\$ 13,334	\$ 13,334
Gloucester	\$ 47,084	\$ 38,674	\$ 8,688	\$ 8,688
Hudson***	na	na	na	na
Hunterdon	\$ 33,220	\$ 36,011	\$ 16,290	\$ (25,710)
Mercer	\$ 6,975	\$ 7,606	\$ 3,014	\$ 3,014
Middlesex**	\$ 36,024	\$ 18,006	\$ 37,977	\$ 37,977
Monmouth	\$ 127,177	\$ 104,422	\$ 32,802	\$ 32,802
Morris	\$ 68,301	\$ 67,743	\$ 21,444	\$ 21,444
Ocean	\$ 75,861	\$ 44,931	\$ 34,406	\$ 34,406
Passaic	na	na	\$ 592	\$ 592
Salem	\$ 27,585	\$ 43,330	\$ 5,351	\$ 5,351
Somerset	\$ 254,616	\$ 108,312	\$ 189,397	\$ 186,612
Sussex	\$ 31,279	\$ 37,852	\$ 8,021	\$ 6,748
Union*	\$ 11,611	\$ 10,887	\$ 3,068	\$ 3,068
Warren	\$ 15,956	\$ 16,031	\$ 501	\$ 501
<b>Republicans-Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,508,169</b>	<b>\$ 1,204,695</b>	<b>\$ 555,215</b>	<b>\$ 952,807</b>

\* Through March 31, 2012

\*\* Through June 30, 2012

\*\*\* Does not plan to raise or spend more than \$4,900 per year reporting threshold

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by noon Monday, October 22, 2012. They have yet to be verified by ELEC and should be considered preliminary. The reports are available on ELEC's website at [www.elec.state.nj.us](http://www.elec.state.nj.us). ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw](http://www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/elecnj](http://www.twitter.com/elecnj)).

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