



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:
April 19, 2017

The “Big Six” fundraising committees enjoyed their best first quarter fund-raising since 2013 and also have socked away the largest reserves since then, according to an analysis by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

TABLE 1
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY “BIG SIX”
AT END OF 1ST QUARTER BY YEAR

BOTH PARTIES	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH	STATE ELECTIONS
2007	\$1,667,146	\$ 880,509	\$5,365,847	\$5,181,835	Senate and Assembly
2008	\$1,799,469	\$1,010,346	\$1,166,446	\$ 180,217	
2009	\$1,741,580	\$ 754,923	\$2,844,159	\$2,649,177	Governor and Assembly
2010	\$ 885,123	\$ 694,309	\$1,474,272	\$1,290,437	
2011	\$1,738,239	\$ 777,847	\$2,500,926	\$2,191,738	Senate and Assembly
2012	\$1,293,649	\$1,617,192	\$ 704,601	\$ 503,541	
2013	\$1,464,033	\$ 583,756	\$2,564,802	\$2,421,411	Governor and Both Houses
2014	\$ 600,526	\$ 694,221	\$ 750,904	\$ 443,050	
2015	\$ 973,494	\$1,017,051	\$1,623,550	\$ 994,137	Assembly
2016	\$ 673,038	\$ 555,175	\$1,097,091	\$ 415,590	
2017	\$1,076,186	\$ 544,948	\$2,198,343	\$2,064,647	Governor and Both Houses

The two state parties and four legislative leadership PACs raised \$1,076,186 and reported \$2,198,343 in cash-on-hand for the first three months of 2017. Those are the best totals since 2013, which was the last year when both the state Senate and Assembly were facing reelection along with the governor’s seat.

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said both parties clearly are gearing up for a big election year. While noting some improvement in their fund-raising, he added that contribution totals still are well below levels in the early 2000s.

“Parties still are having a hard time raising money due largely to tight restrictions on contributions by public contractors and surging independent spending by special interest groups,” he said.

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“We will continue to work this year with members of both parties on legislation that could strengthen the finances of party committees. Party committees are more accountable and transparent than many of the independent groups that now dominate state and national elections,” he said.

Recommendations include vastly streamlining so-called “pay-to-play” contribution restrictions by creating a single law, letting public contractors make larger contributions to parties, raising contribution limits that apply to other contributors to offset inflation, and making independent special interest groups comply with the same disclosure laws as parties and candidates.

During the first quarter, Democratic committees raised and spent more money than Republican committees. Republicans reported more cash-on-hand and a greater net worth.

**TABLE 2
FUNDRAISING BY “BIG SIX” COMMITTEES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2017**

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT**	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 31,543	\$ 83,763	\$ 28,570	\$ (10,623)
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 125,100	\$ 64,982	\$ 666,004	\$ 666,004
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 119,100	\$ 39,697	\$ 435,107	\$ 435,107
Sub Total-Republicans	\$ 275,743	\$188,442	\$1,129,681	\$1,090,488
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$ 519,431	\$ 94,153	\$ 539,690	\$ 495,626
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 119,452	\$ 92,691	\$ 404,029	\$ 384,029
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 161,560	\$169,662	\$ 124,943	\$ 94,504
Sub Total-Democrats	\$ 800,443	\$356,506	\$1,068,662	\$ 974,159
Total-Both Parties	\$1,076,186	\$544,948	\$2,198,343	\$2,064,647

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

**Some spending totals exceed fundraising totals because the committee dipped into reserve or incurred debt.

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.state.nj.us. ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/elecny).

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