



NEWS RELEASE

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Despite the absence of state elections this fall, the so-called Big Six committees through two quarters combined have raised and spent the most money in more than five years, according to the latest reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

The two major state parties and four legislative leadership committees raised a total of \$2.9 million during the first six months of 2018. That is the most since 2013. The committees together spent \$2.4 million- the most since 2012.

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

BOTH PARTIES	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*	STATE ELECTIONS**
2007	\$5,776,859	\$2,328,316	\$8,015,277	\$7,911,808	S/A
2008	\$3,438,622	\$2,238,356	\$1,577,591	\$ 918,612	
2009	\$3,653,103	\$1,811,223	\$3,682,236	\$3,548,060	G/A
2010	\$2,175,742	\$1,637,673	\$1,835,526	\$1,666,742	
2011	\$3,684,467	\$1,915,020	\$3,329,478	\$3,051,770	S/A
2012	\$2,988,610	\$2,590,387	\$1,426,366	\$1,193,221	
2013	\$3,382,737	\$1,874,081	\$3,189,889	\$3,093,711	G/S/A
2014	\$1,276,109	\$1,319,714	\$ 800,994	\$ 287,246	
2015	\$2,476,599	\$1,983,389	\$2,160,318	\$1,624,601	A
2016	\$1,661,559	\$1,513,987	\$1,127,086	\$ 979,443	
2017	\$2,751,561	\$2,205,599	\$2,263,401	\$2,178,899	G/S/A
2018	\$2,991,664	\$2,416,353	\$1,321,894	\$1,237,392	

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

**G=Gubernatorial; S=Senate;A=Assembly

Most of the improvement has come because Democrats report significant increases in fundraising, spending and cash-on-hand compared to four years ago. Republican finances were down during the same period.

Democratic coffers may have benefited from the election of Phil Murphy in last year’s gubernatorial election last November following eight years in office by Republican Governor Chris Christie. Democrats also control both legislative houses and expanded their margin in the Assembly in 2017.

Even so, Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, said the combined Big Six fund-raising total is 48 percent below the comparable 2007 amount. While the spending total is slightly higher this year compared to 2007, the cash-on-hand total is 84 percent less, he added.

“It is encouraging to see some improvement in Big Six fundraising this year. But the committees have a long way to go before they are as flush as 2007, particularly in comparison to independent groups, which, just last year spent \$48 million to influence the gubernatorial and legislative elections.”

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Brindle said legislative changes recommended by ELEC would bolster party fund-raising while checking the growing dominance of independent special interest groups in today's elections. These include major simplification of state pay-to-pay laws, more disclosure by independent groups, and higher contribution limits for party committees.

So far in 2017, Democrats have raised five times more funds than Republicans and reported nearly three times more cash-on-hand.

TABLE 2
FUNDRAISING BY "BIG SIX" COMMITTEES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2018

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 189,613	\$ 198,204	\$ 94,198	\$ 94,198
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 149,414	\$ 101,485	\$ 115,114	\$ 115,114
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 126,300	\$ 92,939	\$ 123,680	\$ 123,680
SubTotal-Republicans	\$ 465,327	\$ 392,628	\$ 332,992	\$ 332,992
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$1,839,865	\$1,503,984	\$ 722,077	\$ 688,013
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 186,894	\$ 111,791	\$ 148,336	\$ 128,336
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 499,578	\$ 407,950	\$ 118,489	\$ 88,051
SubTotal-Democrats	\$2,526,337	\$2,023,725	\$ 988,902	\$ 904,400
Total-Both Parties	\$2,991,664	\$2,416,353	\$1,321,894	\$1,237,392

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

A comparison with comparable figures from 2014 shows Democratic fundraising, spending and cash reserves all are higher than four years earlier. Republicans are down in fundraising, spending and cash-on-hand though their net worth figure is better.

TABLE 3
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITIES FOR "BIG SIX"
COMMITTEES THROUGH SECOND QUARTER
2014 VERSUS 2018

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
2014	\$ 562,829	\$ 729,419	\$ 342,721	\$ (108,048)
2018	\$ 465,327	\$ 392,628	\$ 332,992	\$ 332,992
Difference-Dollars	\$ (97,502)	\$ (336,791)	\$ (9,729)	\$ 441,040
Difference-%	-17%	-46%	-3%	408%
DEMOCRATS				
2014	\$ 713,280	\$ 590,295	\$ 458,273	\$ 395,294
2018	\$2,526,337	\$2,023,725	\$ 988,902	\$ 904,400
Difference-Dollars	\$1,813,057	\$1,433,430	\$ 530,629	\$ 509,106
Difference-%	254%	243%	116%	129%
BOTH PARTIES				
2014	\$1,276,109	\$1,319,714	\$ 800,994	\$ 287,246
2018	\$2,991,664	\$2,416,353	\$1,321,894	\$1,237,392
Difference-Dollars	\$1,715,555	\$1,096,639	\$ 520,900	\$ 950,146
Difference-%	134%	83%	65%	331%

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

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).