



NEWS RELEASE

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LOOMING STATE ELECTIONS PERK UP “BIG SIX” FUNDRAISING DURING FIRST QUARTER 2021

First quarter fundraising by the two state parties and four legislative leadership PACs reached nearly \$2.3 million, the highest mark in more than a decade, according to reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, attributed the fundraising spike to the fact that the governor’s seat and all 120 legislative positions are up for reelection this fall.

“Another factor is that the state’s political leaders, like everyone else, appear to be adjusting to the COVID-19 pandemic, which shut down several fund-raisers last year at this time. Fundraising for the first three months of 2021 is nearly triple the amount raised for the same period in 2020,” Brindle said.

**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
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
2018	\$1,902,503	\$1,832,307	\$ 814,754	\$ 730,251	
2019	\$ 981,798	\$ 634,650	\$1,868,717	\$1,728,640	Assembly
2020	\$ 819,384	\$ 679,768	\$ 799,682	\$ 719,825	
2021	\$2,277,202	\$1,338,955	\$2,309,631	\$2,245,225	Governor and Both Houses

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Both Republicans and Democrats raised significantly more funds during this year’s first quarter than they did in 2017.

Republican fund-raising was up 81 percent while Democrats took in 122 percent more during the three-month period. While Republicans reported less cash-on-hand than four years ago, Democrats showed a 58 percent increase.

TABLE 2
FUNDRAISING BY “BIG SIX” COMMITTEES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2021

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT**	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 128,936	\$ 114,512	\$ 173,276	\$ 173,276
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 246,294	\$ 90,398	\$ 198,537	\$ 198,537
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 124,119	\$ 59,480	\$ 245,195	\$ 245,195
Sub-Total- Republicans	\$ 499,349	\$ 264,390	\$ 617,008	\$ 617,008
Versus First Quarter 2017 (Dollars)	\$ 223,606	\$ 75,948	\$ (512,673)	\$ (473,480)
Versus First Quarter 2017 (Percent)	81%	40%	-45%	-43%
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$1,200,870	\$ 488,953	\$ 899,543	\$ 885,575
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 357,408	\$ 204,617	\$ 594,733	\$ 574,733
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 219,575	\$ 380,995	\$ 198,347	\$ 167,909
Sub-Total- Democrats	\$1,777,853	\$1,074,565	\$1,692,623	\$1,628,217
Versus First Quarter 2017 (Dollars)	\$ 977,410	\$ 718,059	\$ 623,961	\$ 654,058
Versus First Quarter 2017 (Percent)	122%	201%	58%	67%
Total- Both Parties				
Total- Both Parties	\$2,277,202	\$1,338,955	\$2,309,631	\$2,245,225
Versus First Quarter 2017 (Dollars)	\$1,201,016	\$ 794,007	\$ 111,288	\$ (436,430)
Versus First Quarter 2017 (Percent)	112%	146%	5%	-21%

*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 reserves or incurred debt.

Brindle said while the latest Big Six reports are encouraging, they reflect just first quarter collections. Annual fund-raising totals are a better benchmark, and they have been in steady decline for the six committees since peaking in 2001.

“ELEC believes party committees are important because they are more accountable and transparent than so-called “outside” independent spenders that are growing more dominant,” Brindle said. “We will continue to work with lawmakers to try to enact new laws that will hopefully redirect more funds back into party coffers.”

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/elecnj).