



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:  
October 30, 2015

County party coffers continue to feel the pinch of several trends that have caused a steady decline in party fundraising during the past decade, according to the latest reports filed with the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

County parties combined have raised just \$4.8 million during the first nine months of 2015. That total is lower than comparable sums for 2009 and 2013 but higher than 2011. All three of those years also featured statewide elections.

County parties also have spent \$4.2 million through September 30, 2015. That is also less than 2009 and 2013, but more than 2011. Cash reserves totaling \$2.1 million trailed all three recent election years.

**Table 1**  
**Campaign Finance Activity of County**  
**Parties through Third Quarter- 2009-2015**

YEAR	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	MAJOR STATE ELECTION?
2009	\$7,398,692	\$6,375,763	\$2,952,853	Yes
2010	\$4,402,872	\$4,288,652	\$2,365,419	No
2011	\$4,798,299	\$3,694,423	\$2,134,219	Yes
2012	\$3,662,456	\$3,189,326	\$1,573,648	No
2013	\$5,319,655	\$4,447,403	\$2,456,395	Yes
2014	\$4,410,348	\$3,764,798	\$1,980,600	No
2015	\$4,843,498	\$4,176,856	\$2,123,801	Yes

“These numbers reflect a long-term decline,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director.

“Even with Assembly candidates and county officials on the ballot this fall, county party officials are having trouble matching fundraising totals in previous elections,” he said.

“Several recent trends have dampened fundraising for party officials. Those trends include a rise in independent spending by special interest groups, a big drop in contributions from public contractors due to strict laws against pay-to-play, and contribution limits that have remain unchanged since 2005 except for gubernatorial candidates,” he said.

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Brindle said ELEC has recommended several bipartisan changes to make it easier for party committees to raise funds. “Hopefully, these recommendations will help shift spending from independent groups back to party officials, who are more transparent and accountable,” Brindle said.

The proposed reforms include streamlining state pay-to-play laws into a single state law, raising the contribution limit for contractors from \$300 to \$1,000, restricting contractor contributions to political action committees (PACs), and raising other contribution limits based on ELEC-recommended inflation adjustments.

Comparing performance by party, Democrats raised and spent more money than Republicans during the first nine months of the year, and also reported larger cash-on-hand.

Democrats raised less funds than they did four years ago but their spending was up. They have less cash heading into the final days of this year’s election than they did four years ago. Republicans have raised more this year than in 2011, spent about the same, and have larger cash reserves.

**Table 2**  
**Summary of Campaign Finance Activity by County Committees**  
**January 1 through September 30, 2015**  
**2011 Versus 2015**

	<b>RAISED 2011</b>	<b>SPENT 2011**</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND 2011</b>	<b>NET WORTH 2011*</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$3,088,330	\$2,104,344	\$1,570,616	\$1,246,171
Republican County Party Committees	\$1,709,969	\$1,590,079	\$ 563,603	\$ 810,705
<b>TOTAL-BOTH PARTIES</b>	\$4,798,299	\$3,694,423	\$2,134,219	\$2,056,876
	<b>RAISED 2015</b>	<b>SPENT 2015**</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND 2015</b>	<b>NET WORTH 2015*</b>
Democratic County Party Committees	\$2,900,986	\$2,586,700	\$1,266,910	\$1,089,629
Republican County Party Committees	\$1,942,512	\$1,590,156	\$ 856,891	\$1,727,162
<b>TOTAL-BOTH PARTIES</b>	\$4,843,498	\$4,176,856	\$2,123,801	\$2,816,791
Difference 2010 versus 2015				
Democratic County Party Committees	-6%	23%	-19%	-13%
Republican County Party Committees	14%	0.005%	52%	113%
<b>TOTAL-BOTH PARTIES</b>	1%	13%	-0.5%	37%

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

\*\*Spending may exceed fundraising due to reserves carried over from previous year.

Among Democratic county committees, twelve- Atlantic, Bergen, Camden, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Passaic, Somerset and Union- have raised more than \$100,000 this year. Camden and Passaic reported cash-on-hand and net worth above \$100,000. Burlington and Hudson Counties reported a negative net worth after adjusting for debts.

**Table 3**  
**Campaign Finance Activity of**  
**Democratic County Party Committees**  
**January 1 through September 30, 2015**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH</b>
Atlantic	\$ 137,434	\$ 133,014	\$ 39,008	\$ 39,008
Bergen	\$ 356,765	\$ 277,958	\$ 83,007	\$ 166,009
Burlington	\$ 20,805	\$ 14,695	\$ 6,537	\$ (79,430)
Camden	\$ 336,195	\$ 269,102	\$ 194,901	\$ 194,901
Cape May	\$ 79,045	\$ 73,289	\$ 9,947	\$ 9,947
Cumberland	\$ 134,799	\$ 142,355	\$ 9,744	\$ 9,744
Essex	\$ 240,505	\$ 255,669	\$ 36,204	\$ 36,204
Gloucester	\$ 190,473	\$ 177,366	\$ 96,679	\$ 73,802
Hudson	\$ 234,712	\$ 292,020	\$ 40,619	\$ (118,433)
Hunterdon	\$ 7,905	\$ 17,754	\$ 8,969	\$ 8,969
Mercer	\$ 50,466	\$ 54,925	\$ 58,336	\$ 58,336
Middlesex	\$ 224,687	\$ 205,312	\$ 46,182	\$ 46,182
Monmouth	\$ 176,559	\$ 158,972	\$ 2,017	\$ 2,017
Morris	\$ 65,100	\$ 45,694	\$ 26,121	\$ 26,121
Ocean	\$ 29,279	\$ 26,712	\$ 9,340	\$ 25,507
Passaic	\$ 354,584	\$ 195,424	\$ 476,187	\$ 476,187
Salem	\$ 34,095	\$ 13,551	\$ 32,921	\$ 32,921
Somerset	\$ 104,244	\$ 93,699	\$ 6,419	\$ 6,419
Sussex	\$ 15,015	\$ 8,148	\$ 10,164	\$ 10,164
Union	\$ 108,319	\$ 131,041	\$ 73,608	\$ 65,054
Warren	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>DEMOCRATS-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,900,986</b>	<b>\$2,586,700</b>	<b>\$1,266,910</b>	<b>\$1,098,629</b>

NA means not available.

Among Republican county committees, five- Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Monmouth and Somerset- have raised more than \$100,000 this year. Somerset reported a cash reserve larger than \$100,000. Somerset and Burlington both reported a net worth larger than \$100,000.

**Table 4**  
**Campaign Finance Activity of**  
**Republican County Party Committees**  
**January 1 through September 30, 2015**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>CASH-ON-HAND</b>	<b>NET WORTH</b>
Atlantic	\$ 132,213	\$ 151,060	\$ 23,957	\$ 23,957
Bergen	\$ 169,982	\$ 140,250	\$ 51,807	\$ 51,807
Burlington	\$ 567,006	\$ 519,803	\$ 57,356	\$ 951,379
Camden	\$ 15,178	\$ 11,173	\$ 23,319	\$ 23,319
Cape May	\$ 85,933	\$ 46,192	\$ 48,310	\$ 48,310
Cumberland	\$ 50,046	\$ 27,058	\$ 44,555	\$ 44,555
Essex	\$ 13,000	\$ 14,852	\$ 421	\$ 421
Gloucester	\$ 36,685	\$ 39,523	\$ 1,413	\$ 1,413
Hudson*				
Hunterdon	\$ 34,281	\$ 47,988	\$ 9,056	\$ 9,056
Mercer	\$ 14,859	\$ 14,862	\$ 2,865	\$ 2,865
Middlesex	\$ 38,875	\$ 15,910	\$ 46,281	\$ 46,281
Monmouth	\$ 178,710	\$ 149,775	\$ 53,816	\$ 34,316
Morris	\$ 90,105	\$ 63,087	\$ 41,725	\$ 40,266
Ocean	\$ 60,432	\$ 61,098	\$ 2,589	\$ 2,589
Passaic**	\$ 34,394	\$ 34,962	\$ 1,821	\$ 1,821
Salem	\$ 37,644	\$ 67,727	\$ 2,383	\$ 2,383
Somerset	\$ 289,655	\$ 116,058	\$371,199	\$ 370,157
Sussex	\$ 20,380	\$ 15,661	\$ 9,298	\$ 9,298
Union	\$ 57,251	\$ 37,857	\$ 54,230	\$ 54,230
Warren	\$ 15,883	\$ 15,260	\$ 10,490	\$ 8,739
<b>REPUBLICANS-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,942,512</b>	<b>\$1,590,156</b>	<b>\$856,891</b>	<b>\$1,727,162</b>

\*Does not expect to spend more than \$5,500 this year.

\*\*Second Quarter Totals

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by noon October 28, 2015. They have yet to be verified by ELEC staff, 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)).