



NEWS RELEASE

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Combined County Party Fundraising Continues to Thrive

County political party committees are raising funds at a healthy clip even during an “off-year” when federal elections are the main focus this fall, according to quarterly reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Combined fundraising for those committees during the first nine months of 2024 totaled \$8.4 million. That figure is 66 percent higher than the average for eight federal election years since 2010.

Table 1
Fund-raising by County Party
Committees Through September 30, 2024

| PERIOD | RAISED | SPENT | CASH |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2024 (Federal Election Year) | \$8,413,909 | \$7,265,304 | \$5,026,821 |
| Average for Eight Federal Election Years- 2010-2024 | \$5,071,353 | \$4,565,470 | \$2,928,266 |
| 2024 Versus Average | 66% | 59% | 72% |

Spending so far has reached nearly \$7.3 million, which beats the average by 59 percent.

At \$5 million, cash-on-hand is 72 percent above the trend-line.

Table 2
County Party Committee Fund-raising
During Eight Federal Election Years

| YEAR | RAISED | SPENT | CASH |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2010 | \$4,526,290 | \$4,393,487 | \$2,365,419 |
| 2012 | \$3,662,456 | \$3,189,326 | \$1,573,648 |
| 2014 | \$4,410,348 | \$3,764,798 | \$1,980,600 |
| 2016 | \$4,199,012 | \$3,625,063 | \$2,328,583 |
| 2018 | \$5,769,747 | \$4,793,929 | \$3,571,919 |
| 2020 | \$3,750,559 | \$3,723,794 | \$2,399,612 |
| 2022 | \$5,838,502 | \$5,768,061 | \$4,179,524 |
| 2024 | \$8,413,909 | \$7,265,304 | \$5,026,821 |

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County party committees continue to benefit from the enactment last year of the most sweeping overhaul of campaign finance laws since 2004. The new law (P.L. 2023, Chapter 30) was signed April 3, 2023, by Governor Phil Murphy.

The law doubled the maximum annual contribution to county party committees from \$37,500 to \$75,000.

In addition, the law permitted the 42 county parties and two state parties to create new “housekeeping” accounts earmarked solely for administrative expenses. A donor can give \$75,000 to regular campaign accounts plus \$37,500 to the administrative accounts for a total of \$112,500 each year.

So far, county parties have received an extra \$212,500 from contributors who would have been limited to \$37,500 prior to the 2023 legislation.

The new law also ended tight contribution caps on public contractors to party committees. Before the new law, contractors faced the risk of losing public contractors if they made contributions of more than \$300. Contractors now can give up to the \$112,500 maximum just like other contributors. To date, contractors, mainly engineering and law firms, have given \$1,795,119 to county parties.

Along with benefits from the 2023 legislative changes, House candidates have contributed \$243,918 through September 30, while U.S. Senate candidates have given \$91,820.

Table 3
Extra Contributions Due to 2023
Legislation or Federal Elections

| SOURCE | AMOUNT |
|--|-------------------------|
| Public Contractors | \$1,795,119 |
| Federal Candidates | \$ 305,738 ¹ |
| Extra Windfall from Contributions Above \$37,500 | \$ 212,500 |
| Total | \$2,313,357 |

The \$2.3 million boost represents more than 27 percent of the \$8.4 million in county fund-raising through September 30, 2024.

¹ \$335,738 total reduced by \$30,000 to avoid double-counting. The \$30,000 is included in the \$212,500 windfall.

Eleven Democratic county party committees- Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Passaic, Somerset and Union- reported cash-on-hand totals above \$100,000.

Table 4
Campaign Finance Activity of
Democratic County Party Committees
January 1 through September 30, 2024

| COUNTY | RAISED | SPENT | CASH-ON-HAND | NET WORTH* |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Atlantic | \$ 84,241 | \$ 60,363 | \$ 26,226 | \$ 26,226 |
| Bergen | \$ 843,927 | \$ 383,265 | \$ 786,102 | \$ 786,102 |
| Burlington | \$ 257,425 | \$ 75,391 | \$ 236,628 | \$ 230,253 |
| Camden | \$ 380,157 | \$ 465,831 | \$ 196,638 | \$ 74,559 |
| Cape May | \$ 38,719 | \$ 23,283 | \$ 33,140 | \$ 33,140 |
| Cumberland | \$ 35,466 | \$ 29,351 | \$ 24,764 | \$ 24,764 |
| Essex | \$ 514,942 | \$ 535,396 | \$ 228,977 | \$ 228,977 |
| Gloucester | \$ 531,802 | \$ 266,130 | \$ 478,805 | \$ 459,969 |
| Hudson | \$ 272,519 | \$ 194,000 | \$ 107,114 | (\$ 45,735) |
| Hunterdon** | \$ 14,600 | \$ 33,760 | \$ 6,882 | \$ 6,882 |
| Mercer | \$ 38,362 | \$ 36,056 | \$ 343,021 | \$ 342,444 |
| Middlesex | \$ 872,198 | \$1,112,331 | \$ 118,485 | \$ 118,485 |
| Monmouth | \$ 182,157 | \$ 160,502 | \$ 27,518 | \$ 27,518 |
| Morris | \$ 136,770 | \$ 155,824 | \$ 39,135 | \$ 39,134 |
| Ocean | \$ 26,442 | \$ 29,155 | \$ 34,036 | \$ 50,203 |
| Passaic | \$ 889,590 | \$ 889,118 | \$ 243,356 | \$ 243,356 |
| Salem** | \$ 21,098 | \$ 41,481 | \$ 46,281 | \$ 46,281 |
| Somerset | \$ 259,602 | \$ 248,772 | \$ 238,274 | \$ 238,274 |
| Sussex | \$ 76,293 | \$ 53,464 | \$ 61,839 | \$ 61,839 |
| Union | \$ 378,892 | \$ 267,821 | \$ 510,715 | \$ 510,715 |
| Warren*** | \$ 2,965 | \$ 1,417 | \$ 3,365 | \$ 2,469 |
| Democrats-Total | \$5,858,166 | \$5,062,713 | \$3,791,302 | \$3,505,855 |

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

** Second quarter totals. ***First quarter totals.

Four Republican county party committees- Cape May, Cumberland, Monmouth, and Ocean- reported cash-on-hand totals above \$100,000.

Table 5
Campaign Finance Activity of
Republican County Party Committees
January 1 through September 30, 2024

| COUNTY | RAISED | SPENT | CASH-ON-HAND | NET WORTH* |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Atlantic | \$ 117,146 | \$ 146,029 | \$ 46,750 | \$ 46,750 |
| Bergen | \$ 151,250 | \$ 103,791 | \$ 58,587 | \$ 58,587 |
| Burlington | \$ 75,461 | \$ 63,453 | \$ 29,018 | \$ 538,433 |
| Camden | \$ 48,942 | \$ 35,999 | \$ 21,068 | \$ 21,037 |
| Cape May | \$ 160,375 | \$ 163,665 | \$ 364,446 | \$ 364,446 |
| Cumberland | \$ 139,563 | \$ 64,458 | \$ 117,394 | \$ 110,368 |
| Essex | \$ 50,000 | \$ 34,488 | \$ 18,321 | \$ 18,321 |
| Gloucester | \$ 18,665 | \$ 2,867 | \$ 15,798 | \$ 15,798 |
| Hudson** | \$ 0 | \$ 725 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Hunterdon | \$ 108,884 | \$ 112,551 | \$ 6,793 | (\$ 2,207) |
| Mercer | \$ 11,110 | \$ 7,064 | \$ 10,305 | \$ 10,305 |
| Middlesex | \$ 67,687 | \$ 64,310 | \$ 23,711 | \$ 23,479 |
| Monmouth | \$ 338,173 | \$ 303,080 | \$ 143,021 | \$ 143,021 |
| Morris | \$ 116,580 | \$ 114,925 | \$ 24,922 | \$ 19,722 |
| Ocean | \$ 523,995 | \$ 405,646 | \$ 128,574 | \$ 128,574 |
| Passaic | \$ 180,045 | \$ 169,060 | \$ 29,918 | \$ 3,149 |
| Salem | \$ 60,725 | \$ 39,751 | \$ 59,483 | \$ 59,483 |
| Somerset | \$ 103,457 | \$ 82,083 | \$ 40,502 | (\$ 5,251) |
| Sussex | \$ 63,866 | \$ 61,915 | \$ 13,288 | \$ 13,017 |
| Union | \$ 119,801 | \$ 124,754 | \$ 51,508 | \$ 51,508 |
| Warren | \$ 100,018 | \$ 101,978 | \$ 32,111 | \$ 32,111 |
| Republicans-Total | \$2,555,743 | \$2,202,591 | \$1,235,519 | \$1,650,649 |

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

**First quarter totals.

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by noon October 29, 2024. They have yet to be verified by ELEC staff and should be considered preliminary.

Individual reports can be reviewed on ELEC’s website (www.elec.nj.gov).

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