



NEWS RELEASE

Respond to:
P.O. Box 185
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0185
(609) 292-8700

CONTACT: JOSEPH W. DONOHUE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE
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Total Spending on Legislative Election Now Above \$27 Million

Spending by legislative candidates and independent expenditure-only filers has sailed past \$27 million with the November 4 election looming Tuesday, according to disclosure reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

More than \$22.4 million of that total- 83 percent- has been targeted on just ten of the state's 40 legislative districts.

Table 1
Top Ten Legislative Districts by Spending

Legislative District	Candidates	IEFs*	Total
8	\$ 1,592,766	\$3,036,563	\$ 4,629,329
21	\$ 2,369,646	\$1,099,745	\$ 3,469,390
11	\$ 2,071,165	\$ 655,107	\$ 2,726,271
16	\$ 1,776,997	\$ 830,430	\$ 2,607,427
38	\$ 1,759,717	\$ 779,705	\$ 2,539,422
3	\$ 1,268,003	\$1,215,438	\$ 2,483,441
4	\$ 1,070,263	\$1,093,479	\$ 2,163,742
25	\$ 452,450	\$ 262,371	\$ 714,822
19	\$ 649,052	none	\$ 649,052
33	\$ 339,887	\$ 117,409	\$ 457,296
Top Ten Districts	\$13,349,945	\$9,090,246	\$22,440,192
Totals- All 40 Districts	\$17,953,088	\$9,106,162	\$27,059,250
Percent Top Ten	74%	99.8%	83%

*Independent Expenditure-only Filers

The 8th Legislative District is one of only two in the state with one Democratic and one Republican Assembly member. In a year when Democrats are trying to maintain a 52 to 28 seat majority, it has drawn the most spending- \$4.6 million.

It is already one of the top ten most expensive campaigns in years with just the 80-member State Assembly on the ballot. Republican candidates and independent expenditure-only filers have spent more than Democrats in the district, which includes parts of Atlantic and Burlington County.

Table 2
Party Spending to Date in the
Eighth Legislative District

Filers	Democrats	Republicans	Totals
Candidates	\$1,027,514	\$ 565,252	\$1,592,766
Independent Expenditure-only Filers	\$ 976,292	\$2,060,271	\$3,036,563
Totals	\$2,003,806	\$2,625,523	\$4,629,329

Six other legislative districts - 21, 11, 16, 38, 3, and 4 - each have attracted more than \$2 million in spending. Generally, legislative districts with the heaviest spending tend to be the ones the two major parties hope to retain or shift in their favor.

Democrats, who have controlled the lower house since 2002, have raised nearly three times more funds, spent more than twice as much and reported four times more cash reserves heading into the election's final days.

Table 3
Party Breakdown of Legislative
Candidate Campaign Finance Activity

Parties	Raised	Spent	Cash-on-Hand
Democrats	\$20,114,193	\$12,580,668	\$7,533,525
Independents	\$ 2,531	\$ 2,326	\$ 205
Republicans	\$ 7,196,296	\$ 5,370,095	\$1,826,201
Grand Total	\$27,313,020	\$17,953,088	\$9,359,932

Incumbents of both parties enjoy a huge financial edge in the election. They have five times as much as challengers, spent almost four times as much and have nine times more cash in their campaign bank accounts.

Table 4
Breakdown by Incumbents and Challengers

Candidate Type	Raised	Spent	Cash
Incumbents	\$22,754,454	\$14,331,291	\$8,423,164
Challengers	\$ 4,558,566	\$ 3,621,798	\$ 936,768
Totals	\$27,313,020	\$17,953,088	\$9,359,932

At this point, 14 groups have filed reports with ELEC showing they have made independent expenditures in support of legislative candidates.

Table 5
Legislative District Spending to Date
by Independent Expenditure-only Filers¹

Filer	Democratic	Republican	Total
Middle Ground ²	\$2,519,495		\$2,519,495
Stronger Foundations		\$1,951,219	\$1,951,219
Republican State Leadership Committee ²		\$1,558,364	\$1,558,364
Community Affordability Project	\$1,256,100		\$1,256,100
American Representative Majority ³	\$ 839,713		\$ 839,713
Prosperity Rising ²	\$ 668,324		\$ 668,324
New Jersey Coalition of Real Estate	\$ 77,739	\$ 78,164	\$ 155,903
Garden State Forward ³	\$ 128,728		\$ 128,728
Women for a Stronger New Jersey ^{2 3}		\$ 13,500	\$ 13,500
New Jersey Right to Life PAC		\$ 5,684	\$ 5,684
Coalition Against Lawsuit Abuse Action PAC		\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Moveon.org ²	\$ 3,794		\$ 3,794
NRA Political Victory Fund ²		\$ 1,138	\$ 1,138
Unidosus Action PAC	\$ 200		\$ 200
Grand Total	\$5,494,093	\$3,612,069	\$9,106,162

¹ Includes only expenditures linked to a specific legislative candidate.

² Includes spending information available from 72/24 reports.

³ Includes expenses incurred but not yet paid.

Most of the reported campaign activity in this analysis reflected spending that occurred between October 4 and October 21. Some reported activity by independent expenditure-only committees came from 72/24 reports due after October 22 from candidates and independent expenditure-only committees organized as continuing political committees. Some independent expenditure committees not required to file 72/24 reports did so voluntarily.

All reports filed by candidate committees and independent expenditure-only filers are available online at ELEC's website at www.elec.nj.gov. Assistance in retrieving reports can be obtained by calling ELEC's help desk members at 609-292-8700.

A summary of legislative candidate data can be downloaded at: <https://www.elec.nj.gov/publicinformation/statistics.htm>.

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