



# NEWS RELEASE

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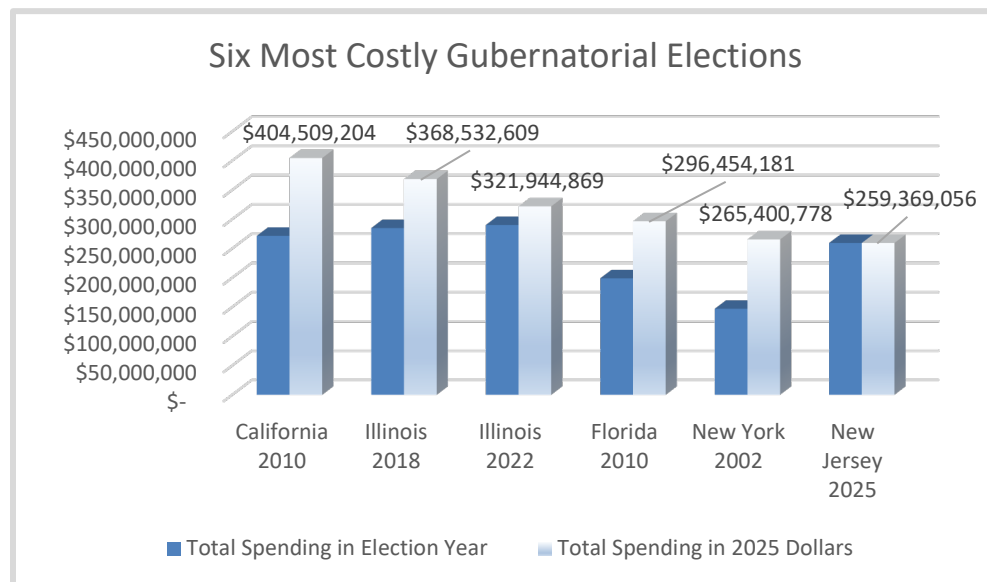
CONTACT: JOSEPH W. DONOHUE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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## New Jersey Gubernatorial Election is Sixth Most Expensive in US History

New Jersey gubernatorial candidates and the Independent Expenditure-Only Filers (IEFs) who promoted them shredded multiple records by spending more than \$259 million on this year's primary and general elections, according to an analysis by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

In nominal dollars<sup>1</sup>, New Jersey's spending total was the fourth largest amount of dollars ever spent during a gubernatorial election year nationally and ranked sixth when past totals were converted to 2025 dollars to reflect inflation's impact (for full details, see Table A1 in Appendix).



On a per capita basis, calculated by dividing total election spending by the state's population, New Jersey ranked first nationally (Table A3).

"It is now evident that this year's gubernatorial election was the most expensive New Jersey election in state history by a large margin. It was also one of the top ten costliest gubernatorial elections ever in the nation," said Joe Donohue, ELEC's deputy director.

<sup>1</sup> Money spent at the time of the election.

New Jersey's election also appears to be the most expensive gubernatorial election in which there was minimal candidate self-financing (Table A2).

The five elections ranking above the New Jersey election were inflated by \$665 million in personal funds spent by wealthy candidates, including three billionaires.

The amounts ranged from \$73 million in the 2010 Florida election to nearly \$221 million in the 2018 Illinois election, which was 78 percent funded by the candidates alone.

In the New Jersey race, 12 candidates who ran either in the primary or general election spent a combined \$125,890<sup>2</sup> of their personal wealth- just 0.05 percent of all expenditures.

Coincidentally, New Jersey's previous high was the 2005 gubernatorial election, which was dominated by two deep pocket candidates. U.S. Senator Jon Corzine, the winner, and Republican challenger Doug Forrester spent a combined \$73 million of their personal fortunes in that election.

The current election eclipses other New Jersey records as well:

- It was the most expensive combined election ever, featuring both the most expensive primary election and most expensive general election (Table 3).
- It led to the largest allotment of public funds ever to gubernatorial candidates (Table 4).
- It featured the most independent expenditures in a New Jersey election (Table 5).
- It was the first time independent spenders outspent candidates in a governor's race (Table 6).

The New Jersey race cost more than twice the \$117 million gubernatorial contest this year in Virginia. Those were the only two gubernatorial elections in 2025.

**Table 1**  
**Gubernatorial Campaign Finance**  
**Activity Through November 24, 2025**

<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Raised</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Cash On Hand</b>
Ciattarelli, Jack (Republican)	\$21,549,260	<b>\$ 19,820,426</b>	\$1,728,834
Sherrill, Mikie (Democrat)	\$21,125,629	<b>\$ 19,397,844</b>	\$1,727,786
Kaplan, Vic (Libertarian)	\$ 39,924	<b>\$ 39,058</b>	\$ 866
Kuniansky, Joanne (SWP)*	NA	NA	NA
Candidates - Totals	\$42,714,813	<b>\$ 39,257,327</b>	\$3,457,486
Independent Expenditure Only-Filers		<b>\$ 74,996,706</b>	
<b>Totals- General Election</b>		<b>\$114,254,033</b>	
Primary Election			
Candidates - Total		\$ 62,300,974	
Independent Expenditure Only-Filers- Total		\$ 82,814,049	
<b>Totals- Primary Election</b>		<b>\$145,115,023</b>	
<b>Total- Primary and General Election</b>		<b>\$259,369,056</b>	

\*Socialist Workers Party. She did not expect to spend more than \$6,900

<sup>2</sup> Net figure that deducts repayments received by candidates.

While the candidates reported more than \$3.4 million in leftover funds, any money remaining after they pay all campaign expenses must be returned to the state since they received public funds.

The \$259 million total is not final. Candidates may have post-election expenses. Some independent spenders involved in the race have not yet reported their final totals. They are organized as continuing political committees and will not file their post-election reports until mid-January.

Looking at overall spending in the election, spending by Governor-Elect Mikie Sherrill and supporters was significantly more than the sum spent by Republican opponent Jack Ciattarelli and supporters.

More than \$78.5 million was spent to elect Sherrill compared to the \$62.9 million in outlays by Ciattarelli and backers- a 56 percent to 44 percent margin.

In dollars, the total advantage was \$15.6 million.

**Table 2**  
**Candidate and Independent Spending in 2025 Election**  
**Ciattarelli Versus Sherrill**

<b>Election</b>	<b>Jack Ciattarelli</b>	<b>Mikie Sherrill</b>	<b>Both Candidates</b>
Primary- Candidate	\$ 9,204,860	\$ 9,283,760	\$ 18,488,619
Primary- IEFs	\$ 2,117,552	\$ 6,621,501	\$ 8,739,054
<b>Primary Totals</b>	<b>\$11,322,412</b>	<b>\$15,905,261</b>	<b>\$ 27,227,673</b>
General - Candidate	\$19,820,426	\$19,397,844	\$ 39,218,269
General- IEFs	\$31,760,201	\$43,236,505	\$ 74,996,706
<b>General Totals</b>	<b>\$51,580,627</b>	<b>\$62,634,349</b>	<b>\$114,214,975</b>
<b>Both Elections- Totals</b>	<b>\$62,903,039</b>	<b>\$78,539,609</b>	<b>\$141,442,648<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>100%</b>

The 2025 election totals left past spending records in tatters.

**Table 3**  
**2025 Election Totals Versus Previous**  
**Highs (Adjusted for Inflation)**

<b>Election</b>	<b>2025 Totals</b>	<b>Previous High*</b>	<b>Year</b>
Primary	\$145,115,023	\$ 57,084,172	2017
General	\$114,254,033	\$ 98,014,354	2005
Combined	\$259,369,056	\$145,022,039	2005

\*Inflation adjusted.

Candidates received a record \$63.4 million in public funds in 2025- nearly 55 percent more than the previous high set in 2001.

<sup>3</sup> Of the \$259 million spent overall on the election, losing candidates and their supporters spent the other \$118 million.

Two reasons were the largest number of primary candidates -eight- to qualify for public funds since 1989 and a significant increase in the maximum available public funds due to inflation adjustments applied every four years.

**Table 4**  
**Total Public Funds Disbursed to Gubernatorial Candidates**

Year	Recipients*	Primary	General	Total	In 2025 Dollars
2025	10	\$38,360,556	\$25,000,000	\$63,360,556	\$63,360,556
2001	5	\$11,100,000	\$11,200,000	\$22,300,000	\$40,921,130
1989	10	\$ 8,658,783	\$ 6,600,000	\$15,258,783	\$39,968,167
2021	4	\$ 8,700,000	\$21,000,000	\$29,700,000	\$35,600,103
1997	7	\$ 6,638,216	\$ 9,789,134	\$16,427,350	\$33,243,634

Along with a major infusion of public funds was an intensifying trend that set the 2025 gubernatorial election apart from past elections. While Independent Expenditure-Only Filers (IEFs)<sup>4</sup> have been a steadily growing influence in New Jersey elections since 2009, an unprecedented number participated in the 2025 election.

While these committees are barred by law from directly coordinating with candidates or party committees, they spent tens of millions of dollars more on campaign ads, get-out-the-vote drives and other election purposes.

ELEC disclosure reports show that at least 71 independent spending groups provided funds indirectly or directly for either the primary or general elections, or for both. Thirty-seven supported Sherrill, 18 backed Ciattarelli while the other 16 backed losing primary candidates. The result- 15 years after the *Citizens United v. FEC* case super-charged the use of independent expenditure committees nationally, spending by these groups in New Jersey topped candidate spending for the first time.

The general election expenditure total is just under \$75 million. Even more was spent during the primary election- \$83 million- bringing the grand total for both elections to almost \$158 million. The total represents 61 percent of all spending in the two elections. By comparison, 11 primary and four general election candidates spent a combined \$101 million- 39 percent.

**Table 5**  
**Breakdown of Spending Independent Committees Versus Candidates**

Groups	Primary	General	Combined	Percent
Independent Expenditure-Only Filers	\$ 82,814,049	\$ 74,996,706	\$157,810,755	61%
Candidates	\$ 62,300,974	\$ 39,257,327	\$101,558,301	39%
Grand Totals	\$145,115,023	\$114,254,033	\$259,369,056	100%

<sup>4</sup> Independent Expenditure-Only Filers are fund-raising committees that filed reports with ELEC in three ways: as independent expenditure committees that file reports 29 and 11 days before the general election and 20 days after; as continuing political committees that file reports every three months; or as filers of IND forms that list just expenditures, not contributions.

The previous high for independent spenders came during the 2021 election, when they sank nearly \$42 million in the race compared to almost \$49 million for candidates- a 46 percent to 54 percent share.

The 2025 elections were the first gubernatorial elections since the Elections Transparency Act (P.L 2023, c. 30) was signed into law, requiring Independent Expenditure Committees to register with ELEC and publicly disclose certain contributions and expenditures. In the five decades prior to the ETA, independent spending groups faced no such requirements.

The detailed reports filed by the new Independent Expenditure Committees better informed voters during the election and enabled a more complete analysis of spending in the 2025 gubernatorial elections.

**Table 6**  
**Independent Spending in New Jersey**  
**Gubernatorial Elections 2001-2025**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Independent Spenders</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent Independent Spenders</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>\$101,614,385</b>	<b>\$157,810,755</b>	<b>\$259,369,056</b>	<b>61%</b>
2021	\$ 48,957,465	\$ 41,709,084	\$ 90,666,549	46%
2017	\$ 55,286,371	\$ 24,504,152	\$ 79,790,523	31%
2013	\$ 26,821,334	\$ 21,350,619	\$ 48,171,953	44%
2009	\$ 56,099,909	\$ 14,080,168	\$ 70,180,077	20%
2005	\$ 87,724,988	\$ 407,748	\$ 88,132,736	0.5%
2001	\$ 41,233,708	\$ 6,783,119	\$ 48,016,827	14%

Using numbers not adjusted for inflation, the \$158 million spent in 2025 exceeded the combined total of \$109 million spent in the last six gubernatorial elections.

IEFs who supported Sherrill spent \$43.2 million in the general election or 58 percent. Those backing Ciattarelli spent \$31.8 million, or 42 percent.

**Table 7**  
**Spending by Independent Expenditure-Only Filers**

<b>Independent Expenditure-Only Filer</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Supports</b>
Greater Garden State	\$30,445,076	Sherrill
One Giant Leap PAC	\$ 7,093,405	Sherrill
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Victory Fund	\$ 1,789,343	Sherrill
Turnout Project	\$ 1,256,547	Sherrill
Service Workers International Union	\$ 685,700	Sherrill
VoteVets	\$ 573,241	Sherrill
Reproductive Freedom For New Jersey PAC	\$ 254,937	Sherrill
Working Families Party PAC	\$ 201,000	Sherrill
Planned Parenthood Votes	\$ 195,096	Sherrill
Prosperity Rising Inc	\$ 120,000	Sherrill
Make the Road Action NJ (some expenses incurred)	\$ 99,927	Sherrill
Community Change Voters NJ	\$ 89,583	Sherrill
JDCA PAC	\$ 59,838	Sherrill
Unidosus Action PAC	\$ 58,823	Sherrill
Garden State Forward	\$ 50,000	Sherrill
Building Forward	\$ 43,929	Sherrill
American Family Voices	\$ 41,686	Sherrill
Unite the Country	\$ 41,586	Sherrill
Growing Economic Opportunities	\$ 39,735	Sherrill
Clean Power Voters for Sherrill	\$ 38,805	Sherrill
Unite the Country	\$ 26,586	Sherrill
People for the American Way	\$ 19,000	Sherrill
Tech Oversight PAC	\$ 18,142	Sherrill
Everytown for Gun Safety Victory Fund (all expenses incurred)	\$ 10,769	Sherrill
Moveon.org PAC (some expenses incurred)	\$ 9,709	Sherrill
Join the Union	\$ 630	Sherrill
<b>Totals- Sherrill Supporters</b>	<b>\$43,236,505</b>	<b>58%</b>
Restore New Jersey	\$18,577,188	Ciattarelli
Change NJ Inc.	\$ 9,472,288	Ciattarelli
American Principles Project Big Family NJ PAC	\$ 1,068,788	Ciattarelli
Semper Libertas Action New Jersey PAC	\$ 539,210	Ciattarelli
Early Vote Action NJ Inc	\$ 506,763	Ciattarelli
Stronger Foundations Inc	\$ 426,430	Ciattarelli
American Majority Action	\$ 315,000	Ciattarelli
Turning Point PAC NJ	\$ 250,000	Ciattarelli
AFC Victory Fund	\$ 210,523	Ciattarelli
Garden State Fund	\$ 174,869	Ciattarelli
Jersey First	\$ 164,760	Ciattarelli
America First Action Fund	\$ 41,815	Ciattarelli
Patriots for a Brighter America	\$ 7,200	Ciattarelli
NRA Political Victory Fund	\$ 5,367	Ciattarelli
<b>Totals- Ciattarelli Supporters</b>	<b>\$31,760,201</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>\$74,996,706</b>	

Two organizations provided the most funds for independent spending on the general election. One is the Democratic Governors Association (DGA), which gave \$21.9 million to the Greater Garden State committee. It also donated \$781,067 to state and county parties and \$3,155 to Sherrill's campaign<sup>5</sup>. The Republican Governors Association (RGA) contributed \$12.4 million to the Restore New Jersey committee.

**Table 8**  
**Contributions by Independent Expenditure-Only Filers**  
**to Other Independent Expenditure-Only Filers\***

Group	Recipient	Amount	Supports
Democratic Governors Association	Greater Garden State	\$21,912,824	Sherrill
Republican Governors Association	Restore New Jersey	\$12,350,000	Ciattarelli
Change NJ Inc	Restore New Jersey	\$ 6,250,000	Ciattarelli
Garden State Forward	Greater Garden State	\$ 4,000,000	Sherrill
Kitchen Table Conservatives	Change NJ Inc	\$ 1,620,000	Ciattarelli
Growing Economic Opportunities	Greater Garden State	\$ 1,000,000	Sherrill
AFT Solidarity 527	Greater Garden State	\$ 1,000,000	Sherrill
Garden State Forward	Turnout Project	\$ 1,000,000	Sherrill
Restoration of America PAC	APP Big Family New Jersey PAC	\$ 734,863	Ciattarelli
Stand Together NJ	One Giant Leap PAC	\$ 501,500	Sherrill
Fair and Affordable New Jersey	Stand Together NJ	\$ 500,000	Sherrill
Laborers Political League- Education Fund	Greater Garden State	\$ 500,000	Sherrill
Restoration of America PAC	Semper Libertas Action New Jersey PAC	\$ 500,000	Ciattarelli
New Jersey Voices and Families	One Giant Leap PAC	\$ 500,000	Sherrill
IBEW Educational Committee	Greater Garden State	\$ 500,000	Sherrill
Restoration Action	American Majority Action	\$ 315,000	Ciattarelli
American Principles Project PAC	APP Big Family New Jersey PAC	\$ 288,680	Sherrill
Communications Workers of America Working Voices	Greater Garden State	\$ 250,000	Sherrill
Everytown for Gun Safety Victory Fund	Greater Garden State	\$ 250,000	Sherrill
One Giant Leap PAC	Greater Garden State	\$ 200,000	Sherrill
American Policy Coalition	Garden State Fund	\$ 174,869	Ciattarelli
Prosperity Rising NJ Inc.	One Giant Leap PAC	\$ 100,000	Sherrill
Democratic Lieutenant Governors Association	Greater Garden State	\$ 100,000	Sherrill
Garden State Success	Change NJ Inc	\$ 85,000	Ciattarelli
United Association Political Issues Fund	Greater Garden State	\$ 75,000	Sherrill
American Family Voices	Our Children Our Future	\$ 50,000	Sherrill
Education Reform New Advocacy Inc	One Giant Leap PAC	\$ 50,000	Sherrill
Middle Ground	One Giant Leap PAC	\$ 50,000	Sherrill
Make the Road Action	Working Families Party PAC	\$ 50,000	Sherrill
AFT Solidarity 527	Working Families Party PAC	\$ 50,000	Sherrill
Global Impact Social Welfare Fund	Greater Garden State	\$ 30,000	Sherrill
First Responders for a Stronger New Jersey	One Giant Leap PAC	\$ 25,000	Sherrill
New Jersey Coalition of Real Estate	Change NJ Inc	\$ 25,000	Ciattarelli
Growing Economic Opportunities	First Responders for a Strong New Jersey	\$ 10,000	Sherrill
	<b>Total Contributions by IEFs to Other IEFs**</b>	<b>\$55,047,736</b>	
		<b>\$74,996,706</b>	
	<b>Percent From Other IEFs</b>	<b>73%</b>	

\*Includes all general election transfers. \*\*Independent Expenditure-Only filers.

Combined, the two governor associations spent more than \$35.3 million on this year's election.

<sup>5</sup> 527 political organizations like DGA and RGA cannot make contributions to federal candidates but they can make donations to state candidates within state contribution limits.

They spent a combined total of \$26.5 million in six previous New Jersey gubernatorial elections from 2001 through 2021.

Looking at the general categories of spending during the general election, media comprised the largest expenditure- \$97.2 million, or more than 85 percent of total spending.

Independent Expenditure-Only Filers spent \$64.1 million while the two candidates spent \$33 million. IEFs reported large contributions to other IEFs because, unlike candidates, they are not subject to contribution limits.

Other disparities, such as candidates reporting much bigger expenses for administrative purposes, may be explained by statutory reporting requirements.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 9**  
**Major Spending Categories by**  
**Candidates and Independent Expenditure-Only Filers**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>IEFs</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Combined</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Media	\$33,053,410	84%	\$64,186,189	86%	\$ 97,239,600	85.1%
Contributions - Political	\$ 3,516	0.01%	\$ 6,255,000	8%	\$ 6,258,516	5.5%
Fundraising	\$ 1,211,408	3%	\$ 1,275,849	2%	\$ 2,487,256	2.2%
GOTV-Pollworkers-Election Day Activities	\$ 374,966	0%	\$ 1,919,982	3%	\$ 2,294,948	2.0%
Administration	\$ 2,105,617	5%	\$ 100,340	0.1%	\$ 2,205,958	1.9%
Research And Polling	\$ 563,428	1%	\$ 830,931	1%	\$ 1,394,360	1.2%
Compliance/Legal/Accounting	\$ 852,699	2%	\$ 153,832	0.21%	\$ 1,006,531	0.9%
Consulting - Political	\$ 527,483	1%	\$ 257,288	0.34%	\$ 784,770	0.7%
Candidate Travel	\$ 590,121	2%	None	0%	\$ 590,121	0.5%
Other	(\$ - 25,323)	-0.1%	\$ 17,295	0.02%	\$ (8,028)	-0.01%
Grand Total	\$39,257,327	100%	\$74,996,705	100%	\$114,254,033	100.0%

<sup>6</sup> Candidates are required to report all expenditures. Independent expenditure committees are required to report all expenditures made “for the purpose of expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate...or such an expenditure that amounts to the functional equivalent of express advocacy, that is not coordinated with a candidate or any person or committee acting on behalf of a candidate or political party”.

Half of all media spending- almost \$57 million- paid for cable or network television. But advertising on the Internet has risen sharply in recent years and reached nearly \$22 million in the general election- 22 percent of all media outlays.

**Table 10**  
**Media Costs Candidates and**  
**Independent Expenditure-Only Filers (IEFs)**

<b>Media</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>IEFs*</b>	<b>Combined</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Type</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Media</b>
Media - Cable TV	\$ 7,280,209	\$35,940,325	\$ 43,220,534	44%
Media - Internet	\$ 5,368,810	\$16,445,385	\$ 21,814,195	22%
Media - Network TV	\$ 7,967,047	\$ 5,481,063	\$ 13,448,110	14%
Media - Mixed	\$ 8,367,524	\$ 39,345	\$ 8,406,869	9%
Media - Direct Mail	\$ 1,089,113	\$ 1,707,149	\$ 2,796,263	3%
Media - Production	\$ 894,808	\$ 757,835	\$ 1,652,643	2%
Media - Consulting	\$ 249,948	\$ 1,393,439	\$ 1,643,387	2%
Media - Telemarketing/Robo Calls	\$ 180,937	\$ 1,013,037	\$ 1,193,973	1%
Media - Radio	\$ 587,142	\$ 518,876	\$ 1,106,018	1%
Media- Billboards / Lawn Signs	\$ 977,028	\$ 119,357	\$ 1,096,385	1%
Media - Handouts/Flyers/Palm Cards		\$ 770,379	\$ 770,379	1%
Media - Newspapers	\$ 90,845		\$ 90,845	0.1%
<b>Total Media Spending</b>	<b>\$33,053,410</b>	<b>\$64,186,189</b>	<b>\$ 97,239,599</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Spending</b>	<b>\$39,257,327</b>	<b>\$74,996,706</b>	<b>\$114,254,033</b>	
<b>Percent Media</b>	<b>84.2%</b>	<b>85.6%</b>	<b>85.1%</b>	

\*Independent Expenditure-Only Filers.

The total independent expenditures in this analysis include only outlays specifically earmarked for the gubernatorial election and disclosed in reports filed with ELEC.

Several 2025 gubernatorial primary candidates also benefited from promotional advertising paid for by supporters who set up fund-raising committees not explicitly tied to the gubernatorial election.

Much of this spending was done before 2025. The committees included federal Super PACs, 501c4 social welfare groups and even some political committees or continuing political committees filing with ELEC.

Copies of reports filed by candidates or Independent Expenditure-Only Filers are available on ELEC's website at [www.elec.nj.gov](http://www.elec.nj.gov). ELEC's Help Desk is available at 609-292-8700 for those needing assistance in using the website.

*Special note: Administrative Analyst 3 Christopher Vigale made a significant contribution to this analysis, particularly in putting together expense databases and ensuring they matched up with reported expenditures. Research Associate Steven Kimmelman and Vigale helped identify the top previous gubernatorial elections nationwide, and both helped proof the numbers. Administrative Analyst 3 Titus Kamal helped proof the numerical information in this and previous updates on the gubernatorial election. Former ELEC intern and Widener law student Rory Newman did helpful initial research on the top gubernatorial races nationwide.*

###

**Appendix**  
**More Details on How New Jersey's**  
**Election Made National History**

**Table A1**  
**Top Ten Most Expensive Gubernatorial**  
**Elections in United States**

<b>Election- State and Year</b>	<b>Total Spending in Election Year</b>	<b>Total Spending in 2025 Dollars</b>
California 2010	\$271,569,147	\$404,509,204
Illinois 2018	\$284,917,235	\$368,532,609
Illinois 2022	\$290,082,437	\$321,944,869
Florida 2010	\$199,025,902	\$296,454,181
New York 2002	\$147,000,000	\$265,400,778
<b>New Jersey 2025</b>	<b>\$259,369,056</b>	<b>\$259,369,056</b>
Texas 2022	\$226,570,095	\$251,456,380
California 1998	\$125,309,838	\$249,697,150
Florida 2018	\$169,672,868	\$219,467,189
California 2006	\$128,995,134	\$207,825,494

**Table A2**  
**Gubernatorial Elections Ranked by Greatest**  
**Percentage of Candidate Self-financing**

<b>Gubernatorial Election</b>	<b>Total Donations by Candidates to Their Campaigns</b>	<b>Percent from Candidate Funds</b>
<b>Illinois 2018</b>	<b>\$221,500,000</b>	<b>78%</b>
California 2010	\$144,227,006	53%
Illinois 2022	\$152,000,000	52%
New York 2002	\$ 73,900,000	50%
Florida 2010	\$ 73,000,000	37%
<b>New Jersey 2025</b>	<b>\$ 125,890<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>0.05%</b>

**Table A3**  
**Gubernatorial Election Expenditures**  
**Divided by Number of State Residents**

<b>State and Year</b>	<b>Total Spending in Election Year</b>	<b>Population*</b>	<b>Per Capita</b>
<b>New Jersey 2025</b>	<b>\$259,369,056</b>	<b>9,500,851</b>	<b>\$ 27.3</b>
Illinois 2022	\$290,082,437	12,621,821	\$ 23.0
Illinois 2018	\$284,917,235	12,821,814	\$ 22.2
Florida 2010	\$199,025,902	18,801,310	\$ 10.6
Texas 2022	\$226,570,095	30,113,488	\$ 7.5
New York 2002	\$147,000,000	18,976,457	\$ 7.7
California 2010	\$271,569,147	37,253,956	\$ 7.3

\*Census estimates closest to election dates

<sup>7</sup> Net figure that deducts repayments to candidates.

**Table A4**  
**Top Candidate Self-Financing**  
**in Gubernatorial Elections**

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Inflation Adjusted</b>
Pritzker, JB	Illinois	2018	\$171,500,000	\$221,830,534
Whitman, Meg	California	2010	\$144,227,006	\$214,829,821
Pritzker, JB	Illinois	2022	\$152,000,000	\$168,695,563
Golisano, Tom	New York	2002	\$ 73,900,000	\$133,422,568
Scott, Rick	Florida	2010	\$ 73,191,000	\$109,019,870
Rauner, Bruce	Illinois	2014	\$ 65,300,000	\$ 89,591,106
Checchi, Al	California	1998	\$ 38,928,244	\$ 77,569,900
<b>Corzine, Jon</b>	<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>\$ 43,135,570</b>	<b>\$ 71,738,009</b>
Rauner, Bruce	Illinois	2018	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 64,673,625
Poizner , Steve	California	2010	\$ 24,403,680	\$ 58,196,147
<b>Forrester, Doug</b>	<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>\$ 29,927,189</b>	<b>\$ 49,771,382</b>

*Note: Because ELEC could find no ranking of the top gubernatorial elections, staff did thorough research to develop such a list. It looked back decades in large states such as California, Florida, Texas, Illinois, Wisconsin and New York where most of the biggest gubernatorial elections have taken place. While we believe the list to be complete, people should contact the agency at 609-292-8700 if they know of other elections that should be on the list.*

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