



NEWS RELEASE

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County Parties in 2025 Enjoyed Best Fund-Raising Year Since 2003

County political party committees raised and spent more money in 2025 than they have in more than two decades, according to reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

The 42 county committees raised \$22.4 million and spent \$21.7 million during a record-setting gubernatorial election year that drew millions of dollars from major out-of-state committees.

County party committees also continued to benefit from a 2023 law that sharply lifted contribution limits and enabled the return of public contractors as a major source of funds. Adding to the 2025 windfall were significant contributions from gubernatorial and congressional candidates.

Comparing nominal dollars¹, the last year when county parties raised and spent more was 2003. County party spending tends to be highest in state election years.

Table 1
County Party Campaign Finance Activity in
State Election Years Since 2003

Year	Raised	Spent	Cash on Hand	Offices
2003	\$27,180,067	\$28,110,780	\$1,550,582	S/A
2005	\$18,893,472	\$19,009,467	\$2,280,627	G/A
2007	\$14,582,167	\$14,341,683	\$2,137,379	S/A
2009	\$13,854,662	\$13,306,296	\$2,794,158	G/A
2011	\$ 8,449,211	\$ 8,545,440	\$1,113,770	S/A
2013	\$ 9,908,851	\$10,069,188	\$1,448,541	G/S/A
2015	\$ 9,161,877	\$ 8,883,225	\$1,724,814	A
2017	\$14,564,574	\$14,114,921	\$3,132,815	G/S/A
2019	\$ 8,191,320	\$ 8,821,224	\$2,504,889	A
2021	\$14,296,990	\$13,234,794	\$4,170,046	G/S/A
2023	\$12,868,223	\$12,075,641	\$3,907,188	S/A
2025	\$22,388,697	\$21,682,062	\$5,162,114	G/A

G= Gubernatorial; S= State Senate; A=State Assembly

¹ Dollars spent at the time of the election.

One sign of the improving fortunes of county parties is their ample year-end cash reserves of \$5.2 million despite last year’s heavy spending. It was the highest year-end total in nominal dollars since at least 2003.

Democratic county committees raised and spent more funds than their GOP counterparts and reported larger cash reserves.

Table 2
2025 Campaign Finance
Activity by Party Breakdown

Party	Raised	Spent	Cash-On-Hand	Net Worth*
Democrats	\$15,831,047	\$15,184,932	\$4,204,219	\$3,842,326
Republicans	\$ 6,557,651	\$ 6,497,130	\$ 957,895	\$1,400,023
Combined	\$22,388,697	\$21,682,062	\$5,162,114	\$5,242,349

*Cash-on-hand plus or minus debts owed to or by committee.

During a gubernatorial election year that was important to both national parties, county parties received \$2.3 million from two national political committees- Securing American Greatness, a Republican committee, and the Democratic Governors Association. Five unions and two companies from outside New Jersey kicked in another \$2.1 million for a total of \$4.4 million.

Table 3
Significant Out-of-State Contributors
to NJ County Parties in 2025

Contributors	Amount	State
Securing American Greatness	\$1,264,000	MA
Democratic Governors Association	\$1,043,000	DC
UBER Technologies Inc	\$ 530,000	CO
Unite Here Tip State and Local Fund	\$ 481,500	NY
AFSCME	\$ 418,578	DC
Trilon Services C-Corp Holdings Inc	\$ 212,150	CO
New York Hotel Trades Council	\$ 199,000	NY
UA Political Action Fund	\$ 168,000	MD
Active Ballot Club General Fund	\$ 115,000	DC
Total	\$4,431,228	

By contrast, the nine donors combined gave less than \$200,000 to county parties in 2023 when there was just a legislative election.

County parties are continuing to benefit from higher contribution limits enacted by former Governor Phil Murphy on April 3, 2023 (P.L. 2023, Chapter 30).

The law doubled the maximum annual contribution to county party committees from \$37,500 to \$75,000- the first increase since 2005. Those higher limits were further increased on January 1, 2025 through inflation adjustments that now apply every two years to non-gubernatorial contributions.

Donors now can give a regular contribution of \$79,000 to county parties. Also under the 2023 law, state and county party committees can accept another \$39,500 for “housekeeping” accounts. This means a single contributor now can give a total of \$118,500 annually to county parties.²

Housekeeping accounts are earmarked solely for expenses deemed administrative, including mortgages, rent, taxes, compliance costs, legal bills and collective bargaining outlays.

County committees in 2025 received 119 checks larger than the pre-2023 limit of \$37,500, providing a windfall of \$3.4 million due solely to the higher contribution limits.

County parties received another influx of funds from public contractors.

Between the mid-2000s and 2023, when the new campaign finance law took effect, contractors who gave more than \$300 to county parties risked losing their contracts. They can now donate up to \$118,500.

Contractors contributed about \$3.5 million in 2025- up from the \$1.4 million county parties received in 2023 during the first year of the relaxed limits.

While the 2025 total is substantial, it is less than the \$6.1 million contractors gave to county parties in 2003 when the party committees set an all-time fund-raising record of \$27.2 million.

Also in 2025, candidates in the gubernatorial campaign kicked in another \$352,123 to county party committees, while candidates for Congress gave an additional \$221,855.

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² The two state parties also can maintain housekeeping accounts for extra contributions.

Among Democratic county committees that have filed their quarterly reports, 11 committees- Bergen, Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, Salem, Somerset, and Union - reported cash balances above \$100,000. Camden and Hudson reported negative net worths when debts are subtracted from cash-on-hand.

Table 4
Campaign Finance Activity of
Democratic County Party Committees
January 1 through December 31, 2025

County	Raised	Spent	Cash-on-Hand	Net Worth*
Atlantic	\$ 415,478	\$ 378,013	\$ 48,738	\$ 48,738
Bergen	\$ 1,751,619	\$ 1,943,202	\$ 588,523	\$ 588,523
Burlington	\$ 736,221	\$ 694,256	\$ 42,763	\$ 36,388
Camden	\$ 836,299	\$ 813,802	\$ 109,442	\$ (86,959)
Cape May	\$ 97,162	\$ 69,269	\$ 58,856	\$ 57,879
Cumberland	\$ 119,260	\$ 102,826	\$ 33,275	\$ 33,275
Essex	\$ 1,534,415	\$ 1,262,436	\$ 494,448	\$ 491,225
Gloucester	\$ 1,088,874	\$ 1,051,890	\$ 272,882	\$ 254,723
Hudson	\$ 2,356,525	\$ 2,755,753	\$ 60,081	\$ (92,768)
Hunterdon	\$ 222,642	\$ 220,636	\$ 27,805	\$ 27,805
Mercer	\$ 431,822	\$ 264,279	\$ 551,723	\$ 551,723
Middlesex	\$ 2,253,889	\$ 1,958,716	\$ 508,962	\$ 508,962
Monmouth	\$ 676,868	\$ 712,108	\$ 50,966	\$ 50,966
Morris	\$ 406,232	\$ 311,170	\$ 113,396	\$ 113,396
Ocean	\$ 130,009	\$ 40,912	\$ 133,527	\$ 149,694
Passaic	\$ 1,102,362	\$ 1,209,216	\$ 76,658	\$ 76,658
Salem	\$ 247,459	\$ 164,191	\$ 130,135	\$ 130,132
Somerset	\$ 582,362	\$ 461,137	\$ 353,454	\$ 353,454
Sussex	\$ 73,191	\$ 41,446	\$ 97,545	\$ 97,545
Union	\$ 765,697	\$ 726,163	\$ 450,569	\$ 450,569
Warren (Q2)	\$ 2,661	\$ 3,510	\$ 472	\$ 399
Democrats-Total	\$15,831,047	\$15,184,932	\$4,204,219	\$3,842,326

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

As for Republican committees, Atlantic and Cape May reported a cash balance above \$100,000 at year's end. Gloucester and Morris reported a negative net worth when debts are subtracted from cash-on-hand.

Table 5
Campaign Finance Activity of
Republican County Party Committees
January 1 through December 31, 2025

County	Raised	Spent	Cash-on-Hand	Net Worth*
Atlantic	\$ 358,960	\$ 283,103	\$107,707	\$ 107,707
Bergen	\$ 325,716	\$ 365,057	\$ 2,692	\$ 2,692
Burlington	\$ 281,361	\$ 276,381	\$ 26,992	\$ 535,750
Camden	\$ 52,392	\$ 51,669	\$ 33,345	\$ 33,313
Cape May	\$ 356,595	\$ 408,566	\$291,278	\$ 291,270
Cumberland	\$ 193,380	\$ 157,466	\$ 70,063	\$ 70,063
Essex	\$ 159,868	\$ 161,802	\$ 1,167	\$ 1,167
Gloucester	\$ 225,321	\$ 239,034	\$ 2,224	\$ (760)
Hudson (Q1)	\$ 7,600	\$ 0	\$ 6,875	\$ 6,875
Hunterdon	\$ 363,881	\$ 335,815	\$ 34,413	\$ 29,392
Mercer	\$ 40,055	\$ 31,480	\$ 31,647	\$ 31,647
Middlesex	\$ 146,609	\$ 145,970	\$ 20,398	\$ 20,398
Monmouth	\$1,098,042	\$1,143,509	\$ 41,378	\$ 41,378
Morris	\$ 208,032	\$ 209,375	\$ 1,841	\$ (10,859)
Ocean	\$ 705,936	\$ 705,755	\$ 18,427	\$ 18,427
Passaic	\$ 476,835	\$ 443,080	\$ 52,193	\$ 23,424
Salem	\$ 392,865	\$ 377,926	\$ 60,828	\$ 60,828
Somerset	\$ 451,676	\$ 486,734	\$ 41,507	\$ 24,391
Sussex	\$ 166,037	\$ 164,974	\$ 26,977	\$ 26,976
Union	\$ 289,014	\$ 277,403	\$ 41,586	\$ 41,586
Warren	\$ 257,476	\$ 232,030	\$ 44,357	\$ 44,357
Republicans-Total	\$6,557,651	\$6,497,130	\$957,895	\$1,400,023

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

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by noon May 5, 2026.

Individual reports can be reviewed on ELEC's website (www.elec.state.nj.us).

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