



NEWS RELEASE

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CANDIDATES HAVE RAISED \$13.4 MILLION FOR GENERAL ELECTION

Gubernatorial candidates have raised \$13.4 million and spent \$7 million, according to the latest reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

The candidates for the two major parties dominated fundraising and spending since the June 6 primary election.

Democrat Phil Murphy has raised \$10.3 million and spent \$4.8 million. He has \$5.4 million in reserve.

Republican Kimberly Guadagno has collected almost \$3 million and spent \$2 million. She reports a reserve of \$965,805.

Table 1
General Election Campaign Finance
Activity Through October 6, 2017

CANDIDATE	PARTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND
Murphy, Phil	Democrat	\$10,265,141	\$ 4,820,137	\$5,445,005
Guadagno, Kimberly	Republican	\$ 2,981,031	\$ 2,015,226	\$ 965,805
Kaper-Dale, Seth	Green	\$ 89,510	\$ 98,185	\$ (1,476)
Genovese, Gina	I	\$ 51,643	\$ 43,359	\$ 6,725
Rohrman, Peter*	Libertarian	NA	NA	NA
Riccardi, Matthew	Constitution	NA	NA	NA
Ross, Vincent*	I	NA	NA	NA
TOTAL - CANDIDATES		\$13,387,325	\$ 6,976,907	\$6,416,059
Independent Committees - General		\$ 1,100,000	\$ 199,746	
TOTAL - GENERAL		\$14,487,325	\$ 7,176,653	
Primary/Pre-Primary				
Candidates		\$34,611,440	\$34,024,577	
Independents		\$13,926,224	\$ 9,123,371	
TOTAL - PRE-PRIMARY, PRIMARY AND GENERAL		\$63,024,989	\$50,324,601	

*Does not expect to spend more than \$5,100

While both the Republican and Democratic Governors Associations have run several advertisements attacking opposing candidates, so far there has been no disclosure of their spending.

“Both groups have taken advantage of out-dated state legislation that lets independent groups avoid disclosing their contributions and spending if they indirectly attack candidates by tying them to unpopular issues instead of directly urging voters to support or defeat candidates,” said ELEC Executive Director Jeff Brindle.

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“In several recent rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court has strongly indicated that it is constitutional to require disclosure by groups even if they resort only to issue-based attacks before an election,” he said.

“Both parties in New Jersey have introduced legislation that would close this loophole. But voters will have to wait at least until the next statewide election before they benefit from such a reform,” he said.

“Requiring such disclosure doesn’t limit the amount independent groups can spend on an election. Yet, as the U.S. Supreme Court justices themselves have repeatedly stated, disclosure allows voters to weigh the credibility of political advertising by these “outside” or independent groups,” he said.

“With independent spending becoming a dominant force in national, state and even local races, disclosure by independent groups is more urgent than ever,” Brindle added.

Disclosure reports that are available show independent committees have raised just \$1.1 million since the primary election and spent just under \$200,000.

The bulk of the independent spending related to the gubernatorial election was done even before the primary began. Committees formed either by candidates themselves or supporters spent millions in promotional advertising before the election’s official start.

These committees technically are considered “independent” because their spending was or is being done outside candidate or party committees.

Table 2
Spending by Independent Committees
Related to Gubernatorial Campaign
(Ranked by Spending)

FORMED BY, AFFILIATED WITH OR SUPPORTS	INDEPENDENT COMMITTEES	RAISED	SPENT
	General		
Murphy, Phil	New Start NJ (1)	\$ 100,000	\$ 125,842
Murphy, Phil	Committee to Build the Economy (2)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 73,904
Guadagno, Kimberly	Republican Governors Association	NA	NA
Murphy, Phil	Our New Jersey (Democratic Governors Association)	NA	NA
	TOTAL GENERAL	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 199,746
	Primary/Pre-Primary		
Murphy, Phil	New Way For New Jersey	\$ 3,911,842	\$ 3,810,811
Murphy, Phil	New Start NJ	\$ 2,439,750	\$ 2,277,138
Fulop, Steve (3)	Coalition For Progress	\$ 4,278,456	\$ 1,037,268
Lesniak, Ray	Committee For Economic Growth And Social Justice	\$ 683,661	\$ 683,581
Sweeney, Stephen (3)	New Jerseyans For A Better Tomorrow	\$ 1,847,785	\$ 627,683
Guadagno, Kimberly	Building A Better New Jersey Together	\$ 405,455	\$ 362,992
Lesniak, Ray	Run Ray Run	\$ 164,815	\$ 148,164
Murphy, Phil	NJ League of Conservation Voters Victory Fund	\$ 140,000	\$ 124,553
Johnson, James	NJ Prepared To Vote	\$ 54,460	\$ 51,181
	TOTAL- PRIMARY/PRE-PRIMARY	\$13,926,224	\$ 9,123,371
	TOTAL - PRIMARY/PRE-PRIMARY AND GENERAL	\$15,026,224	\$ 9,323,117

(1) Since July 13 report.

(2) July 15 report.

(3) Fulop said 9/28/16 he would not run for governor. Sweeney withdrew his name on 10/6/16.

A state law enacted in 2001 requires all gubernatorial candidates who created or were affiliated with political non-profit groups to file special disclosure reports on those groups. Normally, spending by such groups would not be disclosed under current state law.

Reports filed since the primary show Murphy contributed \$2.5 million to New Start New Jersey, a 501c4 political non-profit, since its formation in 2016. Most of its \$2.3 million in spending was done before the primary.

Murphy also provided most of the funds for a 527 non-profit committee called New Way for New Jersey that spent \$3.8 million before the June 6 primary election.

Supporters of Guadagno created a 501c4 non-profit called Building a Better New Jersey Together that raised \$405,455 and spent \$362,992, nearly all before the primary election.

Information in this press release was based on reports filed by noon on October 11, 2017. Reports filed by gubernatorial candidates are available online on ELEC's website at www.elec.state.nj.us. ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/elecnj).

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