



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:
May 31, 2017
† Revised

Direct spending by gubernatorial candidates so far has reached nearly \$28 million for the 2017 primary elections, according to the most recent reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Reports due 11 days before the election indicate Democratic candidate Phil Murphy remains dominant in his fundraising. He has raised \$21.2 million and spent \$20.1 million. Murphy also reported the largest cash reserve- \$1.1 million.

Lt. Governor Kimberly Guadagno led all Republicans after raising \$2.9 million and spending \$2 million through May 23. She also has \$867,201 set aside for the campaign's final days.

Murphy and Guadagno also dominated fundraising during the latest reporting period (May 6 through May 23). The primary election is June 6, 2017.

**TABLE 1
PRIMARY CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY OF GUBERNATORIAL
CANDIDATES THROUGH MAY 23, 2017 (RANKED BY SPENDING)**

CANDIDATE	PARTY	LATEST RAISED	LATEST SPENT*	RAISED-TO-DATE	SPENT-TO-DATE	CASH-ON-HAND
Murphy, Phil	D	\$1,911,841	\$1,703,691	\$21,167,146	\$20,100,357	\$1,067,089
Guadagno, Kimberly	R	\$ 661,757	\$1,308,500	\$ 2,891,545	\$ 2,024,345	\$ 867,201
Johnson, James	D	\$ 288,239	\$ 98,503	\$ 2,611,748	\$ 1,825,112	\$ 786,636
Wisniewski, John	D	\$ 308,702	\$ 296,823	\$ 1,667,212	\$ 1,558,394	\$ 108,912
Ciattarelli, Jack	R	\$ 276,588	\$ 573,676	\$ 1,562,149	\$ 1,398,186	\$ 163,963
Singh, Hirsh	R	\$ 25	\$ 327,192	\$ 1,005,912	\$ 614,714	\$ 391,198
Lesniak, Ray	D	\$ 2,207	\$ 158,542	\$ 536,441	\$ 423,149	\$ 113,292
Zinna, Mark†	D	\$ 500	\$ 4,995	\$ 30,330	\$ 29,385	\$ 946
Rogers, Steven	R	\$ 4,104	\$ 526	\$ 24,727	\$ 20,140	\$ 4,587
Rullo, Joseph	R	\$ 599	\$ 493	\$ 11,931	\$ 11,353	\$ 578
Brennan, Bill	D	\$ 2,202	\$ 1401	\$ 17,327	\$ 4,736	\$ 12,592
TOTAL- PRIMARY CANDIDATES†		\$3,456,764	\$4,4674,342	\$31,526,468	\$28,009,871	\$3,516,994

*Spending may exceed fundraising because candidate also used reserves or loans.

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Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director, said this year's primary campaign could prove to be one of the most expensive in history.

"Adjusting for inflation, only the 2005, 2001, 1989 and 1981 gubernatorial primaries cost more," said Brindle. "But this year's campaign isn't over. And the total spent by candidates doesn't include another \$8.8 million spent separately by independent committees that have worked to support one gubernatorial candidate or another."

"If you combine candidate and independent spending, this year's primary already has cost nearly \$37 million. That tops all but two previous gubernatorial primary campaigns," said Brindle.

He said the 2001 campaign, the first to include major independent spending, cost \$41.2 million on an inflation adjusted basis. The 1981 primary campaign, which was nearly all spending by candidates, would have cost \$39.7 million in today's dollars, he said.

Independent committees include several that were formed by or affiliated with prospective candidates before the official start of the primary campaign.

TABLE 2
SPENDING BY INDEPENDENT COMMITTEES
RELATED TO GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN

FORMED BY, AFFILIATED WITH OR SUPPORTS	INDEPENDENT COMMITTEES	RAISED	SPENT
Murphy, Phil	New Way For New Jersey	\$ 3,911,842	\$ 3,810,811
Sweeney, Stephen*	New Jerseyans For A Better Tomorrow	\$ 2,367,965	\$ 1,301,503
Murphy, Phil	New Start NJ	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,290,688
Fulop, Steve*	Coalition For Progress	\$ 4,278,456	\$ 1,037,268
Lesniak, Ray	Committee For Economic Growth And Social Justice	\$ 683,661	\$ 683,581
Guadagno, Kimberly	Building A Better New Jersey Together	\$ 405,455	\$ 352,952
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
Democrats	Our New Jersey (Democratic Governors Association)**	\$ 0	\$ 0
	Total- Independent Committees	\$13,306,654	\$ 8,800,701
	Total- Primary Candidates†	\$31,526,468	\$28,009,871
	Total- Gubernatorial Campaign†	\$44,833,122	\$36,810,572

*Not a candidate.

**Has registered for gubernatorial election.

Information in this press release was based on reports filed by noon on May 30, 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).