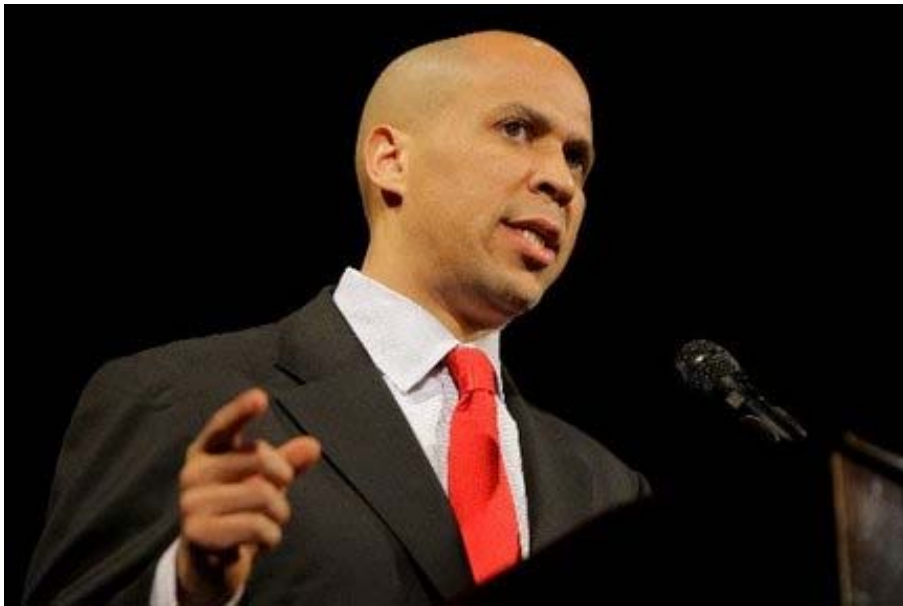


Newark Mayor Cory Booker has raised \$7.5M for upcoming election campaign, report says

By David Giambusso/The Star-Ledger

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Saed Hindash/The Star-Ledger

Newark Mayor Cory Booker delivers his State of the City address Tuesday night from Newark Symphony Hall in this February 2010 photo.

NEWARK -- Newark Mayor Cory Booker has amassed an unprecedented \$7.5 million in his bid to beat a challenger who has raised a fraction of that amount, according to reports released today by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission.

More than \$3.5 million has come from out of state — mostly from New York and California, but also from supporters in Wyoming, Texas, Oklahoma, Delaware, and Louisiana and elsewhere.

Booker's supporters include Tiki Barber, Michael Bloomberg, Oprah Winfrey, Steven Spielberg, David Geffen, and Craigslist founder Craig Newmark, but the list is also replete with lawyers, financiers, talent agents and producers.

Clifford Minor, a former Essex County prosecutor and municipal judge running against Mayor Cory Booker, has been raising money since July 2008, when he was tapped by State Sen. Ron Rice to run. While Minor's fund-raising has picked up in recent months, he has been unable to come close to the levels of the Booker Team and has been outspent 20 to one with less than a week to go before election day.

The Fraternal Order of Police and the Superior Officers Association are among Minor's earliest and most regular contributors, having given him a combined \$3,775. The SOA just recently endorsed Booker. The NJEA gave Minor \$2,750 in 2008 and the Newark Teachers' Union has given him \$2,950 since 2008. Dozens of city employees, mostly fire and police personnel, have donated to Minor, as well as more

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than 20 Newark-based businesses.



Jennifer
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Clifford Minor announces his
candidacy as a Newark Mayor
on the steps of City Hall in
this January 2010 photo.

Over 50 contributors are missing information on Minor's reports, with most of the gaps related to donors' employment status. The Booker campaign has filed over 150 violations with the state against the Minor camp, according to campaign manger Pablo Fonseca, who has accused the campaign of hiding donations.

"We report everything we get," he said. "I don't know what's happening on the other side."

Minor said he has reported all of his donations and when asked about the violations filed by Booker said, "I am unaware of that."

By his own executive order, Booker is barred from taking money from city employees and city contractors as part of a series of reform orders he signed in 2007. When asked about the reforms Minor said he would uphold them if elected.

The Booker Team's reports are hundreds of pages long and filled out in painstaking detail. He has spent \$5.5 million as April 30.

Booker's fund-raising outside of Newark has been a source of criticism on the campaign trail and has contributed to his opponents' charges that he is an "outsider." That label, though, may not be as much of a hindrance as his opponents suggest.

"It can give voters a sense that the mayor is bringing stature to their town to have a mayor that is a national figure and perhaps that he can bring resources to the city," said John Weingart, associate director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics. "The flip side is that voters can get to feel that someone who has become a celebrity is leaving them behind."

According to Weingart, though, "I think there are very few voters who say 'The reason I'm voting against this person is because their money comes from out of state.'"

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