

## Paterson Says He Has \$3 Million for 2010 Governor Run (Update1)

*By Henry Goldman  
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Jan. 15 (Bloomberg) -- New York Governor David Paterson has raised \$2.2 million to run for election since July, when he filed his last financial statement with the state, and has about \$3 million on hand, campaign aides said yesterday.

The amounts, made public in a news release a day before today's state Board of Elections filing deadline, show Paterson has attracted less money than state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, Paterson's probable challenger in a Sept. 14 primary for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

Cuomo, 52, hasn't disclosed his political plans, or the amount of money he's garnered since July. He will report today that he has more than \$16 million, according to the New York Times. He had set a goal of raising \$20 million by today, and intends to declare his candidacy by March 31, people familiar with his plans said in November. As of July, he had more than \$10 million in campaign funds. Paterson has raised a total of \$11.5 million and spent about \$8.5 million, the campaign stated.

"Money means more than just an ability to go on television," said Hank Sheinkopf, a Manhattan-based political consultant who advised former state Comptroller H. Carl McCall in the 2006 governor's race and Eliot Spitzer in his 1998 campaign for state attorney general. "It's a measure of the confidence people have in your ability to win, and right now Cuomo is winning the confidence contest."

Paterson's campaign said it wouldn't release its full report containing individual donors' names and amounts until today. On Jan. 11, he told reporters his dedication to his job had slowed his fundraising efforts.

### **'Effective Campaign'**

"My numbers will not look as good as they would have if I had dedicated more time to this process, but I'll have the resources to run an effective campaign for governor," Paterson told reporters in Albany.

Cuomo intends to disclose his campaign finance report today when it's filed with the state Board of Elections, said Richard Bamberger, press secretary to the attorney general.

Paterson, 55, a former Democratic minority leader in the state Senate, was lieutenant governor and became the state's chief executive in March 2008 when Spitzer resigned following a prostitution scandal.

While Paterson's voter approval rating rose to a 10-month high of 40 percent in a Dec. 15 Quinnipiac University poll, the survey reported New York voters would rather he not stand for election this year, by 59 percent to 28 percent.

### **Improved Rating**

The governor's rating improved from about 30 percent in October, after his campaign spent \$1.8 million on 2,534 television commercials from Nov. 3 to Dec. 17, in New York City, Albany, Syracuse and Buffalo, said Evan Tracey, president of the Arlington, Virginia-based Campaign Media Analysis Group of TNS Media Intelligence, which specializes in tracking and analysis of political advertising.

The first commercial, a biography, depicted him overcoming blindness to graduate from Columbia University and Hofstra School of Law and become, at 31, the youngest member of the state Senate when first elected in 1985. In the second ad, Paterson told viewers he's focused on doing "what's right for the people of New York," while some "state legislators," "union leaders," and "big corporations" want to stop him.

After four weeks of the commercials, Paterson trailed Cuomo by almost 3-to-1 in a hypothetical primary election match-up. The Dec. 15 survey had a margin of error of 2.4 percentage points among all voters, and 3.7 percentage points among a smaller sample of Democrats, Quinnipiac pollsters said.

Richard Fife, Paterson's campaign manager, said in a December phone interview that the governor's ability to get free news coverage as the incumbent would "discount some of the importance of that money discrepancy" between Paterson and Cuomo, in the event Cuomo challenged the governor.