



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:

**Immediately**

**June 7, 1989**

Frederick M. Herrmann, Executive Director of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, announced today that steps are being taken by the Commission to implement the general election debate requirement provision contained in the public financing legislation signed by Governor Thomas H. Kean on January 21, 1989.

Participation in two general election debates is now required as a condition of each candidate's receipt of public matching funds. No other state in the nation has such a provision in its public financing law.

Herrmann said the Commission must select the general election debate sponsors by August 2, 1989. In order to be considered to sponsor one or both of the general election debates, a private organization must not be affiliated with any political party or with any holder of or candidate for public office, must not have endorsed any candidate in the pending general election for Governor and must agree not to make any such endorsement until the completion of any debate sponsored by the organization, and must have previously sponsored one or more televised debates for Statewide office in New Jersey since 1976.

Herrmann further explained that the deadline for submitting applications to ELEC to sponsor general election debates is July 3, 1989. According to the new law, the two general election debates must occur between September 19 and October 27, 1989 unless the candidates agree to an emergency postponement of the second debate deadline. If an emergency requiring postponement is declared by the candidates, the second debate must occur no later than the second day before the general election.

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Representatives of organizations which meet the sponsorship criteria and wish to be considered to sponsor one or both of the 1989 general election debates are invited to contact the Commission for further information, Herrmann announced.

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