



## NEWS RELEASE

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Frederick M. Herrmann, Executive Director of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), announced today that special interest PACs contributed \$7,758,777 to and on behalf of candidates and political committees during 1991. This amount represents a 78 percent increase over 1987, the last year in which both the Senate and General Assembly were up for reelection, when these same groups contributed \$4,358,143.

Herrmann stated, "It is not surprising to see a rise in the amounts of money contributed to candidates by PACs during the most recent legislative election year. Many more special interest groups have formed PACs since 1987 to do their campaign contributing."

The number of special interest PACs filing with ELEC continues to rise steadily each year. In 1991, 290 such PACs filed with ELEC, compared with 228 on file in 1989 and 187 on file in 1987. "Special interest" PACs reporting to the Commission are committees established by corporations, trade associations, businesses, labor unions, professional organizations, ideological, and other special interest groups, located within the State of New Jersey. All four quarters of the calendar year 1991 were tallied to obtain the statistics. Political party committees at the State and local level, as well as personal candidate PACs, were not a part of this study.

Herrmann noted, "It may be difficult to determine the identity of some of the PACs listed because current law does not require them to reveal their true identity. The Commission continues to renew its call for legislation which will provide for greater disclosure of the true interests represented by certain PACs by providing for registration statements."

A PAC is required to file with ELEC when, during a calendar year, it contributes in excess of \$2500 to aid State and local candidates. PACs are required to file with ELEC quarterly.

Contributing by PACs in 1991 was compared not only to the year 1987, when both houses of the legislature ran, but also to 1989, when there was an Assembly and a Gubernatorial race. The amount of money contributed by PACs increased each election cycle, nevertheless, from \$4.4 million in 1987 to \$7.0 million in 1989 to \$7.8 million in 1991.

"Interestingly," said Herrmann, "the larger portion of campaign contributions came from the top 20 PACs." In 1987, the top 20 PACs contributed 58 percent of the total amount given by all PACs; in 1989 that percentage was 60 percent, and in 1991 the percentage rose to 63 percent.

"The trend toward disproportionate spending by larger PACs is very evident when comparing the number one PAC contributor in 1987 and 1991," explained Herrmann. "Just four years ago, the number one PAC contributed \$269,548; in 1991, the number one PAC contributed close to one million dollars," he said. "Having more and more of the money coming from fewer and fewer sources is not a healthy trend," concluded Herrmann.

"These statistics," he remarked, "point dramatically to the need for reform. Over the years, ELEC has called for PAC registration, contribution limits, and the disclosure of the employers of contributors. Unrestricted and underdisclosed financial activity by PACs may be endangering the democratic process in New Jersey."

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These statistics are based upon reports as submitted to ELEC by the special interest PAC's on file as of March 31, 1992.

APPENDIX I

1991 Top Twenty Contributors with Rank Comparisons to 1989 and 1987

<u>1987 Rank</u>	<u>1989 Rank</u>	<u>1991 Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>1991 Amount</u>
--	1	1	Greater Camden County Committee, Inc.	\$ 983,332
--	2	2	New Jersey State Laborers' PAC	500,600
3	9	3	MEDAC (Medical Action Committee)	332,960
--	--	4	New Jersey Optometric PAC	301,000
1	3	5	New Jersey Education Association Political Action Committee	268,270
*	*	6	ATLA NJ L.E.G.A.L. PAC	243,850
2	5	7	Builders Political Action Committee	228,133
--	--	8	Essex Inaugural Committee	225,260
15	8	9	Greater Camden Committee, Inc.	222,178
9	12	10	New Jersey Organization for A Better State	198,900
5	7	11	Realtors Political Action Committee	181,825
7	10	12	Operating Engineers Local 825 Political Action and Education Committee	148,425
11	17	13	New Jersey CPA Political Action Committee	145,208
6	14	14	New Jersey Dental Political Action Committee	136,015
--	13	15	New Visions for Cherry Hill	133,391
8	11	16	New Jersey Car (Conference of Auto Retailers)	121,995
--	--	17	Bergen County Physicians	110,350
19	--	18	Food Council Committee	86,611
--	--	19	Committee for an Affordable New Jersey	82,455
--	--	20	For New Jersey Political Action Committee	81,900

\* 1987 AND 1989 figures represent spending before ATLA joined with L.E.G.A.L.

APPENDIX II

1991 Top Twenty PAC Contributors

<u>1991 Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	Greater Camden County Committee, Inc.	\$ 983,332
2	New Jersey State Laborers' PAC	500,600
3	MEDAC (Medical Action Committee)	332,960
4	New Jersey Optometric PAC	301,000
5	New Jersey Education Association Political Action Committee	268,270
6	ATLA (American Trial Lawyers Association)	243,850
7	Builders Political Action Committee	228,133
8	Essex Inaugural Committee	225,260
9	Greater Camden Committee, Inc.	222,178
10	New Jersey Organization for A Better State	198,900
11	Realtors Political Action Committee	181,825
12	Operating Engineers Local 825 Political Action and Education Committee	148,425
13	New Jersey CPA Political Action Committee	145,208
14	New Jersey Dental Political Action Committee	136,015
15	New Visions for Cherry Hill	133,391
16	New Jersey Car (Conference of Auto Retailers)	121,995
17	Bergen County Physicians	110,350
18	Food Council Committee	86,611
19	Committee for an Affordable New Jersey	82,455
20	For New Jersey Political Action Committee	81,900

APPENDIX III

1989 Top Twenty PAC Contributors

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	Greater Camden County Committee, Inc.	\$ 747,968
2	New Jersey State Laborers' PAC	534,718
3	New Jersey Education Association Political Action Committee	370,774
4	ATLA (American Trial Lawyers Association)	295,265
5	Builders Political Action Committee	288,375
6	Friends of Jersey City, Inc.	215,000
7	Realtors Political Action Committee	212,100
8	Greater Camden Committee, Inc.	184,387
9	MEDAC (Medical Action Committee)	169,350
10	Operating Engineers Local 825 Political Action and Education Committee	154,182
11	New Jersey Car (Conference of Auto Retailers)	126,760
12	New Jersey Organization for A Better State	116,250
13	New Visions for Cherry Hill	112,130
14	New Jersey Dental Political Action Committee	110,825
15	New Jersey Hospital Association Health Political Action Committee	100,163
16	New Jersey United Auto Workers Political Action Committee	99,936
17	New Jersey CPA Political Action Committee	96,500
18	South Jersey Builders Political Action Committee	90,575
19	L.E.G.A.L. (Lawyers Encouraging Government and Law)	89,544
20	Private Enterprise Political Action Committee	79,000

**APPENDIX IV**

1987 Top Twenty PAC Contributors

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	New Jersey Education Association Political Action Committee	\$ 269,548
2	Builders Political Action Committee	211,765
3	MEDAC (Medical Action Committee)	190,173
4	Campaign Fund of Lawyers Encouraging Government and Law	188,470
5	Realtors Political Action Committee	177,415
6	New Jersey Dental Political Action Committee	144,750
7	Operating Engineers Local 825 Political Action and Education Committee	137,112
8	New Jersey Car (Conference of Auto Retailers)	134,424
9	New Jersey Organization for a Better State	127,500
10	ATLA (American Trial Lawyers Association)	119,336
11	New Jersey CPA Political Action Committee	118,525
12	MPAC, Inc. (New Jersey Council of Multi-Housing Industries)	109,350
13	Transportation Trust Fund II	107,500
14	SAPEC-NJ '87 (Savings Association Political Election Committee - New Jersey)	85,475
15	Greater Camden Committee, Inc.	78,931
16	South Jersey Builders Political Action Committee	73,615
17	Midlantic State Bank Political Action Committee	70,375
18	Private Enterprise Political Action Committee	64,000
19	Food Council Committee	63,650
20	Laborers' Union Local 172 Political Action Committee Fund	63,586

APPENDIX V

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1987</u>
Total Amount of PAC Contributions	\$ 7.8 Million	\$ 7.0 Million	\$ 4.4 Million
Number of PACs	290	228	187
Top 20 PAC Contributions	\$ 4.7 Million	\$ 4.2 Million	\$ 2.5 Million
#1 PAC Contributions	\$ 983,332	\$ 748,000	\$ 270,000