

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: FREDERICK M. HERRMANN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(609) 292-8700

FOR RELEASE:

September 19, 1996

PRESS ADVISORY

The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission announced today that it is proposing new rules and amendments to its regulations to implement statutorily-required quadrennial inflationary adjustments to the limits and thresholds in the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1, et seq.). These limits and thresholds apply to both gubernatorial and non-gubernatorial candidates and committees. The Commission has determined that costs relevant to campaigning in New Jersey have risen since 1993 and has applied an index of 16.12 percent to the various limits and thresholds required to be adjusted. These adjustments were then rounded pursuant to statutory direction.

The proposed amendments also concern administration of the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program. These amendments are necessitated by statutory changes, and are based upon the experience of the Commission in administering the program, litigation which occurred during the 1993 gubernatorial general election, and advisory opinions issued by the Commission involving public financing issues.

Among other topics, the Commission's proposal deals with the following: contributions received from affiliated corporations and partnership

entities; reporting of expenditures; expenditures for the general election made prior to the primary election; reporting of occupation and employer information for contributions received from individuals; independent expenditures; expenditures coordinated with other candidates and committees; selection of sponsors for gubernatorial debates; resolution of complaints alleging violations of the general election expenditure limit; administration of the Gubernatorial Ballot Statement Program; and inaugural event contributions and reporting requirements.

The proposed new rules and amendments will appear in the <u>New Jersey</u>

<u>Register</u> on October 7, 1996. Copies of the Commission's proposals may be obtained by calling the Commission at (609) 292-8700.

The Commission will conduct a hearing to elicit public comment concerning the proposals. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 1996, at 10:30 a.m. at:

Election Law Enforcement Commission

28 West State Street, 12th Floor

Trenton, New Jersey

The Commission invites participation in this hearing and requests that any testimony be limited to no more than ten minutes. Please contact Elbia Zeppetelli by Thursday, October 17, 1996 at (609) 292-8700 to reserve time to speak.

The Commission welcomes written comments concerning the proposed regulations. Submit written comments by November 6, 1996 to:

Nedda G. Massar, Esq., Deputy Legal Director

Election Law Enforcement Commission

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Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0185