



# NEWS RELEASE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:

March 24, 1997

## PRESS RELEASE

Frederick M. Herrmann, Executive Director of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), announced today that the Commission received applications for public matching funds from 1997 primary election gubernatorial candidates James E. McGreevey and Christine Todd Whitman. This submission was the second received for Candidate Whitman and the third for Candidate McGreevey.

On the unreviewed submissions, the candidates reported the following net amounts of contributions submitted for match:

James E. McGreevey	\$114,425.00
Christine Todd Whitman	\$931,800.00

Herrmann explained that the New Jersey Public Financing Program provides that each dollar of a contribution eligible for match is matched with two dollars of public funds after a candidate has raised and spent a minimum of \$210,000 in contributions of \$2,100 or less. The first \$69,000 of contributions submitted by a candidate is not matched. As a condition for receipt of public matching funds, a candidate must also agree to participate in two televised debates. The law limits the amount of

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Located at: 28 W. State Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Trenton, New Jersey

public funds that may be given to any one 1997 gubernatorial primary election candidate to \$1.86 million.

The first submission of the Whitman campaign, filed on March 10, 1997, is currently being reviewed by the Commission. If all contributions on the first submission are found to be eligible for match, Candidate Whitman will receive \$589,120.00 in public matching funds. If all contributions submitted today on the second submission are found to be matchable after Commission review, Candidate Whitman will be eligible to receive the \$1.86 million maximum in 1997 primary election public funds.

Herrmann noted that Candidate McGreevey was determined by the Commission to be qualified to receive 1997 primary election public funds after his first submission, for which he was certified to receive \$505,050.36 in public funds. His second submission, filed on March 10, 1997, is also currently being reviewed by the Commission, and if all contributions on the second submission are found to be matchable, Candidate McGreevey will receive an additional \$384,408.80 in public funds. Based upon the third submission filed today, Candidate McGreevey will be eligible to receive another \$228,850.00 in public matching funds if all contributions on his third submission are found to be matchable.

The submissions received today will be reviewed and the public funds amounts the candidates are eligible to receive will be certified to the State Treasurer. Herrmann explained that the Commission will deposit the public funds in public funds accounts established for the candidates. The use of public funds by gubernatorial candidates is strictly limited by law to expenditures such as the purchase of time on radio and television and payment of the costs of printing and mailing campaign literature.

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