



## NEWS RELEASE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:

August 4, 1997

Frederick M. Herrmann, Executive Director of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), announced today that the Commission received an application for public matching funds from 1997 general election gubernatorial candidate Christine Todd Whitman. This submission was the second received for Candidate Christine Todd Whitman.

On the unreviewed submission, Candidate Christine Todd Whitman reported net contributions submitted for match totaling \$447,521.00.

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 public funds that may be given to any one 1997 gubernatorial general election candidate to \$4.6 million.

Candidate Whitman's first submission for general election matching funds was filed on July 21, 1997, and is currently being reviewed by the Commission. Thus, if Candidate Whitman is determined to be qualified to receive 1997 gubernatorial general election public matching funds on her first submission, and if all contributions submitted today are found to be eligible for match after Commission review, Candidate Whitman will be eligible for \$895,042.00 in public matching funds for her second submission.

The submission received today will be reviewed and the public funds amounts the candidate is eligible to receive will be certified to the State Treasurer. The Commission will deposit the public funds in a

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public funds account established for the candidate. 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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