

NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

September 24, 1979 Meeting

PRESENT

Sidney Goldmann, Chairman
Josephine S. Margetts, Member
Andrew Axtell, Member
Lewis B. Thurston, Executive Director
Edward J. Farrell, General Legal Counsel
Herbert R. Wolfe, Assistant Executive Director

The chairman called the meeting to order and announced that pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Law, P. L. 1975, c.231, annual notice of the meetings of the Commission, as amended, has been filed with the Secretary of State's office, and that copies have been posted in the State House Annex, and mailed to the Newark Star Ledger, the Philadelphia Bulletin and the entire State House press corps.

The meeting convened at 10:20 a.m.

1. Executive Session

On a motion by Chairman Goldmann, seconded by Commissioner Margetts and a vote of 3-0, the Commission went into executive session to discuss Commission determinations in a number of cases of late filing for the 1979 Primary Election, an investigative matter concerning 1978 and 1979 elections, the executive session minutes of the Commission meeting of September 13, 1979 and a matter involving current litigation. At the conclusion of the discussion of these matters, the Commission returned to public session on a motion by Commissioner Margetts, seconded by Commissioner Axtell and a vote of 3-0.

2. E.L.E.C. Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 1981

The Commission reviewed and discussed the staff recommendations for the Commission budget for fiscal year 1981. The Commission concurred with the staff recommendations and agreed to submit a budget request totaling \$5,585,201 for fiscal 1981 to the Division of Budget and Accounting as required by October 1, 1979. This was done on a motion by Commissioner Axtell, seconded by Commissioner Margetts and a vote of 3-0.

3. Minutes of Commission Meeting of September 13, 1979

On a motion by Mr. Axtell, seconded by Commissioner Margetts and a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the minutes of the Commission meeting of September 13, 1979.

4. E.L.E.C. Staff Operations and Office Layout Evaluation

The executive director and assistant executive director reported to the Commission on the above-cited evaluation currently underway. They indicated that the purpose of the evaluation are to improve the quality and efficiency of operations and to provide an office layout which better serves current and future needs. Such a layout would provide better functional groupings of staff members, lead to improved supervision and provide for additional staff anticipated to carry out the functions of public financing of the 1981 gubernatorial election and, depending on the New Jersey Supreme Court's decision in Chamber of Commerce, et al vs. E.L.E.C. et al., lobbyist regulation. The Commission concurred on the desirability of such evaluation

and reviewed a possible revised office layout.

5. E.L.E.C. Schedule of Meetings

The Commission reviewed its schedule of meetings for the remainder of 1979 and agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for October 17 and to meet instead on October 19.

6. Discussion of Candidates' Reporting Obligations in the Initial Stages

The Commission discussed some of the issues involved in determining when a candidacy begins. They discussed in particular various possible approaches to dealing with these issues, particularly in situations in which contributions limits and/or expenditure limits apply to campaigns of such candidates. It was agreed that the discussion would be continued, hopefully in a more structured fashion based on staff outline of major questions involved and possible approaches.

7. Primary Election - 179 Late Filing Cases

On motion by Chairman Goldmann, seconded by Commissioner Margetts and a vote of 3-0, the Commission agreed upon the determinations in the late filing cases from the 1979 Primary Election on the attached sheets.

8. Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



LEWIS B. THURSTON, III
Executive Director