



# NEWS RELEASE

*N.J. Election Law Enforcement Commission*

Contact: Scott A. Weiner

For Release: IMMEDIATELY, August 19, 1983

The Election Law Enforcement Commission has released the name of a political committee, the West Orange Homeowner's Association, that the Commission fined for failure to comply with the Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act.

The West Orange Homeowner's Association supported a referendum which would have repealed a rent control ordinance in West Orange in the 1980 general election. As a political committee, the West Orange Homeowner's Association was required to file a 7 day pre-election report and a 15 day post-election report but did not do so until July 13, 1981. In total, the Association spent \$15,216 and raised \$18,277, nearly all of which was in contributions of more than \$100.

The Commission fined the Association \$250 for failing to timely file pre and post-election reports. The Association has since paid the fine.

The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act requires that political committees spending more than \$2,500 on a public question file reports of their financial activities with the Commission.

The penalty announced today was adopted by the Commission at a public meeting in May 1983. A final decision was subsequently mailed to the Association. This announcement is part of revised Commission procedures, begun with 1978 primary election, designed to foster compliance, enhance disclosure and make enforcement more effective.

The Act gives the Commission broad authority to initiate enforcement actions against such political committees, including civil enforcement and imposition of monetary penalties. Factors considered by the Commission in levying fines include the number of days the filing is late and any previous violations that are on record with the Commission.

Copies of the Complaint and Commission Final Decision are available at the Commission offices at the National State Bank Building, 28 West State Street, Suite 1115, Trenton, N. J. 08608.

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In making this release, Executive Director Scott A. Weiner commented:

"Referenda frequently generate the expenditure of relatively large sums by proponents and opponents. When expenditures cross the \$2500 reporting threshold, it is very important to the public to know of the receipts and expenditures by participating political committees before the date of an election."

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