

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



New Jersey
Election Law Enforcement Commission
www.elec.nj.gov • April, 2021



Welcome to ELEC





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MISSION STATEMENT

The essence of Democracy is an informed electorate. It is the fulfillment of this goal that the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) embraces as its valued mission.

Established in 1973, ELEC monitors the campaign financing of all elections in the State. Whether the election is for Governor or Mayor, member of the Legislature or a City Council, candidates and campaign organizations are required to file with the Commission contribution and expenditure reports.

The Commission also administers the law requiring candidates for the Governorship and Legislature to make public their personal finances prior to election day. Moreover, ELEC administers those sections of the law, which establish a filing obligation on the part of lobbyists and their clients. Finally, ELEC is responsible for enforcing various aspects of the Pay-to-Play law, particularly as it pertains to disclosure.

In addition, the Commission is responsible for administering partial public financing of gubernatorial primary and general elections, for rule making, and, as part of its regulatory duties, for holding public hearings. Finally, ELEC exercises its enforcement authority, ensuring the integrity of the financial aspects of the State's electoral process.

A major part of New Jersey's system of elections, the Election Law Enforcement Commission has upheld a tradition of fair, but energetic, administration of the State's financial disclosure laws. That tradition is strong today and will remain so in the future.

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THE COMMISSION

ERIC HECTOR JASO, CHAIRMAN

The state Senate on March 13, 2017 unanimously confirmed the nomination of Eric H. Jaso of Morristown to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Jaso, a Republican attorney, was nominated on September 8, 2016 by Governor Chris Christie.

Previous government appointments included serving as Deputy General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Education, working as Deputy Special Counsel to the New Jersey Senate Judiciary Committee investigating racial profiling, and serving as Associate Independent Counsel during the “Whitewater” investigation of former President Bill Clinton.

Jaso also serves as a public member of the New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zone Authority.

In 2011, he was chosen by Republicans to serve on the commission that redrew the boundaries of New Jersey’s U.S. House Districts.

Jaso has taught appellate advocacy as an Adjunct Professor at Seton Hall Law School.

He earned his law degree at the University of Chicago. He received his bachelor’s degree in Government with honors from Harvard.

His professional memberships include: Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey; National Hispanic Bar Association; Federalist Society; and Association of the Federal Bar of the District of New Jersey.

Jaso lives with his wife and son in Morristown, New Jersey.



Commissioner Marguerite Simon, Chairman Eric Jaso, and Commissioner Stephen Holden

Jaso is a partner at the law firm of Spiro Harrison in Short Hills. His practice focuses on complex litigation matters, including civil and criminal cases, primarily in the Federal courts.

From 2003 to 2008, Jaso served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office in New Jersey. Prior to that, he served as counselor to the Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.



THE COMMISSION continued

STEPHEN M. HOLDEN, COMMISSIONER

The state Senate on March 13, 2017 unanimously confirmed the nomination of Stephen Michael Holden of Merchantville to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Holden, a Democratic attorney, was nominated December 12, 2016 by Governor Chris Christie.

Holden is Deputy General Counsel of the Delaware River Port Authority. He retired as a Superior Court judge upon reaching mandatory retirement age of 70 in 2013 though he later performed temporary service as a recall judge.

Between 1987 and 2003, during a period when he was a solo practitioner, he served as Counsel to the state Senate as well as Senate Parliamentarian.

During an earlier career as an educator, he was a teacher in the Philadelphia school system, an assistant professor at both Glassboro State College (now Rowan University), and Rutgers University, as well as an assistant dean and assistant professor at Bryn Mawr College.

Holden earned his law degree at Rutgers University Night School of Law. He obtained Ph.D. and M.S.S. degrees at Bryn Mawr College, and a B.S. degree with honors at Temple University.

He sits on the Audit, Ethics and Compliance committee of the Board of Directors of Cooper Health System. He also sits on the board of Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research.

Holden is married with two daughters- one a public-school arts teacher, the other a nurse.

MARGUERITE T. SIMON, COMMISSIONER

Marguerite T. Simon became the 32nd person appointed to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission since its creation in 1973 when the State Senate on June 29, 2017 unanimously approved her nomination.

She replaces Lawrence Weiss, who died while serving on the commission in 2011. Simon is a Democratic attorney who was nominated February 27, 2017 by Governor Chris Christie.

Simon serves as counsel to the firm of Javerbaum Wurgaft Hicks Kahn Wikstrom & Sinins PC of Springfield and Hackensack. Her practice is primarily concentrated in alternate dispute resolution. She serves as a mediator and arbitrator in private party and court appointed matters.

She also served as a state Superior Court Judge in Hackensack from 1984 until her retirement in 2004 when she was Presiding Judge of General Equity.

She has taught classes and seminars at the New Jersey Judicial College, Institute for Continuing Legal Education, and Bergen Community College.

Among her awards are Super Lawyer, New Jersey, Alternative Dispute Resolution, 2010 to present; and Professional Lawyer of the Year, New Jersey Bar State Bar Association and Bergen County Bar Association, both 2006.

Simon obtained her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1961. She received her undergraduate degree from Barnard College in 1958.

Her professional affiliations include: Bergen County Bar Association, New Jersey State Bar Association and Women Lawyers in Bergen County.

She is married to Donald Howard. Together they have four children and ten grandchildren. She lives in Edgewater and Cape May.



THE COMMISSION continued

JEFFREY M. BRINDLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jeffrey M. Brindle's experience as a regulator, as well as in various governmental and electoral capacities, allows him to bring a rare and broad-ranging perspective to the position of Executive Director.

Executive Director Brindle has authored 20 in-depth, analytical white paper reports on campaign financing and lobbying, many of which had a major influence on legislation. He also has published more than 197 articles in newspapers, magazines, and periodicals, including "Campaigns and Elections," "The New York Times," "Politickernj.com," "InsiderNJ.com," "NewJersey Newsroom.com," Public Integrity, "The Star-Ledger," "League of Municipalities Magazine," and "Spotlight."

As Executive Director, Brindle has worked to reduce the backlog of outstanding enforcement cases and speed up enforcement efforts.

He started the ELEC-Tronic newsletter in 2009 to help expand the agency's public profile, and has been a major contributor to the 142 issues that have appeared through April 2021.

Brindle has taken several initiatives to enhance ELEC's basic mission of disclosure. He instituted a database of local political contributions, making New Jersey one of the few states in the nation that provides access to such information. He greatly expanded the number of analytical press releases published on a regular basis by the agency. He also saw to it that more than 400 press releases prepared between 1983 and 2005 were made accessible on the ELEC website.

Annual reports, minutes and advisory opinions dating back to the agency's creation in 1973 also have been made available to the public through the agency's website, which, in 2010, was

recognized as "Best Official New Jersey Website" by the Documents Association of New Jersey.

As Deputy Director, Brindle authored the report on the Clean Elections Pilot Program, prepared several Cost Analysis Reports, and wrote a major report on the Commission's technological needs.

He also oversaw budgetary and personnel planning and development, participated in public policy development, and engaged in legislative and press relations. He also guided the Commission's transformation from a manual-based operation to a technological-based one; an effort begun in the 1990's.

The Executive Director managed governmental offices at various levels and branches of government and brings experience in electoral politics to the position. His academic credentials include a B.A. degree from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and an M.A. degree in political science from Villanova University. He is also affiliated with the College of New Jersey (TCNJ) as an adjunct professor in the Political Science Department.

Prior to coming to ELEC in 1985, Brindle had been the Director of the Public Information Office at the State Department of Community Affairs, a Legislative Staff Director, Somerset County Deputy County Clerk, New Brunswick Public Information and Complaints Director, and Executive Director of the Union County Chapter of the March of Dimes.

He has also been a candidate for Assembly and a Municipal Chairman. Brindle and his wife Karen have four children.



THE COMMISSION continued

EDWIN R. MATTHEWS, LEGAL COUNSEL

Edwin R. Matthews was selected to be the Commission's Legal Counsel and began serving in that capacity in November, 2012.

Mr. Matthews is a partner with the Summit, New Jersey law firm of Bourne, Noll & Kenyon. He specializes in the areas of civil litigation, municipal law, appellate practice, personal injury, products liability, and tax appeals.

Upon graduation from Law School, Mr. Matthews served as a Law Clerk for Associate Justice Mark A. Sullivan of the New Jersey State Supreme Court and as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey. He was twice recognized by the United States Attorney General for Sustained Superior Performance. Mr. Matthews has in the past served the Township of South Orange Village, as a member of its governing body, as its Municipal Court Judge, and as its Village Counsel.

Mr. Matthews, a Certified Civil Trial Attorney, is admitted in the State of New Jersey; United States District Courts for the District of New Jersey, the Southern District of New York, and the Eastern District of New York; United States Courts of Appeals for the Third Circuit and Second Circuit; the United States Supreme Court; and the State of New York. He has been designated Mediator for the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey as well as the New Jersey State Court Mediation Program. He has served as an Arbitrator for the Federal Court in New Jersey as well as a number of counties in the state court system. He served as a Member of the Committee on Character, appointed by the New Jersey Supreme Court (1993-2009.) His membership in a number of bar associations includes serving as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Trial Attorneys of New Jersey since 1986 and as its President from 2004 to 2005.

Mr. Matthews has lectured frequently at seminars on trial tactics, product liability, the Rules of Procedure and the Rules of Evidence. He is a Master of the Worrall F. Mountain Inn of Court and has been an adjunct faculty member of the School of Law and a Master of the Inn of Court at Seton Hall University School of Law.

Mr. Matthews served in the United States Marine Corps where he attained the rank of Captain. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V, two Purple Heart Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, and the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal for service in Vietnam. Mr. Matthews has been recognized as a New Jersey Super Lawyer in the editions for 2009 through 2021. The New Jersey Commission on Professionalism presented him with its Professionalism Award in 2010.

Mr. Matthews received an A.B. degree from the College of the Holy Cross and J.D. degree from Seton Hall University School of Law.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As the State government navigated through uncharted waters of the Coronavirus crisis, the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) continued to perform its operations, though mostly remotely.



Eric H. Jaso, Chairman

During the past year, the Commission maintained services by equipping employees to work from home. By implementing an emergency plan, ELEC fulfilled its core mission by enabling all functions to be carried out, even to the point of efficiently responding to telephone calls from the public.

During the course of 2020, candidates, committees, lobbyists, and public contractors reported electronically while the public continued to have timely, online access to those reports.

Legal and investigative functions continued as well. Moreover, the Commission held virtual Commission meetings, providing the public with the ability to participate while not attending the meeting in person.

Along these lines, the Commission held a public hearing wherein it amended its regulations to mandate electronic filing of reports by candidates and committees. At the same time, it adjusted the limits and thresholds pertaining to the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program as required by State law.

As a service to the public and the historical record, the Commission continued to produce analytical press releases, columns and white papers that traced trends in campaign financing, lobbying, and pay-to-play. This function took place during the course of the year.

Despite the Commission's maintenance of customary levels of service during the year of the pandemic, after the crisis subsides the effect on the Commission, and government in general, will invariably bring about change.

Even before the virus outbreak, technological innovations brought about changes in the way that people communicate with each other and the way that business and government functions.

More and more, government, following the lead of private industry, will continue on the road toward operating remotely. Certainly as the result of the current crisis, government has improved its capacity to do so.

Hopefully, however, the shift won't be too drastic. Once the virus has run its course, government will optimistically return to something close to what traditionally has been the norm.

For its part, the Commission will adapt to the changing nature of work, yet at the same time remember that a proper functioning government agency will always require personal interactions to be effective.

That is why to the extent possible, the Commission will seek to utilize technology where most effective but at the same time remain cognizant of the fact that overall government should not be done at a distance but rather in a way that services the public interest.

In this day and age, the importance of an efficiently run government is more important than ever. For its part, the Commission plans to continue to be center stage in the efforts to make government work for the people.

On behalf of the members of the Election Law Enforcement Commission, I proudly submit this report to the Legislature.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

As mentioned by the Chairman in his message, the Commission has largely functioned remotely, and I might add, successfully, during this year of the pandemic.



Jeffrey M. Brindle, Executive Director

With little advance notice, the Commission hastily assembled a plan last March that enabled staff to work from home while still providing essential services to the public.

Operating in the virtual realm, the Commission

has carried out its mission of disclosure. Importantly, the pandemic has not prevented ELEC from publishing a steady stream of analytical press releases, newsletters, and other publications such as columns and white paper research reports. These publications have kept policy makers, the news media and the public abreast of political fundraising efforts and trends.

Regarding the Commission's various publications, Deputy Director Joe Donohue and Executive Assistant Elbia Zeppetelli have been tremendously helpful, making significant contributions.

As noted by Chairman Jaso, legal and investigative functions have continued apace. Legal Director Demery Roberts and Deputy Legal Director Amanda Haines have worked tirelessly to issue complaints and final decisions as well as to adopt proposed regulations and advisory opinions. Thanks to their efforts the process for adjudicating enforcement actions has been streamlined.

Veteran Review and Investigations Director Shreve Marshall has navigated the pandemic waters successfully by managing an investigative staff that has largely been working remotely.

Under the leadership of Stephanie Olivo, the Compliance staff adapted to changes in election dates, continued to provide assistance to the public via phone calls, and conducted virtual training sessions with treasurers, candidates, PACs, and lobbyists.

Moreover, working along with IT Director Anthony Giancarli, the Compliance Director assisted in bringing about software that will better facilitate the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program by simplifying reporting by gubernatorial candidates.

Finally, Director of Finance and Administration Chris Mistichelli, along with Personnel Officer Barbara Rann, practically single handedly implemented the contingency plan that allowed the Commission to function remotely.

Lastly, although this was a year for holding fast, nevertheless, the Commission did undertake new initiatives, one of which is the oral history of the Commission project, which involves video-taped interviews of individuals who have made significant contributions to the Commission or otherwise have had influence over the field of campaign finance and lobbying in New Jersey.

While it has been a tough year for the Commission, as it has been for everyone, whether in or out of government, it has been a satisfying year nevertheless, as the Commission proved it remains a top agency of its type in the nation despite the difficulties presented by the pandemic.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH



Eric H. Jaso sits down with Jeff Brindle for an Interview On ELEC’s Oral History – November 2020

ELEC’s jurisdiction over campaign financing extends to every candidate running for local, county or state political office, from fire district commissioner to Governor, as well as to public ballot questions. It also oversees a program that disburses public funds for gubernatorial candidates while regulating lobbyists and professional fund-raisers. Each spring, hundreds of public contractors file annual disclosure reports with the agency that detail their public contracts and contributions.

The agency makes a major effort to enhance the public’s awareness and understanding about these responsibilities. ELEC fulfills this role through many means, including columns by the chairman and executive director, newsletters, news releases, white papers, testimony on legislation, speaking engagements and meetings with individuals or groups interested in the agency’s activities.

In 2020, ELEC Chairman Eric Jaso, Executive Director Jeff Brindle and staff provided content for 12 newsletters. Brindle also wrote 16 columns on topics ranging from the need to strengthen political parties, the case for expanded disclosure for

lobbyists, and the continuing need for independent special interest spenders in elections to meet the same disclosure laws as candidates and parties.

Brindle also unveiled a new Oral History of the Commission video series. Jaso was the first guest during a November 2020 interview. As the virus crisis recedes, Brindle will continue to hold face-to-face discussions with individuals who have played key roles in the Commission’s 48-year history.

While the pandemic precluded direct testimony before legislative committees for most of 2020, Brindle did participate in a Zoom meeting June 17, 2020 held by the Assembly State and Local Government to report on how ELEC was accomplishing its work during the crisis.

Assembly State and Local Government – Wednesday, June 17, 2020 – 10:30 AM



Committee Room 11, 4th Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, New Jersey

Before the pandemic-related shutdown in March, Brindle and staff members met nine times with legislators or staff members, or Murphy administration officials, on proposed legislation or other issues pertinent to the Commission.



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH continued

Last year, Deputy Executive Director Joseph Donohue prepared 16 analytical press releases that included a look at the impact of the COVID-19

COVID-19 shutdown, as well as online sessions and webinars. By law, training is mandatory for treasurers of gubernatorial, State Senate, and

Assembly campaigns. It is also required of treasurers of legislative leadership committees and State party committees. All told, the Compliance staff conducted 29 seminars or webinars with a total of 131 participants.

ELEC's outreach efforts stem from its underlying mission of transparency and accountability. For a small agency with just 59 staff members,

implementing the broad scope of ELEC's statutory responsibilities is a challenge, particularly in the time of COVID-19.

Due to the dedication of its staff, ELEC has maintained its reputation for being one of the most service-oriented agencies in state government.



ELEC's Virtual Commission Meeting

public health crisis on fund-raising by parties and special interest political action committees (PACs) and fund-raising on a public ballot question that supported legalized recreational marijuana use in New Jersey. The agency also issued 28 public advisories and enforcement actions and compliance deadlines.

Donohue also released White Paper No. 28: Legislative Election 2017: The Mother of All NJ Legislative Races. He authored the quadrennial 2021 Cost Index Report, which applies inflation adjustments to limits and thresholds that apply to the gubernatorial public financing program, adjusts thresholds for other candidates, and recommends increases in contribution limits for non-gubernatorial candidates.

Educational programs for candidates and treasurers are an important part of ELEC's outreach efforts. In 2020, ELEC's compliance staff under director Stephanie Olivo regularly held in-person assistance and in-house training session prior to the

ELEC: Public Contractors Report Second Fewest Contributions Since 2006

By InsiderNJ | April 28, 2020





ELEC VERGING ON MAJOR ROLE IN TRYING TO DETER SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION IN NJ POLITICS

Governor Murphy Signs Bill Allowing Use of Campaign Funds for Child Care Pro-Marijuana Ballot Question Passes Easily After \$2.3 million in Spending



Joseph W. Donohue, Deputy Director

In the wake of numerous allegations of sexual harassment and assault in the state’s political realm, Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg (D-38th) on December 31, 2019 announced she was forming a committee to seek

ways to end the “toxic culture that women face in New Jersey politics.”

Later named the Workgroup on Harassment, Sexual Assault and Misogyny in New Jersey Politics, the 15-person committee announced its findings on January 14, 2021.

The committee expects ELEC to play a major role in the state’s efforts to try to stem such intolerable behavior.

The report urged that the Legislature create an independent investigative unit within ELEC to investigate allegations of harassment, sexual assault and discrimination in political campaigns, party organizations and lobbying. “Findings of abusive behavior should be made public and be subject to sanctions by ELEC, and criminal acts should be referred to law enforcement,” it states.

During a press conference announcing the group’s findings, Weinberg said ELEC’s experience investigating complaints involving campaigns and its statutory independence made it the best agency to carry out the sensitive mandate.

“We think we’ve found the right organization to be the overseer,” she said.

Among its other recommendations, it also urged state, county and municipal party organizations and political campaigns adopt and post anti-harassment policies, and anti-harassment training for all elected and party officials, candidates, consultants, staff and volunteers.

Along with Senator Vin Gopal (D-11th), Weinberg has introduced legislation (S-3389/A5354) that would carry out the committee’s recommendations. It includes a minimum of \$2 million appropriation to staff and operate the new section.

At this writing, committee hearings still were pending. Weinberg has said publicly she expects strong support for the bill among her legislative colleagues.

On October 8, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy enacted legislation (S-698/A-2060) that permits public office-holders and candidates to use political contributions to defray child care expenses incurred due to their involvement in government or politics.

“Public office holders and candidates often juggle parenting, their full-time careers and their work in office and on the campaign trail. No one should be excluded from running for or serving in office because they cannot find or afford child care,” said Murphy in comments when he signed the bill.



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS continued

ELEC supported the bill. Several states allow the expense, including New York, New Hampshire, Colorado and Utah. The Federal Election Commission also has ruled it permissible for federal candidates.

The highlight of 2020’s election was a public question asking whether recreational marijuana use should be allowed in New Jersey.

More than \$2.3 million was spent on the ballot issue, overwhelmingly in support. Just \$12,198 was targeted against the measure. The question won by a 67-to-33 percent margin.

Six years after the introduction of a marijuana legalization bill by Senator Nicholas Scutari (D-22nd), Governor Murphy finally signed the latest revised version (A-21/S-21) on February 22, 2021. New Jersey became the 15th state to support legalization.¹

Spending on the ballot question did not approach the average of nearly \$8 million spent on similar state ballot questions nationally. It did rank as the seventh most expensive ballot question ever in New Jersey.

Top Ten Costliest New Jersey Ballot Question Elections Based on Inflation-Adjusted Numbers					
Rank	Referendum	Outcome	Year	Spending Unadjusted for Inflation	Spending Inflation Adjusted
1	Allow two new casinos in North Jersey	Failed	2016	\$24,669,426	\$26,716,004
2	Allow casinos in Atlantic City	Passed	1976	\$ 1,351,865	\$ 6,175,291
3	Jersey City short-term rental restrictions	Passed	2019	\$ 5,615,109	\$ 5,708,695
4	Increase state minimum wage	Passed	2013	\$ 3,167,928	\$ 3,534,564
5	Allow simulcasting at state race tracks	Passed	1985	\$ 1,006,918	\$ 2,432,306
6	Allow casinos in four New Jersey locations	Failed	1974	\$ 612,500	\$ 2,339,204
7	Legalize marijuana use in New Jersey	Passed	2020	\$ 2,331,969	\$ 2,331,969
8	Higher education bond Issue	Passed	2012	\$ 2,019,690	\$ 2,286,444
9	Build professional baseball stadium	Failed	1987	\$ 593,948	\$ 1,358,959
10	Allow sale of Trenton Water Works to private firm	Failed	2010	\$ 1,104,799	\$ 1,316,896

¹ South Dakota voters also legalized marijuana use in 2020 but a judge has ruled the law unconstitutional. The case remains pending.



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Enact legislative changes to strengthen political parties. These include raising contribution limits to adjust for inflation, exempting party entities from pay-to-play contribution limits, allowing state parties to spend directly on gubernatorial elections and ending the ban on party transfers during primaries.

Potential Benefit: The rapid rise of independent groups has seriously weakened political parties, which are more accountable and transparent because they have long been required to file detailed disclosure and spending reports. Taking steps to shift money away from independent groups to parties should benefit voters by leading to more disclosure, which is one of the simplest, cheapest ways to keep official abuses in check.

Broaden the governmental activities law to include lobbying of local governmental entities and to require more disclosure by professionals who advise lobbyists.

Potential Benefit: Current law requires disclosure by lobbyists who try to influence state officials, but not those who try to influence county or municipal officials. This expansion of disclosure requirements will make the public better aware of influence peddling at local levels of government. **For instance, dozens of New Jersey municipalities enacted bans on recreational marijuana in 2018 but no one knows who lobbied them.** In recent years, lobbyists increasingly have sought the services of professionals in areas such as public relations, political, legal, and digital and television advertising. Disclosure by

these so-called “shadow” lobbyists will provide the public with a more complete picture of lobbying activity in today’s digital age. Also seek statutory authority to require lobbyists to provide more details on their quarterly reports when they lobby on substantive matters on their quarterly reports. This might include date and location of meeting, name and title of official or officials who took part in the meeting, and the specific reason for the meeting.

Simplifying and standardizing “pay-to-play” laws by having just one law that applies to state, county and municipal contractors, ending the “fair and open” loophole, lowering from \$50,000 to \$17,500 the threshold for annual disclosure by contractors, raising from \$300 to \$1,000 the amount contractors can contribute, and including special interest PACs under the law. Contributions by contractors to independent groups should be disclosed.

Potential Benefit: A dizzying array of laws and executive orders have created a maze-like system for trying to limit pay-to-play abuses. It creates confusion and difficulty for both the regulated community and regulators along with needless legal costs. Extending the prohibition that applies to state contractors to county and municipal contractors should greatly reduce the “pay-to-play” influence of business entities.

When candidates spend campaign funds on dinners or other meetings, they must keep detailed records about who attended the event, what was purchased and why they considered the expense “ordinary and necessary.”

Potential Benefit: More disclosure for the public and less chance that a candidate will misuse campaign funds for personal use.



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS continued

Enact legislation authorizing public financing in the event of a special gubernatorial election.

Potential Benefit: Would ensure that candidates involved in a special election can avail themselves of public financing just like candidates in regular election years.

Enact legislation that would require any state and local candidates in New Jersey setting up legal defense funds to disclose their contributions and expenditures in reports filed with ELEC.

Potential Benefit: Closes a gap in current law, which requires no such disclosure.

Requiring school board candidates to file candidate certified statements (A-1 forms) if they raise no contributions or make no expenditures.

Potential Benefit: School board candidates are the only candidates except for write-in candidates who are not required to make such a declaration. Given that spending on school elections grew steadily during the past decade, fuller disclosure by candidates seems warranted.

Expand the 48-hour notice requirement for continuing political committee (PACs) expenditures to require that they file notices for expenditures made to May Municipal, Runoff, School, and Special Elections.

Potential Benefit: More disclosure, since an increasing amount of money is being spent on local elections.

Change the filing date for personal financial disclosure statements to improve efficiency.

Potential Benefit: Personal financial disclosure forms of candidates discourage conflicts of interest by revealing information about the wealth and assets of those who seek elected office. Providing candidates with more time in which to carefully complete these forms, along with a less confusing due date, will enhance compliance and disclosure with the law.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Cost Savings and Efficiencies.

- Eliminate the gubernatorial spending qualification threshold.
- Lengthen Commissioner terms to six years from three years and select the Commission Chairman or Chairwoman for a fixed term.

Strengthen Campaign Finance, Personal Financial Disclosure and Lobbying Laws.

- Enact legislation that gives statutory force to Commission prohibition against the use of campaign funds to pay legal bills that arise from criminal allegations.



STATUTORY HISTORY OF ELEC

LAW	CREATED/ESTABLISHED	EFFECTIVE DATE
<i>Election Law Enforcement Commission</i>	P.L. 1973, c.83 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.) "The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act"	April 24, 1973
<i>Gubernatorial Public Financing Program</i>	P.L. 1974, c.26 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-27 et seq.)	May 6, 1974
<i>Gubernatorial Public Financing Program Extending to Primary Elections</i>	Signed by Governor Brendan Byrne (Chapter 74)	July 23, 1980
<i>Personal Financial Disclosure Program</i>	P.L. 1981, c.129 (N.J.S.A. 19:44B-1 et seq.)	May 1, 1981
<i>Lobbying Program</i>	P.L. 1981, c.150 (N.J.S.A. 52:13C-18 et seq.)	May 22, 1981
<i>Continuing Political Committee Quarterly Reporting</i>	P.L. 1983, c.579 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.)	January 17, 1984
<i>Lobbying Reform</i>	P.L. 1991, c.243 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 52:13C-18 et seq.)	January 1, 1992
<i>Campaign Finance Reform</i>	P.L. 1993, c.65 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.)	April 7, 1993
<i>Street Money Reform Law</i>	P.L. 1993, c.370, (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-11.7)	January 7, 1994
<i>Uniform Recall Election Law</i>	P.L. 1995, c.105, (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:27A-1 et seq.)	May 17, 1995
<i>Political Identification Law</i>	P.L. 1995, c.391, (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-22.2 and 22.3)	February 1, 1996
<i>Non-Profit Disclosure by Gubernatorial Candidates</i>	P.L. 2001, c.20, (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-27 et seq.) Denies eligibility for public financing to gubernatorial candidates who oversaw a 527 or 501(c) non-profit group within four years of their candidacies unless the candidate discloses contributions and expenditures by those committees.	January 30, 2001
<i>Contribution Limit Changes</i>	P.L. 2001, c.384 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.)	January 8, 2002
<i>Campaign Financing Reform Initiatives</i>	P.L. 2004, c.19, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 123, and 174 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.)	June 16, 2004 through January 1, 2006
<i>2005 Clean Elections Pilot Project</i>	P.L. 2004, c.121	August 11, 2004
<i>Lobbying Law Expansion</i>	P.L. 2003, c.255 and P.L. 2004, c.20, 27, 34, 36, 37, and 38 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 52:13C-18 et seq.)	April 13 through August 16, 2004
<i>Pay-to-Play Contracting Reform</i>	(amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.). P.L. 2004, c.19 (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.3 - 20.12) P.L. 2005, c.51 (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 - 20.25) P.L. 2005, c.271 (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26 - 20.27)	January 1, 2006 October 15, 2004 January 1, 2006 January 5, 2006



STATUTORY HISTORY OF ELEC continued

<i>2007 Clean Elections Pilot Project</i>	P.L. 2007, c.60	March 28, 2007
<i>Office of Lieutenant Governor</i>	P.L. 2009, c.66	June 26, 2009
<i>Solicitation Ban on Public Property</i>	P.L. 2011 c.204	January 17, 2012
<i>Eliminates the Requirement of Candidates to File Duplicate Copies of Campaign Treasurer's Reports with County Clerks</i>	P.L. 2014, c.58 and N.J.A.C. 19:25-8.12	January 1, 2015
<i>Requires Governmental Affairs Agents to Disclose Compensation Received from State or Local Government Entities</i>	P.L. 2017, c.49 and N.J.A.C. 52:13C-21	May 1, 2017
<i>Requires Gubernatorial Ballot Statements to be Posted Online</i>	P.L. 2017, c.177 and N.J.A.C. 19:44A-37	July 21, 2017



*Steve Kimmelman
Research Assistant*



COMPLIANCE DIVISION

Among ELEC's various sections, none interacts with the public more than the Compliance Division. So when the COVID-19 pandemic slammed the state in March 2020, it presented immense challenges for our staff. I am pleased to announce that our employees more than met the challenge by working remotely and, when necessary, by being physically present at the office.

Compliance staff expanded the use of the training programs conducted through webinars to include instruction on compliance and electronic filing. Instruction on the website was increased through videos and request forms for compliance materials. The changing of election dates by Executive Order required adjustments to filing dates, which were promptly posted.



Front row: Kim Key, Gianna Leonardo, and Desiree DeVito.
Back row: Nancy Fitzpatrick, Maite Hopkins, Milene Matos, Daniel Horowitz, Stephanie Olivo, Walter Leavey, Jr., Monica Triplin-Nelson, Carl Skurat, and Titus Kamal.

With a 2021 Gubernatorial election looming, staff began testing and providing instruction on the new web-based computer program for receiving and processing applications for public financing. The improved electronic filing system should make it more convenient for candidates and their campaign staffs, and for compliance staff to process funding for the 2021 election. Three temporary compliance staff were hired to assist in the review of applications for public funding.

Despite tight staffing limits due to the virus threat, compliance successfully assisted the regulated community and the public, often using their personal cell phones. Public disclosure of reports was achieved by remotely accessing the agency's computer network. With electronic filing scheduled to become mandatory in 2021, alternate methods of filing were established via fax and website uploads to minimize paper filing. In-person seminars were changed to webinars to allow compliance to assist the regulated community with its transition to a web-based filing system. 

The primary purpose the Compliance Division is to assist the regulated community. Staff is available in person (currently by appointment) and over the phone to provide guidance regarding statutory and regulatory requirements relative to campaign finance, lobbying, pay-to-play and the gubernatorial public financing program. Assistance is provided to individuals that are candidates for public office and their treasurers, political committees and continuing political committees, governmental affairs agents and



COMPLIANCE DIVISION continued

those represented by them and business entities contracting with public entities. The goal is to ensure that the regulated community files public disclosure reports that are accurate and on time. Staff also assists members of the public and the media with instruction on the use of the website to search and locate available data and reports, and with Open Public Records requests.

In 2020, compliance staff handled election cycle reporting by candidates, joint candidate committees and political committees along with filings by lobbyists, fundraisers and public contractors. This included candidacies for a special state legislative senate and assembly seat for the primary and general, for local primary and general, municipal December runoff, school board, fire district and the May Municipal election; quarterly reporting relating to candidates, political party committees, legislative leadership committees and continuing political committees; registration of governmental affairs agents; annual and quarterly lobbying disclosure; registration of professional campaign fundraisers and quarterly fundraising activity; and businesses with public contracts.

Compliance staff aids all regulated groups and individuals by providing direct mail reminders, delinquent and non-filer letters, guidance documents and reference materials for filing requirements and due dates for filing obligations. Upon obtaining the names of candidates, the division is in immediate and frequent contact with those that have filing obligations.

Election	Number of Candidates	Number of Committees
Fire Commissioner	39	4
April School board	59	10
May Municipal	143	14
Primary	1,544	287
General	1,793	370
December Runoff	6	3
November School board	1,984	106
Total	5,568	794

Regulated Group	Number	Reports Filed
Candidates and Committees	7,362	21,037
Public Contractors	1,986	2,319
Lobbyists (Avg)	920	6,155
Professional Fundraisers (Avg)	15	49
Total	10,283	29,560

Business Entity Disclosure of Contract and Contributions for 2019 reported in 2020		
1,986 Business Entities	Number	Total Amount
Reported Contracts	17,890	\$9,762,385,831
Reported Contributions	8,609	\$9,243,887.28



COMPLIANCE DIVISION continued

To accommodate filers during the pandemic, the reports filed with ELEC were received electronically, by fax, through an upload process on the website, or were mailed and scanned by compliance staff to be viewable by the public on ELEC’s website. Compliance officers review every report to ensure they can be easily searched on the agency’s website and meet applicable law and regulations. Staff reviews generate correspondence recommending any necessary corrections to ensure proper compliance.

Compliance staff creates regulatory guidance documents, gives informational seminars and webinars, responds to telephone inquiries and assists individuals who appear in-person. Once the virus threat is over, Compliance officers will resume offering seminars in the Commission’s offices in Trenton, and once again will travel to various locations upon request. Compliance staff also will be available to appear at conferences and conventions.

the regulated community. Staff reviews statewide election reports for contribution and expenditure totals and conducts a review of annual lobbyist reports to allow for the preparation and posting of analytical data.



Compliance and Information

From Left: Monica Triplin-Nelson and Titus Kamal

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	
Seminars/Webinars	29
Seminar Participants	131
Trained Treasurers	144
Telephone Assistance	6,909
Public Room Assistance	44
Open Public Records Responses	10

The Compliance Division aspires to provide excellent customer service to both the regulated community and the public either over the phone, in person, through seminars or at a conference or convention. Every effort is made to ensure proper completion of disclosure forms to provide the public with accurate, meaningful information to promote the intent of the law and regulations. Providing helpful, courteous service each day to the regulated community and the public is our highest priority.

Compliance staff regularly reviews disclosure reports to assist with data collection for analytical press releases. It also regularly seeks improvements to forms and ELEC’s website to better accommodate



LAW DIVISION

LEGAL SECTION

The Legal Section is responsible for preparing advisory opinions and regulations, and interpreting and enforcing the laws under the jurisdiction of the Commission. Complaints, final decisions, advisory opinions, and regulations are posted on the Commission's website to provide the public with timely and convenient access to legal resources. The Legal Section also advises the Commissioners and staff on various aspects of the Commission's work.



From left: Nichole DeFazio, Tia Dinh, Theresa J. Lelinski, Gail L. Shanker, Amanda S. Haines, Demery J. Roberts, Kelley Keane-Dawes and Ben Kachuriner.

COMPLAINTS

The Commission is statutorily authorized to issue complaints alleging violations of the Campaign Act and seeking monetary penalties. The Legal Section issued 130 complaints in 2020. The violations alleged in the complaints include failure to file election cycle reports, 48-hour notice violations, currency contributions over the \$200 limit, and late and non-reporting of contribution, expenditure and depository information. As of the end of the year, 118 cases were ongoing.

FINAL DECISIONS

At the conclusion of each case in which a complaint has been issued, the Commission issues a final decision which may impose monetary penalties. The Commission issued 111 final decisions in 2020 for violations of the Campaign Act and received a total of \$87,668.91 in fines.

REGULATIONS

Through its rulemaking authority, the Commission promulgates regulations to clarify statutory

requirements and provide guidance to filing entities and the public. In 2020, amendments to existing regulations and new rules were proposed and adopted by the Commission to address a variety of issues. Chapter Three was repealed and replaced with new rules concerning ELEC's web-based electronic filing system (online systems, including

eFile, on ELEC's website for electronically filing/submitting reports, notices, forms, applications, and other documents), and requiring that all reports, forms, and other documents must be filed/submitted electronically. Regulations pertaining to the gubernatorial public financing program were amended to implement the statutorily required cost index adjustments to the contribution limits and thresholds, to clarify and reflect updates to the program, and for consistency with ELEC's electronic filing system.

Regulations pertaining to non-gubernatorial candidates and committees were also amended to set forth the cost index adjustments to various thresholds and to integrate the new electronic filing system. These new and amended regulations were published in the New Jersey Register and can be found on ELEC’s website.

ADVISORY OPINIONS

The Campaign Act authorizes the Commission to issue advisory opinions to assist the regulated community in complying with the law. Advisory opinions are issued upon request and are posted on ELEC’s website. The Commission issued Advisory Opinion 01-2020 (AO 01-2020), which was requested by Michael Jenkins, a municipal candidate in the 2020 general election. Mr. Jenkins asked whether his candidate committee could receive contributions through PayPal.

PayPal is a payment facilitator that sets up accounts for individuals and businesses, receives payments by way of credit cards for that individual/business, processes those payments, deducts a fee from each transaction, holds those funds in the individual’s/business’ PayPal account, and then transfers those funds to an assigned bank account. A PayPal account can also be set up to receive and process political contributions.

ELEC concluded in AO 01-2020 that Mr. Jenkins’ candidate committee could utilize PayPal to accept contributions provided the following requirements were satisfied: (1) PayPal account must be directly linked to the candidate committee’s campaign account and be used only by the candidate committee; (2) the entire amount of the contribution must be reported (reported amount cannot be reduced by any fees charged by PayPal); (3) fees deducted by PayPal must be reported as expenditures; and (4) the

candidate committee is required to make and maintain a record of each contribution, which includes PayPal statements. In reaching its determination, ELEC recognized that significant technological advances have occurred since the enactment of the Campaign Act in 1973 and the promulgation in 1999 of N.J.A.C. 19:25-10.16 (Contributions by electronic transfer of funds), a regulation that addresses credit card contributions. The Commission acknowledged that candidate committees were utilizing the services of various payment facilitators, including PayPal, “and that these types of payment facilitators were not contemplated in 1999.”

CONCLUSION

Interpreting and enforcing the provisions of law are critical elements of effective administration of the campaign and lobbying financial disclosure entrusted to the Commission and its Legal Section. The Legal Section continues to meet its challenges in



Legal Team Meeting

From Left: Theresa J. Lelinski, Nichole DeFazio, and Ben Kachuriner

a professional and responsible manner, to enforce the laws fairly and uniformly, and to treat all Respondents with the due process they are afforded under the law.



LAW DIVISION continued



Front row: Tamico Flack, Pam Kinsey, Laura Jurkiewicz, and Danielle Hacker.
Back row: Marcus Malmignati, Shreve Marshall, Brett Mead, Christopher Gear, and Matthew Krinsley.

REVIEW AND INVESTIGATION SECTION

The Review and Investigation consists of a Director, six investigators and one support staff.

In calendar year 2020, the Review and Investigation Section closed 20 investigations. The investigations primarily focused on the incomplete or untimely filing of campaign reports, campaign report information such as complete disclosure of contribution and expenditure information, receipt of excessive contributions, and reporting obligations of individuals and/or entities that expended funds independently of the candidate.

REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATION

Any member of the public can request an investigation by completing the Confidential Request for Investigation form, which can be found on the Commission's web site, www.elec.state.nj.us. The Requests for Investigation continue to be a major source of information regarding alleged violations of the Reporting Act as many members of the public continue to hold accountable their elected officials. When submitting a Request, it is helpful if the complainant provides as much information as possible, such as copies of campaign literature, photographs of campaign signs and any other information that may support the alleged reporting violation. However, these Requests cannot be filed by facsimile.



The Commission received a total of 93 Requests for Investigation in calendar year 2020. The Commission also initiates investigations as a result of staff's review of reports filed with the Commission. The Review and Investigation Section opened 14 new investigations in calendar year 2020. The Commission keeps confidential how it may have learned of a specific reporting violation or how an investigation is begun.

INVESTIGATIONS

In most cases, R & I will issue a subpoena either to entities that are the subject of the investigation or to financial institutions where a designated campaign or organizational depository exists. The subpoenas are issued for the production of documents that are needed to corroborate the financial information that was reported by the respondents or obtain more accurate information to assist the respondents with their filing obligations. In calendar year 2020, the section issued 27 subpoenas.

NON-FILER COMPLAINTS

The Review and Investigation Section is also responsible for reviewing the filings of candidates and committees to make referrals for complaint to the Legal Section of those entities that fail to file with the Commission. In 2020, 126 such complaint recommendations were transmitted to the Legal Section.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING AND OTHER LEGAL SUPPORT

The Section's investigators also review the Commission's files for records of candidates and entities participating in an election who have failed to file any reports.

The R & I section also assists the attorneys in the Legal Section with follow-up enforcement activity such as locating addresses for sheriff's service of complaints and in the preparation of cases for hearings before the Office of Administrative Law. In this instance, the investigator is required to prepare as the State's witness in the cases in which the respondents do not waive their right to such hearings. The investigators are also called upon to review amended reports filed by respondents in response to Commission complaints.

OUTSIDE REFERRALS

The Review and Investigation Section also makes referral to the Attorney General's Office Public Integrity and Accountability office (OPIA). Last year, OPIA successfully prosecuted a campaign treasurer for theft of campaign funds as a result of a referral from ELEC.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Early in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic was the top priority of the Information Technology (IT) section when a sudden shutdown of state offices in March demanded quick action to enable ELEC staff to work from home. A handful of key staff already used GoToMyPC, a web-based program that lets people securely access their office computers from other locations.



Front row: Shirley Bryant, Kim Swartz, Aydan Altan, Anthony Giancarli, and Brenda Brickhouse.
Back row: Peter Palaitis, Elias Amaya, Lou Solimeo, Susan Danley, Helen Kelly, Bettie Michael, Ken Colandrea, and Brian Robbins.

Within one week of the shutdown, ELEC obtained and installed GoToMyPC accounts for all ELEC employees. IT staff worked diligently to train each user. Enabling nearly 60 staff to work from home in such a short time was achieved with little disruption. More than 1,400 help desk calls this year including many from ELEC staff needing assistance in adjusting to the new routine.

Along with providing remote access to the entire staff, the IT section needed to find a way to hold the monthly commission meetings online. A

key need was to allow members of the public to view public portions of meetings and address the commission when necessary. After evaluating several options including Zoom, GoToMeeting, and Microsoft Teams, GoToWebinar was chosen. This software allowed commission members and staff to converse prior to broadcast of the meeting. Additionally, the program provided the ability to have a “closed door” executive session and still enable the public to watch the commission vote on

matters that had been reviewed in private. It also gives people a second chance to comment before the end of the meeting.

The gubernatorial public financing program allows candidates to receive matching state funds for each qualifying contribution. After the 2017 gubernatorial cycle, the Public Financing (PF) program used to process

gubernatorial submissions needed a major update. The new PF application was redesigned to allow for a faster, more efficient processing workflow.

The updated software also works seamlessly with submissions generated by the new GEFS ELEC eFile cloud-based filing application. The PF application provides a simple-to-use interface that allows support staff to review each contribution easily. Images and data are stored in a local SQL Server Database and provides quick access to information from previous submissions for comparison and analysis.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION *continued*

A new module was also added to ELEC eFile to import contribution and expenditure data. Several campaigns and committees use other software and third-party systems to manage their operations. Without this added feature, they would have to manually enter the same information into ELEC eFile. This feature was most welcomed by large campaigns and committees.

IT staff also spent time in 2020 managing minor bugs and software glitches while adding some enhancements as campaign staff members began using the system.

Each private contribution submitted by the candidate must meet several compliance requirements before the agency can disburse public funds. These include submission of detailed contributor information, images of each check or online contribution, bank deposit slips, and other documentation.

Mandatory electronic filing finally began January 2021. It is the culmination of many years of effort by the IT section. Several online systems have been put into place including Annual and Quarterly Lobbying reports, Pay-To-Play and Short 1-page reports. The R1, R3 and G1 reports have been filed electronically for many years, but relied on outdated programming that had inherent shortcomings. ELEC's decision to use a web-based system for all electronic filing has made the process easier to use and more reliable both for the public and the IT staff. This year the IT staff worked on the few remaining reports that needed be moved to the web.

Executive Order (EO) 225 signed by Governor Christie promoted the centralization of datacenters across agencies. ELEC has had its own datacenter from its inception. By 2010 this datacenter contained more than 12 physical servers providing various functions such as file

management, databases, robot applications and specific filing management software. Approximately 5 years ago, ELEC invested in a virtual server environment to minimize its hardware and maintenance costs. Nine physical servers were decommissioned and transferred to the virtual system. More servers were than created as needed at no cost to ELEC. Currently, 15 servers are active.

However, the virtual server system currently used by ELEC has reached its end-of-life. Since EO 225 prohibits agencies from purchasing additional hardware, ELEC has decided to migrate most of its datacenter to OIT's virtual environment. Initial planning for this project began in October with completion to occur in the first quarter of 2021.

DATA ENTRY SECTION

ELEC's data entry staff has been substantially reduced over the years due to transfers and retirements. As ELEC moves toward mandatory electronic filing, the workload has been transitioning from data entry to various other tasks such as registration and pin application processing needed by users to officially sign electronic reports. Over 2,200 pin applications were filed in 2020. Many more are expected as we move to full mandatory electronic filing.

Along with its other duties, the data entry staff releases reports and contribution data to the searchable database on the website according to a disclosure schedule. The staff is also tasked with entering candidate information at the start of each election cycle into the database from all legislative, county, and local races throughout the year.



HOMEPAGE

ELEC
State of New Jersey
New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission

Governor Phil Murphy • Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver

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Advice for Filers

[Contact ELEC](#)

- Report Disclosure Dates
- Candidates
- Continuing Political Committees (PACs)
- Electronic Filing
- Gubernatorial Public Financing Program
- Independent Committees
- Legislative Leadership Committees
- Lobbyists
- Political Committees
- Political Party Committees
- Professional Fundraisers
- Public Contractors
- Recall Elections
- Treasurers

Where To Find

Complaints and Final Decisions	Contributions and Expenditures	Candidate or Committee Reports	Lobbying Reports
Press Releases	Pay to Play Reports	Advisory Opinions	News Letters, White Papers and Other Publications

Press Releases

- Business Entity Annual Statements**
March 25, 2021
- Public Funds Disbursed**
March 11, 2021
- Disclosure Calendar**
March 11, 2021
- Commission Meeting Agenda**
March 10, 2021
- Lobbying Expenditures Hit a Record**
March 9, 2021
- Enforcement Action**
March 3, 2021

Spotlight On

- An Oral History of the Commission Volume 1 • Interview with Chairman Jaso** ▶
- NEW JERSEY & ITS PARTY SYSTEM: A Collection of Columns Extolling the Benefits of Political Parties** ▶
- ELEC-Tronic Newsletter Issue 142** April 2021 ▶
- 2021 Cost Index Report** ▶
- White Paper No. 28** ▶
- 2020 Annual Report** ▶
- Jersey Matters Dark Money**

'Dark money' flows into NJ politics and none of it has to be accounted for northjersey.com

Contribution Limits

View contribution limits for candidates, parties, political committees and PACs ▶

Disclosure Dates

Pending report disclosure dates ▶

Additional Info

5 Priority ELEC Recommendations

How do I...?

- Electronically file my reports?
- **Candidates and Committees**
- **Lobbyists**
- **Public Contractors**
- **Gubernatorial Candidates**
- Request an Investigation** ▶
- Subscribe to ELEC News** ▶
- View ELEC Minutes** ▶
- View Statistical Information** ▶
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FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

During 2020, the Finance and Administration Division continued to play an integral role in the successful operations of the Commission, by providing important management and employee services. Among the major areas handled and overseen by the Division are budget planning and analysis, purchasing/procurement, personnel and payroll administration, mail processing, and facilities management. Additionally, the Finance and Administration Division oversees multi-function devices and all other machinery maintenance for the entire Commission. Finally, reception services for the Commission are housed within the Finance and Administration Division. A great source of pride for all associated with the Commission is the fact that all telephone inquiries are still courteously and efficiently handled personally by a knowledgeable staff member and are not simply forwarded to a voicemail or telephone menu.



Front Row: Barbara Doose, Cheryl Lippincott, and Samantha Schutzbank.
Back Row: Kelvin Fisher, Aracelis Brown, Tamika McCoy, Christine Clevenger, Christopher Mistichelli, and Elaine Salit.

During 2020, the Finance and Administration Division staff worked tirelessly with other Commission Divisions to ensure the efficient management of the budget and the purchasing of necessary supplies and services, in order to keep the Commission functioning at an optimal level.

BUDGET

One of the major areas of responsibility for the Finance and Administration Division is the preparation, analysis, and management of the Commission's budget. The Commission's fiscal year 2021 Direct State Services adjusted appropriation is \$5,223,000 which is an increase of \$235,000 from the fiscal year 2020 Direct State Services adjusted appropriation. This increase is from salary program to offset increases in salaries. Thus, the Finance and Administration Division staff continued to work to ensure the accurate budgeting and management of expenditures.

PERSONNEL

Another major area of responsibility for the Finance and Administration Division is the coordination and management of personnel activities for the entire Commission. The Finance and Administration Division staff successfully worked with the Civil Service Commission and the Governor's Office during 2020 to comply with all State personnel rules and regulations in backfilling positions. This has allowed overall staff levels to remain unchanged over the past few years.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION continued

In early 2020, the Division of Finance and Administration was tasked with creating a remote work plan as a result of the ongoing pandemic. Human Resources, which falls under the Division, created a policy and procedure applicable to all employees to allow remote work where possible. This has allowed ELEC to follow all safety protocols and guidelines set forth by the CDC and the Governor's office, ensuring the well-being of our staff as well as allowing all operations to go on with few interruptions.

All State and Federal health and safety requirements, such as possible exposure notifications/quarantines, cleaning protocols, mask mandates, and the like have been strictly adhered to as they have been issued and/or updated.



Finance and Administration
Christine Clevenger

general administrative functions, such as reception, mail processing, overseeing machinery and equipment maintenance, and acting as the Commission's liaison with Building Management. During 2020, the Division continued to work to maintain an atmosphere where all other Divisions could focus solely on their respective roles within the Commission, without concern for these day-to-day administrative issues.

CONCLUSION

By providing important management and employee services in a timely and professional manner, the Finance and Administration Division has been an integral part of the Commission. During 2020, the Division operated within the parameters established by the Department of Treasury and the Governor's Office and continued to handle all responsibilities effectively.



Finance and Administration
Elaine Salit

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to handling budget, fiscal and personnel matters for the Commission, the Finance and Administration Division is also responsible for

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION continued



In FY 2022, the Commission anticipates an appropriation of \$5,297,000 based on the Governor’s Budget Message.

COMPARISON OF FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021 ORIGINAL DSS APPROPRIATIONS		
	FISCAL-2020 APPROPRIATION	FISCAL-2021 APPROPRIATION
Salaries and Wages	4,232,000	4,477,000
Printing and Supplies	45,000	44,000
Services Other Than Personal	709,000	700,000
Maintenance and Fixed Charges	2,000	2,000
Total Operational	\$4,988,000	\$5,223,000

2020 EVALUATION DATA

Disclosure Reports (Total	29,560
Campaign & Quarterly	21,037
Lobbyist	6,155
Pay-to-Play	2,319
Professional Campaign Fundraiser	49
Investigations	20
Complaints	130
Public Assistance Requests	8,647
Fine Collection	\$87,669
Lobbying Annual Fees	\$360,575
Campaign Fundraiser Annual Fees	\$18,000



COMMISSION STAFF & ORGANIZATION CHART

EXECUTIVE

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JOSEPH W. DONOHUE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Christopher Vigale
Elbia L. Zeppetelli
Steven Kimmelman

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Carl Skurat
Daniel Horowitz
Desiree DeVito
Gianna Leonardo
Kimberly Key
Maite Hopkins
Monica Triplin-Nelson
Michel Donato-Suarez
Milene Matos
Nancy Fitzpatrick
Titus Kamal
Walter Leavey, Jr.

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Elaine J. Salit
Kelvin Fisher
Tamika McCoy
Samantha Schutzbank

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AMANDA HAINES, ESQ., DEP. LEGAL DIRECTOR

Benjamin Kachuriner, Esq.
Gail L. Shanker, Esq.
Kelley Keane-Dawes, Esq.
Maureen Tilbury
Nichole DeFazio, Esq.
Theresa J. Lelinski, Esq.
Tia Dinh, Esq.

REVIEW AND INVESTIGATION

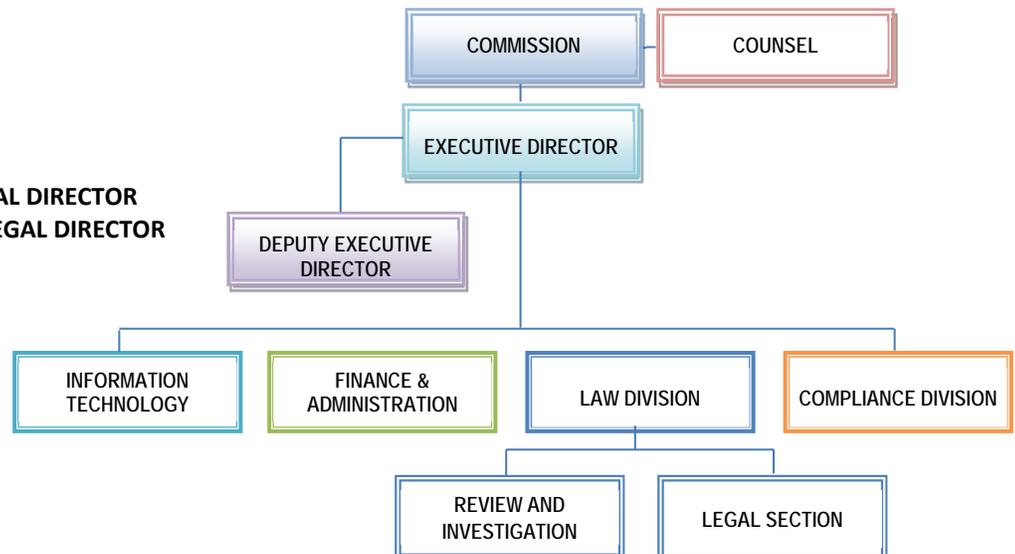
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Brett Mead
Christopher Gear
Danielle Hacker
Laura Jurkiewicz
Matthew Krinsley
Marcus Malmignati
Tamico Flack

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

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Brenda A. Brickhouse
Brian Robbins
Darlene Kozlowski
Elias J. Amaya
Elizabeth Michael
Helen Kelly
Kim Swartz
Ken Colandrea
Louis Solimeo
Maryanne Garcia
Peter Palaitis
Shirley R. Bryant
Susan Danley





ELEC OVERVIEW

1973

Frank P. Reiche, Chair
Judge Sidney Goldmann, Vice Chair
Judge Bartholomew Sheehan,
Commissioner
Florence P. Dwyer, Commissioner

1974-1979

Frank P. Reiche, Chair
Judge Sidney Goldmann, Vice Chair
Josephine Margetts, Commissioner
Archibald S. Alexander, Commissioner

1980-1981

Judge Sidney Goldmann, Chair
Josephine Margetts, Vice Chair
Andrew C. Axtell, Commissioner
M. Robert DeCotiis, Commissioner

1982-1983

Andrew C. Axtell, Chair
M. Robert DeCotiis, Vice Chair
Justice Haydn Proctor, Commissioner
Alexander P. Waugh, Jr., Commissioner

1984-1986

Andrew C. Axtell, Chair
Alexander P. Waugh, Jr., Vice Chair
Justice Haydn Proctor, Commissioner
Owen V. McNanny III, Commissioner

1987-1988

Judge Stanley G. Bedford, Chair
Owen V. McNany, III, Vice Chair
Andrew C. Axtell, Commissioner
David Linett, Commissioner

1989-1990

Judge Stanley G. Bedford, Chair
Owen V. McNany, III, Vice Chair
David Linett, Commissioner
S. Elliott Mayo, Commissioner

1991-1992

Owen V. McNany, III, Chair
Judge Stanley G. Bedford,
Commissioner
David Linett, Commissioner

1993-1994

Owen V. McNany, III, Chair
William H. Eldridge, Vice Chair
David Linett, Commissioner

1995

William H. Eldridge, Chair
Owen V. McNany, III, Vice Chair
David Linett, Commissioner
Michael Chertoff, Commissioner

1996

Judge Ralph V. Martin, Chair
David Linett, Vice Chair
Paula A. Franzese, Commissioner

1997-2000

Judge Ralph V. Martin, Chair
David Linett, Vice Chair
Paula A. Franzese, Commissioner
Lynnan B. Ware, Commissioner

2001

Judge Ralph V. Martin, Chair
Paula A. Franzese, Vice Chair
Lynnan B. Ware, Commissioner
Susan S. Lederman, Commissioner

2002-2003

Judge Ralph V. Martin, Chair
Paula A. Franzese, Vice Chair
Susan S. Lederman, Commissioner
Peter J. Tober, Commissioner

2004-2006

Jerry Fitzgerald English, Chair
Peter J. Tober, Vice Chair
Albert Burstein, Commissioner
Judge Theodore Z. Davis, Commissioner

2007

Jerry Fitzgerald English, Chair
Peter J. Tober, Vice Chair
Albert Burstein, Commissioner

2008-2009

Jerry Fitzgerald English, Chair
Peter J. Tober, Vice Chair
Albert Burstein, Commissioner
Judge Amos C. Saunders, Commissioner

2010

Jerry Fitzgerald English, Chair
Judge Amos C. Saunders, Vice Chair
Albert Burstein, Commissioner
Ronald DeFilippis, Commissioner

2011

Ronald DeFilippis, Chairman
Walter F. Timpone, Vice Chairman
Judge Amos C. Saunders, Commissioner
Judge Lawrence Weiss, Commissioner
(Appointed 4-2011 - Deceased 11-13-2011)
Jerry Fitzgerald English, Commissioner
(Retired 3-15-2011)

2012-2015

Ronald DeFilippis, Chairman
Walter F. Timpone, Vice Chairman
Judge Amos C. Saunders, Commissioner
(Deceased 8-16-2015)

2016

Ronald DeFilippis, Chairman
Walter F. Timpone, Vice Chairman
(Resigned 5-2-2016)

2017

Ronald DeFilippis, Chairman
(Retired 7-2017)
Eric H. Jaso, Chairman
Stephen M. Holden, Commissioner
Eric H. Jaso, Commissioner

2018-2020

Eric H. Jaso, Chairman
Stephen M. Holden, Commissioner
Marguerite T. Simon, Commissioner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

1973-1976	David F. Norcross
1976-1981	Lewis B. Thurston, III
1981-1984	Scott A. Weiner
1984-2009	Frederick M. Herrmann
2009-Present	Jeffrey M. Brindle

LEGAL COUNSEL

1973-1994	Edward J. Farrell
1994-2012	James P. Wyse
2012-Present	Edwin R. Matthews

CONSULTANT

1973-1978, 1982, 1986-1988
Herbert E. Alexander