

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission

April 2025

www.elec.nj.gov

COMMISSIONERS AND SENIOR STAFF



New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission
25 South Stockton Street, 5th Floor
Trenton, New Jersey
(609) 292-8700



Clockwise: Chairman Thomas H. Prol, Commissioner Ryan Peters, Commissioner Jon-Henry Barr, Executive Director Amanda S. Haines, Deputy Director Joseph W. Donohue, Director of Review and Investigation Shreve Marshall, Director of Compliance Aurea Vazquez-Alexander, Deputy Legal Director Scott Miccio, Legal Director Theresa J. Lelinski, Legal Counsel Edwin R. Matthews, and Commissioner Norma R. Evans.



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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. 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. 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

THOMAS H. PROL, CHAIRMAN



Thomas H. Prol practices law at Sills Cummis & Gross P.C. in Newark, N.J. He is admitted to practice before the courts of New Jersey and New York and before numerous federal courts. Mr. Prol is a member of the American Bar Association Board of Governors and House of Delegates, a Fellow of the American Bar

Foundation, and a Life Fellow of the National Conference of Bar Presidents. On June 14, 2023, Governor Phil Murphy appointed Mr. Prol as Chair of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), the state's "fiscal watchdog" agency that oversees election financing integrity in the Garden State.

He was honored as the 2024 New Jersey "Lawyer of the Year," by ALM Media and the New Jersey Law Journal, for his advocacy of LGBTQ rights and his commitment to social justice. Mr. Prol is a Past President of the New Jersey State Bar Association ("NJSBA"), serving as NJSBA's first openly gay leader in 2016-2017. Holding Juris Doctorate and Master of Public Health degrees, in March 2020, the NJSBA called him back to service to oversee its Pandemic Task Force, leading the effort to fashion a roadmap to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the legal profession.

Throughout his legal career, Mr. Prol has been a vocal advocate on issues of equity and access to justice. He co-drafted New Jersey's "Marriage Equality" legislation which revised the State's marriage law to provide equality for all committed couples, regardless of gender, and was signed into law by Governor Murphy on January 10, 2022. As a founding and current executive board member of Garden State Equality Educational Fund, Inc., New Jersey's largest LGBTQ education and advocacy

organization, Mr. Prol has championed marriage equality and civil rights for over two decades. In addition to being named a "Super Lawyer" each year over the past decade, he has stood up and spoken out on civil rights and social justice issues, including advocating for and arguing the defense of the New Jersey Criminal Justice Reform Act and the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Act.

Mr. Prol has appeared and has authored/co-authored numerous briefs over the past two decades before the New Jersey Supreme and Superior Courts, New Jersey Council on Local Mandates, and the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals. He is a lecturer for the N.J. Institute for Continuing Legal Education and Practising Law Institute and is an expert on parliamentary procedure.

Mr. Prol is General Counsel to the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey and Special Environmental Counsel to the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority. He previously served as an adjunct professor at Seton Hall University School of Law where he taught Constitutional issues related to gender and sexual orientation, and at New York Law School where he taught legal writing and appellate advocacy. Mr. Prol was Associate General Counsel and Agency Chief Contracting Officer for New York City's Department of Consumer Affairs. Prior to practicing law, Mr. Prol was an environmental scientist and enforcement officer for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and served two years as a volunteer in the U.S. Peace Corps in Nepal. Mr. Prol has also held externships with the U.S. Attorney's Office (E.D.N.Y.), the New York City Commission on Human Rights, CNN and The Carter Presidential Center.



THE COMMISSION *(continued)*

RYAN PETERS, COMMISSIONER



Ryan Peters is a native of Mount Laurel, New Jersey. He is a 2004 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, a 2012 graduate of the Rutgers School of Law and a graduate of the Johnson College of Business at Cornell University.

Upon successfully finishing training and certification as a Navy SEAL, he completed three combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. At present, Mr. Peters is a Navy Captain assigned to SEAL Team EIGHTEEN.

Mr. Peters is a Vice President with Holman Enterprises in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. Formerly an associate attorney with Pepper Hamilton, LLP, resident in the Philadelphia and Princeton Offices, he concentrated his practice in commercial litigation, with a particular focus on arbitration, breach of contract litigation, and class action litigation. He is also a Certified Fraud Examiner and a Certified Anti-Money Laundering specialist with experience in anti-money laundering compliance and internal investigations.

Mr. Peters is also actively involved in the community. He served as a member of the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders from 2016 until 2018. In January of 2018, Mr. Peters was sworn into the New Jersey Legislature as an Assemblyman representing New Jersey's 8th Legislative District. Mr. Peters also served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Liberty USO of Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey; the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Goodwill Industries of Southern New Jersey and Philadelphia; and on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity of Burlington and Mercer County.

NORMA R. EVANS, COMMISSIONER



Norma R. Evans received her Juris Doctorate from Temple University Beasley School of Law. While in Law School she was a member of the Moot Court Honor Society and President of the Black Law Students Association.

Ms. Evans earned her B.S. from Towson University.

Ms. Evans began her legal career at the Philadelphia law firm of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker and Rhoads as a Litigation Associate. Following her passion for public service, she became an Assistant Prosecutor with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office. She later joined the Attorney General's Office, Division of Criminal Justice, where she rose to the ranks of Supervising Deputy Attorney General, Deputy Chief of the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor and Counsel to the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor.

As a Deputy Attorney General, she helped to ensure fair and efficient elections, and assisted county election officials in resolving election day voting-related legal issues, to facilitate the preservation and protection of the right to vote. Her duties included handling any court applications, and providing timely legal advice to County Superintendents of Elections and Boards of Elections on emergent voting-related matters to help ensure the integrity of the voting process.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Evans was assigned to the Sandy Fraud Task Force and represented the Attorney General as legal counsel to the New Jersey Police Training Commission, the State Toxicology Lab and the Human Trafficking Task Force.



THE COMMISSION *(continued)*

NORMA R. EVANS, COMMISSIONER *(continued)*

Recognized for her exceptional contribution to the Division of Criminal Justice and the State of New Jersey, Ms. Evans is the recipient of the Professional Lawyer of the Year Award from the New Jersey State Bar Association's Commission on Professionalism in the Law, the United States Inspector General's Integrity Award, the Division of Criminal Justice Director's Award, and the New Jersey Outstanding Public Official Award.

Ms. Evans is the former President of the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey. She is a Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Ms. Evans currently serves on the South Jersey Legal Services, Inc. Board of Trustees and is the Vice President of the Garden State Unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians.

JON-HENRY BARR, COMMISSIONER



Jon-Henry "J.H." Barr is a lifelong resident of Union County, New Jersey. He graduated from Lehigh University with a bachelor's degree in government, and he earned his law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law. While in law school, he won a seat on the Clark Township Council at age 23, becoming one of the youngest elected officials in New Jersey at that time. After law school, he was a law clerk to Superior Court Judge Paul F. Chalet in Monmouth County.

In 2001, Mr. Barr was appointed as Chief Municipal Prosecutor for Clark, a position he continues to hold today. He is a founding member of the New Jersey State Municipal Prosecutors Association, and served as its president for eight years. As a frequent speaker for continuing legal education seminars and for his leadership in the area of municipal court prac-

tice, he received the New Jersey State Bar Association's 2014 Municipal Court Practitioner of the Year award. That same year, due to his extensive experience prosecuting marijuana possession offenses, he joined the steering committee of New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform (NJUMR), a partnership of public safety, medical, civil rights, faith, and social justice groups and individuals. NJUMR played a key role in the overwhelming approval of a November 2020 public referendum in which the citizens of New Jersey voted to legalize the possession of marijuana.

Mr. Barr's community involvement includes membership in the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad, where he was a certified Emergency Medical Technician from 2003 to 2020, and served twice as the squad's president. For his volunteer service with the Clark squad, the Young Lawyer's Division of the New Jersey State Bar Association rewarded him with its "Service to the Community" trophy in 2005.

In 2017, Mr. Barr was appointed by the Union County Board of County Commissioners to the Board of Education of the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools, becoming the school board's vice-president two years later. He also earned a Certified Board Member recognition in 2023 from the New Jersey School Boards Association, where he currently sits on the Board of Directors as a Delegate for the vocational school boards of the state.

Mr. Barr is admitted to practice law in New Jersey, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. He has maintained a private law practice as the managing member of the law firm of Barr & Gulyas, L.L.C. in Clark since 1998. He is also a past president of the Union County Bar Association, which honored him in 2022 with its annual "Pro Bono Attorney of the Year" award.



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, 2020 to present) and the Fee Arbitration Committee (2019 to 2023).

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 2025. The New Jersey Commission on Professionalism presented him with its Professionalism Award in 2010.

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

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE - 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



“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.”

On behalf of myself and my fellow Commissioners at the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), I am honored to present this 2024 Annual Report of the New Jersey Elections Law Enforcement Commission.

2024 was a transformative year for ELEC as each Commissioner marked the completion of their first full calendar year of service. We were each installed by direct appointment of Governor Philip D. Murphy in June 2023 under N.J.S.A. 19:44A-5 et seq. Since then, and consistent with the legislature and Governor’s direction, we undertook an intentional effort to fully review and evaluate the 2023 Election Transparency Act (“NJ ETA”), including new and enhanced requirements and reporting obligations, and are taking action to give effect to the new law guided by ELEC’s mission.

During 2024, we were presented with several challenges as well as opportunities. These include the oversight of candidates and campaign operations under a reduced enforcement timeframe, expanded authority to regulate independent expenditure committees, launch of gubernatorial primary and general election campaigns, administration of gubernatorial matching funds and candidate debates, and on-going transition issues under NJ ETA, among others.

The NJ ETA changes adopted in 2023 were the first major overhaul of the Campaign Act since 2004. In May 2024, ELEC re-adopted its established regulations to avoid automatic sunseting under N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1. As a part of this rulemaking process, ELEC also adopted new rules that implemented new requirements that were included in the adoption of the NJ ETA.

Below are other significant actions taken by the Commission:

- In November 2024, ELEC adopted cost index adjustments for gubernatorial and non-gubernatorial candidates and committees. This adoption also

included new regulations governing Independent Expenditure Committees.

- We have taken steps to implement and enforce the new reporting requirements for Independent Expenditure groups that participate in NJ elections mandated in the NJ ETA. These new requirements provide disclosure of previously unreported contributions and expenditures in the political arena.

Against the backdrop of the new requirements contained in the NJ ETA, at the request of the ELEC Commissioners, the ELEC staff are undertaking a thorough review of a randomized sampling of hundreds of state candidate accounts in order to collect general compliance data. The goal of this initiative – a first-of-its-kind effort by ELEC – is to enhance the Agency’s understanding of compliance concerns and problems so that ELEC can provide detailed and targeted education and compliance assistance to the regulated community. While ELEC will continue to vigorously enforce violations of New Jersey campaign finance laws, we are leading with our dedication to educating candidates and campaigns in order to promote compliance as well as honesty and transparency among reporting entities.

ELEC meets the third Tuesday of each month at 11 AM at the ELEC headquarters. ELEC welcomes public participation in our meetings and rulemaking processes. Please come visit us and join in the meeting (virtually or in-person) as you are able.

Lastly, my fellow commissioners and I are grateful for the dedication of the entire ELEC staff, led by Executive Director Amanda Haines. There is much work yet to be done, and we are excited to continue in service to Garden State residents in protecting voters as the state’s election watchdog.

Thomas Prol, Chair



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AMANDA S. HAINES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Amanda S. Haines,
Executive Director

2024 was a year of transition and advancement for ELEC. In May of 2024, I was sworn in as ELEC's sixth executive director, after serving the Commission in various Legal section roles for 19 years. My advancement led to changes in leadership throughout the Commission. Theresa Lelinski was promoted to Legal Director and ELEC welcomed Scott Miccio back to the Commission as Deputy Legal Director. They lead a growing team of attorneys that advise the Commission and navigate changes brought about by the Elections Transparency Act (ETA).

In the Compliance section, ELEC welcomed Aurea Vazquez-Alexander as the Director of Compliance. In that role, Ms. Vazquez-Alexander also oversees the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program. She brings extensive corporate compliance experience to the Commission.

Joining our newcomers and those working in new roles are experienced staff members in Information Technology, Finance and Administration, and Review and Investigation. Throughout 2024, each section has approached its work with great agility and outside-the-box thinking as ELEC moves forward under the ETA.

The ETA was the first major overhaul of the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act since 2004. Along with sweeping changes in pay-to-play laws, contribution limits and reporting frequency, the ETA also created independent expenditure committees. By adopting regulations in May (*Sunset reoption, amendments and new rules*) and November (*cost index adjustments and rules concerning independent expenditure committees*), ELEC has implemented the ETA with laudable quickness, providing clear insight to the regulated community.

The gubernatorial cost index adjustments are the quadrennial precursor to the gubernatorial primary and general elections. Since 1980, ELEC has been required to adjust certain limits and thresholds related to gubernatorial elections by December 1 of the year preceding the gubernatorial election. ELEC fulfilled this obligation by adopting regulations increasing thresholds and limits in November 2024.

The field of candidates for the 2025 gubernatorial primary election is expected to be very large. As of December 31, 2024, 15 individuals filed a report with ELEC as a gubernatorial candidate. Nine of the candidates had significant fundraising, collectively raising over \$15 million and spending over \$5 million. Such large fundraising totals rank 5th all-time for a gubernatorial election even six months until the primary.

With eyes toward the 2025 gubernatorial election, ELEC issued an Order to Show Cause and held a hearing in June 2024 to determine whether a gubernatorial candidate's radio show constituted an in-kind contribution. In its Opinion on the Amended Order to Show Cause, issued July 5, 2024, ELEC provided clear guidelines to the candidate, radio station and the interested public as to what communications would constitute in-kind contributions.

For the first time since 2004, ELEC increased non-gubernatorial contribution limits as a part of its standard non-gubernatorial cost index adjustments. Non-gubernatorial contribution limits were frozen by statute in 2005. In 2023, the ETA adjusted these limits upward, in many cases doubling the existing contribution limits. The ETA also tasked ELEC with adjusting the contribution limits every two years based upon its cost index multiplier. ELEC's adjustment in 2024 further increased contribution limits applicable to 2025 and 2026. The next non-gubernatorial contribution limit adjustment will occur in 2026 and will be applicable to 2027 and 2028.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW



Joseph W. Donohue,
Deputy Director

The 2025 gubernatorial election will provide the biggest test yet of the Elections Transparency Act (P.L. 2023, Chapter 30).

Based on information available through March, there is strong evidence that so-called “outside” group spending is swiftly headed toward a new high in a gubernatorial election year.

Independent spending related to the gubernatorial primary campaign so far already has topped \$34.1 million, according to an ELEC estimate based on fund-raising reports and information on political advertising spending by Adimpack.

YEAR	PRIMARY	GENERAL	TOTAL
(IN MILLIONS)			
2025 <i>(prelim.)</i>	\$34.1		\$34.1
2021	\$13.4	\$28.3	\$41.7
2017	\$ 9.1	\$15.4	\$24.5
2013	\$13.0	\$ 8.3	\$21.3
2009	\$ 2.1	\$11.9	\$14.0
2005	None	\$ 0.4	\$ 0.4
2001	\$ 4.9	\$ 1.8	\$ 6.7

The total is already more than double the \$13.4 million high for a gubernatorial primary election set in 2021.

One independent group alone filed a report with ELEC in 2024 indicating it has plans to spend \$35 million on the 2025 primary. So far, it has received more than \$17 million from an affiliate for the election, according to records filed with the IRS.

Another factor in the unprecedented pattern of spending is that unlike in past gubernatorial elections, several outside groups supporting specific gubernatorial candidates are spending heavily even during the primary.

Dating back to the 1990s, it was not uncommon for would-be gubernatorial candidates to use continuing political committees, federal PACs, or political 527 or 501c(4) non-profit groups to fund advertising campaigns so they might be better recognized by voters if they took the leap.

With the rapid rise of Super-PACs and other independent spending groups in federal elections, many have sprung up to serve as “booster clubs” for candidates to amplify their visibility even during the election year.

That trend is now trickling down to the state level. In addition, since Governor Phil Murphy cannot run for a third term, this year’s primary is an “open seat” election.

All nine candidates who have filed R-1 reports, which disclose in detail contributions and expenditures, and usually include the most serious contenders, registered with ELEC during 2024.

On average, they filed their organizational reports 429 days before the June 10, 2025 primary election. By comparison, 34 other R-1 filers dating back to 2001 filed an average of 267 days before the election.

At least 10 independent groups were organized to support many of these candidates before 2025. Beginning as early as 2022, they spent an estimated \$14.4 million. Others have sprung up just since January 1 and spent millions more to boost them.

These fund-raising committees are legally required to operate independently of candidates even if they spend money supporting the candidates or attacking their opponents.



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(continued)

But this unprecedented wave of spending means that even before this year's general election begins, independent spending could top the \$41.7 million record in 2021 for both general and primary elections.

The 2025 gubernatorial election will be the first one held under the statutory authority of the Elections Transparency Act, which Governor Murphy signed April 3, 2023.

Before the law's enactment, groups that did independent spending in New Jersey elections were supposed to disclose their spending. Yet they faced no statutory requirement to disclose their political donors.

Garden State voters were fortunate that most outside groups participating in state and local elections during the past 15 years, when such spending soared nationally and in New Jersey, voluntarily reported their major donors.

But the recent trend in national elections and some state elections has been for more groups to try to influence elections without divulging their main supporters. These so-called "dark money" groups could have become the norm in New Jersey without the new law.

For the first time since ELEC was created in 1973, the new law requires an independent expenditure committee that makes an electioneering communication in the primary or general election to file disclosure reports with the Commission.

Primary election reports, which must identify the source of all contributions larger than \$7,500 and all expenditures made beginning on January 1 of the preceding year, must be filed 11 days before the primary and 20 days afterward.

During the general election, such disclosure reports must be filed 29 days and 11 days before the election, and 20 days afterward.

Independent expenditure committees are not subject to contribution limits. They cannot make contributions to candidates, or coordinate their activities with candidates or parties.

An ELEC analysis of \$23 million in independent spending during the 2023 legislative elections found that the new law provided a robust level of disclosure.

However, the Commission has identified some areas where disclosure can and should be improved through additional legislation.

These are addressed in recommendation two below.

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation One- Extend statute of limitations from two years to four years.

While ELEC has demonstrated that it can issue complaints within two years, a two-year limit may inhibit ELEC's ability to address certain violations. Many candidates have reporting obligations for longer than two years for a single election, as terms of office vary within New Jersey. Extending the statute of limitations from two to four years will allow ELEC to effectively enforce the Campaign Act over the entirety of an election. The four-year period also matches the agency's four-year record retention requirement. ELEC further recommends that the statute of limitations begin with the election date rather than the date of a violation.

Recommendation Two- Refine Independent Expenditure Committee disclosure requirements.

1. Require Independent Expenditure Committees to report activity (contributions in excess of \$7,500 and independent expenditures in excess of \$300) in the final 13 days prior to the election on 72/24-hour notices. Doing so will provide preelection disclosure of transactions that would otherwise be disclosed for

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(continued)



the first time on the 20-day postelection report.

2. Require Independent Expenditure Committees to file postelection quarterly reports. All other election-related committees are required to file quarterly reports until they pay off any remaining obligations. At that point, such committees certify that their accounts are finalized. Currently, Independent Expenditure Committee reporting concludes with a 20-day postelection report and there is no requirement to report the reconciliation of any outstanding obligations. To increase transparency as to the sources of funding for independent expenditures, ELEC recommends a postelection quarterly report requirement for independent expenditure committees that do not conclude all activity with the 20-day postelection report.

3. Increase the lookback period for Independent Expenditure Committee reporting. Under current law, an Independent Expenditure Committee that makes an electioneering communication must disclose appropriate transactions from the first day of the prior calendar year up to the close of the first reporting period (either the 29-day report or the 11-day report, depending on the election). January 1 of the calendar year prior to the election may not be sufficient to capture all relevant activity for an IEC that organizes more than a year prior to an election. ELEC recommends an extension of the lookback period to the first day of the prior calendar year from when the entity organized as an IEC for the election, not the calendar year prior to the election.

Recommendation Three- Resolve conflict between ELEC Law and Daniel's Law

Daniel's Law, as initially envisioned, was to provide that personal information including addresses and telephone numbers of Judges both sitting and former would be exempt from any disclosure made by any state agency. The law was expanded to include additional persons who could register for non-disclosure under Daniel's Law, including prosecutors and former prosecutors, and employees of the Division of Child

Protection. Persons residing with exempt persons can also register to have addresses exempted from disclosure.

While the Commission appreciates and respects the intent of Daniel's Law, it is apparent that complying with Daniel's Law would force ELEC to ignore its obligations under the Campaign Act. In addition, Commission and staff members believe it would be impossible to fully comply even if the two statutes were not fundamentally at odds.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

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. There also is a need for 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.



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(continued)

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.

Expand the 72/24-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.

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.

Require candidates who are no longer in office to close their campaign accounts within a specified time set by the Legislature.



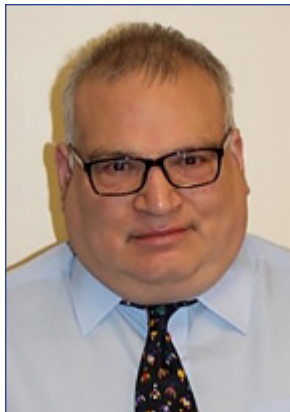
STATUTORY HISTORY OF ELEC

LAW	CREATED/ESTABLISHED	EFFECTIVE DATE
Election Law Enforcement Commission	P.L. 1973, c.83 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.) "The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act" Signed by Governor William Cahill	April 24, 1973
Gubernatorial Public Financing Program	P.L. 1974, c.26 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-27 et seq.) Signed by Governor Brendan Byrne	May 6, 1974
Gubernatorial Public Financing Program Extending to Primary Elections	P.L. 1980, c.74 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-3 et seq.) Signed by Governor Brendan Byrne	July 23, 1980
Personal Financial Disclosure Program	P.L. 1981, c.129 (N.J.S.A. 19:44B-1 et seq.) Signed by Governor Brendan Byrne	May 1, 1981
Lobbying Program	P.L. 1981, c.150 (N.J.S.A. 52:13C-18 et seq.) Signed by Governor Brendan Byrne	May 22, 1981
Continuing Political Committee Quarterly Reporting	P.L. 1983, c.579 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.) Signed by Governor Thomas Kean	January 17, 1984
Gubernatorial Campaign Contributions & Expenditures - amendments	P.L. 1989, c.4 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-3 et al) Signed by Governor Thomas Kean	January 21, 1989
Lobbying Reform	P.L. 1991, c.243 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 52:13C-18 et seq.) Signed by Governor James Florio	January 1, 1992
Campaign Finance Reform	P.L. 1993, c.65 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.) Signed by Governor James Florio	April 7, 1993
Street Money Reform Law	P.L. 1993, c.370, (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-11.7) Signed by Governor James Florio	January 7, 1994
Uniform Recall Election Law	P.L. 1995, c.105, (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:27A-1 et seq.) Signed by Governor Christine Whitman	May 17, 1995
Political Identification Law	P.L. 1995, c.391, (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-22.2 and 22.3) Signed by Governor Christine Whitman	February 1, 1996
Non-Profit Disclosure by Gubernatorial Candidates	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. Signed by Governor Christine Whitman	January 30, 2001
Contribution Limit Changes	P.L. 2001, c.384 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.) Signed by Governor Donald DiFrancesco	January 8, 2002
Campaign Financing Reform Initiatives	P.L. 2004, c.19, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 123 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.) Signed by Governor James McGreevey Signed by Governor Richard Codey	June 16, 2004 through January 1, 2006

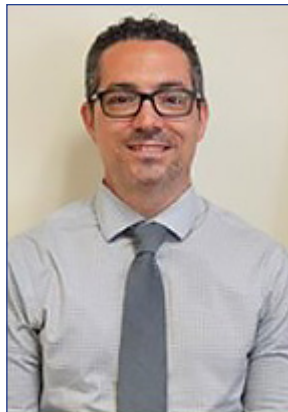


STATUTORY HISTORY OF ELEC *(continued)*

LAW	CREATED/ESTABLISHED	EFFECTIVE DATE
2005 Clean Elections Pilot Project	P.L. 2004, c.121 Signed by Governor James McGreevey	August 11, 2004
Lobbying Law Expansion	P.L. 2003, c.255 and P.L. 2004, c20, 27, 34, 36, 37, and 38 (amendments to N.J.S.A. 52:13C-18 et seq.) Signed by Governor James McGreevey	April 13 through August 16, 2004
Pay-to-Play Contracting Reform	(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) Signed by Governor James McGreevey P.L. 2005, c.51 (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 - 20.25) Signed by Governor Richard Codey P.L. 2005, c.271 (codified as N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26 - 20.27) Signed by Governor Richard Codey	January 1, 2006 October 15, 2004 January 1, 2006 January 5, 2006
2007 Clean Elections Pilot Project	P.L. 2007, c.60 Signed by Governor Jon Corzine	March 28, 2007
Office of Lieutenant Governor	P.L. 2009, c.66 Signed by Governor Jon Corzine	June 26, 2009
Solicitation Ban on Public Property	P.L. 2011 c.204 Signed by Governor Chris Christie	January 17, 2012
Eliminates the Requirement of Candidates to File Duplicate Copies of Campaign Treasurer's Reports with County Clerks	P.L. 2014, c.58 and N.J.A.C. 19:25-8.12 Signed by Governor Chris Christie	January 1, 2015
Requires Governmental Affairs Agents to Disclose Compensation Received from State or Local Government Entities	P.L. 2017, c.49 and N.J.A.C. 52:13C-21 Signed by Governor Chris Christie	May 1, 2017
Requires Gubernatorial Ballot Statements to be Posted Online	P.L. 2017, c.177 and N.J.A.C. 19:44A-37 Signed by Governor Chris Christie	July 21, 2017
Elections Transparency Act	P.L. 2023, c.30 Signed by Governor Philip Murphy	April 3, 2023



Steve Kimmelman



Christopher Vigale



Rory Newman, Legal Intern

COMPLIANCE DIVISION



The Compliance Division remained highly active in 2024, continuing its mission of ensuring transparency and accountability in campaign finance, lobbying, pay-to-play, and the gubernatorial public financing program. While 2023 was marked by the rapid implementation of the Elections Transparency Act (ETA), 2024 focused on solidifying these changes, refining internal processes, enhancing support to the regulated community and ensuring preparedness for the 2025 election cycle.

1. Post-ETA Implementation & Continued Adaptation

In 2024, the Compliance Division worked to reinforce and streamline the sweeping statutory changes introduced by the ETA in 2023. Staff made ongoing revisions to manuals, forms, and training materials based on real-time feedback from the regulated community. Updates were made to reflect evolving interpretations of contribution limits, disclosure thresholds, and pay-to-play provisions.

To aid public understanding, new FAQs, quick reference guides, and webinars were created and made accessible via ELEC's website.

2. Expanded Outreach & Education

Compliance expanded its engagement strategies, offering over 36 informational webinars and training sessions across the state. These sessions helped educate candidates, treasurers, lobbyists, PACs, and business entities about filing responsibilities and regulatory changes.

3. Proactive Assistance & Real-Time Disclosure

To meet the Commission's objective of timely disclosure, Compliance maintained its high standards of immediate posting on filing due dates. Staff once again worked after hours on key filing days, ensuring that reports-particularly those tied to the Primary and General elections-were disclosed the same evening that they were received.

Throughout the year, the Division fielded thousands of telephone calls and emails, offering one-on-one assistance to filers and members of the public. Staff remained available for remote assistance, virtual walkthroughs, and in-person consultations, ensuring accessible service delivery to all users.

4. Elevated Internal Processes & Review Tools

In 2024, Compliance upgraded its internal tracking and review systems to better manage increasing volumes. A new reviewer assignment model based on team roles helped balance workloads and ensure consistency in reviews. New tools were introduced to flag incomplete or late filings more quickly. Reviewers continued to meticulously examine every electronically filed report for accuracy, properly associating them with the correct filing entities and recommending amendments, when necessary, to ensure full compliance with legal requirements.

Compliance also worked with the IT section on the production and testing of the online processing of registration and pins, to minimize wait times for electronic signatures.

5. Data Transparency & Media Support

Compliance staff played an essential role in supporting the Commission's analytical press releases by reviewing reports for data collection, summarizing contribution and expenditure trends, and compiling insights from lobbying and pay-to-play disclosures. Their behind-the-scenes work helped translate raw data into accessible public summaries, empowering informed civic engagement.



COMPLIANCE DIVISION *(continued)*

6. Election & Filing Activity in 2024

- Staff successfully managed reporting and compliance oversight for:
- All 2024 State, county, and local elections, including regular and special elections;
- School board, municipal, runoff, and fire district elections;
- Quarterly and 29-day/11-day pre-election/20-day post-election reports for candidates, political committees, and independent expenditure committees;
- Lobbying registrations, quarterly and annual reports for governmental affairs agents and annual badge renewals;
- Business entity disclosure under pay-to-play regulations;
- Professional campaign fundraiser registrations and activity reports.

7. Customer Service Commitment

Whether assisting a first-time candidate, a media outlet, or a returning lobbyist, the Compliance Division delivered its services with timeliness and professionalism. Compliance staff answered thousands of questions, conducted personalized sessions, helped interpret law changes, and guided users through the electronic filing process.

Direct mail reminders, delinquency notices, reference guides, and continuous outreach to new filers remained a cornerstone of compliance efforts. The Division also supported members of the public and journalists in navigating ELEC's disclosure databases and Open Public Records requests.

8. Gubernatorial Public Financing Program

In preparation for a highly contested gubernatorial election, the Compliance Division provided early education and training for the 2025 gubernatorial election, having completed 14 live treasurer trainings and numerous information sessions. Compliance also onboarded four report analysts to the team to analyze candidate submissions.

9. Looking Ahead

The Compliance Division welcomed a new Compliance Director and outlined plans to further evolve the Division to meet the increasing public demand for transparency and manage higher volumes of activity. Efforts are underway to modernize communication with campaigns and committees through an e-delivery pilot, further automate parts of the review process and provide more interactive, self-service resources online.



COMPLIANCE DIVISION *(continued)*

BY THE NUMBERS • COMPLIANCE SUPPORT FOR CANDIDATES

ELECTION	# OF CANDIDATES	# OF POLITICAL COMMITTEES
Fire Commissioner	260 <i>(Including candidates in the General)</i>	1
April Schoolboard	74	8
May Municipal	130	10
Primary	1860	300
General	2,149	344
December Runoff	3	1
December Runoff	3	1
November Schoolboard	2,124	126
TOTAL	6,600	790

BY THE NUMBERS • COMPLIANCE REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF DISCLOSURE REPORTS

REGULATED GROUP	NUMBER	REPORTS FILED
Candidates and Committees	6,610	23,944
Lobbyists <i>(Avg)</i>	901	6,145
Professional Fundraisers <i>(Avg)</i>	22	92
TOTAL	7,533	30,181



Back row: Maite Hopkins, Michel Donato-Suarez, Israt Jahan, Milene Matos, Jilvia D'Souza, Walter Leavey, Jr., Monica Triplin-Nelson, Daniel Horowitz, Taylor Brickhouse, Carl Skurat, Deegan Lewer, and Titus Kamal. Front row: Desiree DeVito, Gianna Sama, Aurea Vazquez-Alexander and Nancy Fitzpatrick



LAW DIVISION

LEGAL SECTION

The Legal Section (Legal) 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 disclosure of the Commission's enforcement actions and convenient access to legal resources. Legal also advises the Commissioners and staff on various aspects of the Commission's work.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

The Commission is statutorily authorized to issue complaints alleging violations of the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act (Campaign Act), N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1, et seq., in addition to the other statutes under the Commission's jurisdiction, and to seek monetary penalties. Legal prosecutes violations of the Campaign Act by issuing complaints, litigating those cases/enforcement actions to resolution and presenting them to the Commission for final decision determination. Enforcement actions are designed to achieve accurate and complete reporting by candidates and committees, and to discourage future violations by imposing appropriate penalties.

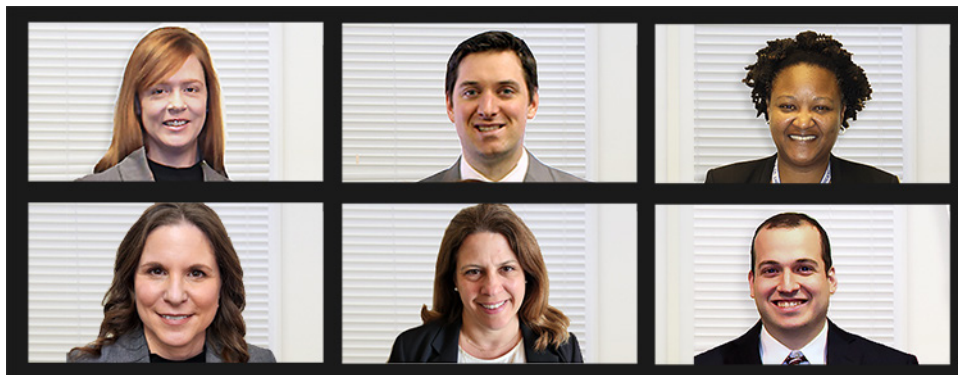
COMPLAINTS

Legal issued 135 complaints in 2024. These complaints resulted from investigations and internal audits pertaining to calendar years 2022 and 2023, including the 2023 primary, municipal and general elections. Violations related to 48-hour notices, 72/24-hour notices, and contribution and expenditure reporting by candidates and various committees were alleged.

Upon receipt of a complaint, Respondents have the right to request a hearing and have the matter transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), or Respondents may waive their right to a hearing. Legal transmitted one complaint to the OAL in 2024.

FINAL DECISIONS

At the conclusion of each case, the Commission issues a final decision that sets forth findings of fact and conclusions of law specifying violations found and penalties imposed for specific violations. Final decisions issued in 2024 found that candidates and committees violated the Campaign Act and imposed penalties for: (1) failing to file reports and filing late reports; (2) failing to file 48-hour notices; and (3) failing to report and late reporting of contribution and expenditure information. The Commission issued 98 final decisions in 2024. Monetary penalties paid during 2024 totaled \$114,535.66.



Top row: Theresa J. Lelinski, Scott Miccio, and Kelley Keane-Dawes. Bottom row: Alissa Young, Amy McClelland and Ben Kachuriner.



LAW DIVISION *(continued)*

CONCLUSION

Interpreting and enforcing the law are critical elements of effective administration of the campaign and lobbying financial disclosure obligations entrusted to the

Commission. Legal continues to meet its challenges in a professional and responsible manner by enforcing the laws fairly and uniformly, and respecting the protections afforded each Respondent under the law.

REVIEW AND INVESTIGATION DIVISION

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

In calendar year 2024, the Review and Investigation Section closed 52 investigations. The investigations primarily focused on the incomplete or late filing of campaign reports, 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.nj.gov. 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.



Top row: Marcus Malmignati, Shreve Marshall, and Tamico Flack. Middle row: Brett Mead and Christopher Guear. Bottom row: Danielle Hacker, Matthew Krinsley, and Laura Jurkiewicz.



REVIEW AND INVESTIGATION DIVISION *(continued)*

REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATION *(continued)*

The Commission received a total of 177 Requests for Investigation in calendar year 2024.

The Commission also initiates investigations as a result of staff review of reports filed with the Commission. The Review and Investigation Section opened 50 new investigations in calendar year 2024.

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 is established. 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 2024, the section issued 94 subpoenas during the course of an investigation and in support of the Legal Section during litigation.

NON-FILER COMPLAINTS

The Review and Investigation Section is also responsible for reviewing the filings of candidates and committees to make referrals for complaints to the Legal Section of those entities that fail to file with the Commission. In 2024, 162 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 the 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 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.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Throughout much of 2024, the focus of the IT staff was on the 2025 New Jersey gubernatorial election.

Eight candidates from both parties registered to participate in the Gubernatorial Public Financing (PF) program and all qualified for funding.

The PF program was first introduced in 1977 allowing candidates to receive two public dollars for each private dollar contributed to the campaign. The IT section maintains the computer software that implements it.

Candidates must electronically provide extensive documentation for each contribution including check images, bank deposit slips, and card credit validation.

A cloud-based, online Gubernatorial Electronic Filing System (GEFS) was first made available in 2020 in time for the 2021 governor's race. This application enables campaigns to easily manage contributions and expenditures, including the ability to provide the necessary information required to receive matching state funds.

Because candidates are receiving public funds, extensive regulations apply to the PF program. Campaign treasurers must attend training sessions covering all aspects of the program, including use of ELEC's online filing system. All contributions and expenditures submitted by gubernatorial candidates are meticulously scrutinized by ELEC staff before public funds are given to their campaigns.

ELEC in 2024 also introduced an online Registration and PIN service that greatly reduces staff involvement. Each person responsible for certifying any filed form or report must obtain a Registration and PIN number. This two-part number uniquely identifies an individual and is used as an electronic signature.

Additionally, Registration and PIN numbers, along with the user's email address, are also used to create a personalized account in ELEC's e-filing system.

This application also provides the ability to manage changes such as email updates and amending their mailing address. The previous system required far more staff intervention. Users no longer must wait for requests to be completed during regular business hours.

The Elections Transparency Act (P.L. 2023 c.30) had a significant impact on reporting requirements and imposed tighter disclosure obligations. The law requires ELEC to apply inflation adjustments to thresholds and limits that apply to non-gubernatorial candidates every two years. Those that apply to gubernatorial candidates are adjusted every four years.

More frequent adjustments created potential for more confusion, particularly for ELEC "short" form filers. ELEC tried to head off this problem by consolidating four different types of short forms into a single electronic form that fills in the proper thresholds depending on the year.

ELEC was one of the first state agencies to install critical software on remote "cloud-based" servers run by Microsoft after the New Jersey Office of Information Technology (NJOIT) generally permitted the use of such services in 2018. ELEC hosted its new eFile electronic filing application on Microsoft's Azure cloud system after meeting NJOIT's technical requirements.

Other services later added to the "cloud" server were epayments, website searches and registration and PIN applications.

NJOIT created its own Microsoft Azure account in 2023 to make cloud services more accessible to other state agencies. ELEC is required to gradually migrate its services to this centralized account.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION *(continued)*

The first step was completed in 2024 when NJOIT assumed billing responsibility that would otherwise be performed by an outside vendor. A full transfer of ELEC's cloud applications to NJOIT's Azure platform is scheduled to occur before the end of 2026.

Since 2020, ELEC has had a hybrid work program allowing employees the option of working from home two days per week. ELEC initially deployed a remote access method that was sometimes slow and unreliable.

ELEC has moved its staff to a system developed by cloud security firm Zscaler offering remote access that is not only more secure but faster and less prone to lost connections. Applications installed on office desktop computers can now be shared by laptops used at home making the work experience more seamless.

As desktops wear out, all employees eventually will be issued a single laptop that can be used at work or home, thereby reducing agency equipment costs. All new hires as well as many existing staff have already made this switch.

DATA ENTRY SECTION

The advent of electronic filing has reduced staff workload, allowing the Data Entry staff to perform other functions. Although R1 and R3 reports are electronically filed, staff continue to manage the movement of contributions and expenditures through a workflow, eventually making this information available on ELEC's website.

The data from C1 & C3 reports must also be reviewed since contributions submitted by the filer may be duplicated. The IT staff developed a custom application that displays information extracted from the filed form that gives Date Entry the ability to review and remove similar information.

The mission of disclosure is central to the Commission. As such, Data Entry plays an important part in this endeavor. Reports are therefore promptly made publicly available on the website the same day the report is due.



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



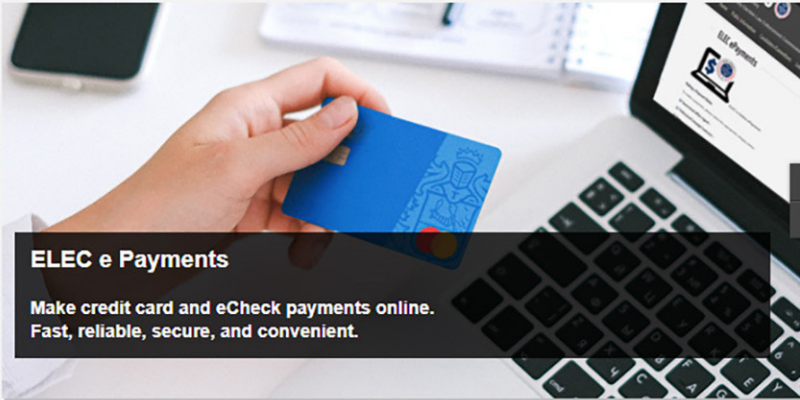
State of New Jersey
New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission

Governor Phil Murphy - Lt. Governor Tahesha Way

 Search

NJ Home | Services A to Z | Departments/Agencies | FAQs

Home Public Info Candidates/Committees FAQs Lobbying Pay-to-Play Legal Resources About ELEC



ELEC e Payments

Make credit card and eCheck payments online.
Fast, reliable, secure, and convenient.

Advice for Filers

- Forms (Electronic Filing)
- Candidates/Election Committees
- Committees (CPC, PPC & LLC)
- ELEC ePayments
- Gubernatorial Public Finance Program
- Professional Fundraisers
- Pay-to-Play
- Treasurer Training
- Lobbying
- FAQs Candidates

Where To Find

Filers	Contributions and Expenditures	Candidate or Committee Reports	Lobbying Reports
Press Releases	Pay-to-Play Reports	Complaints and Final Decisions	Newsletter, White Papers and Other Publications

Press Releases

- Special Meeting Agenda
March 21 2025
- Lobbying Annual Reports
March 20 2025
- Lobbying Spending Trends
March 19 2025

Spotlight On

- ELEC-Tronic Newsletter Issue 182
March 2025
- 2025 Cost Index Report >
- 2023 Annual Report >
- White Paper 31: Legislative Election 2021 - The Southern Tsunami >
- The History of the Commission Project - Volume 13 - Dr. Susan

Contribution Limits

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

Disclosure Dates

Pending report disclosure dates >

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 >



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

During 2024, 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.

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 2025 Direct State Services adjusted appropriation is \$6,982,000 which is an increase of \$1,048,000 from the fiscal year 2024 Direct State Services adjusted appropriation. This increase is from salary program (\$320,000) to offset increases in salaries as well as \$728,000 one-time funding that was provided to comply with the requirements of Daniel's Law. Thus, the Finance and Administration Division staff continued to work to ensure the accurate budgeting and management of expenditures.

During 2024, 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.

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 2024 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.

ELEC staff had been working remotely from 2020 throughout the COVID-19 pandemic but were required to return to full-time in-person work in early 2022. After a few months of entirely in-office work, the Governor's office and Civil Service Commission introduced guidelines for a Pilot Telework Program. The Division of Finance and Administration was tasked with creating and implementing our Pilot Telework Program, which began in June 2022. This pilot program allows eligible staff to work 2 days remotely and 3 days in office.

ELEC continues 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



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

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION *(continued)*



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

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to handling budget, fiscal and personnel matters for the Commission, the Finance and Administration Division is also responsible for general administrative functions, such as reception, mail processing, overseeing machinery and equipment maintenance, and acting as the Commission's liaison with Building Management. During 2024, 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 2024, the Division operated within the parameters established by the Department of Treasury and the Governor's Office and continued to handle all responsibilities effectively.

COMPARISON OF FISCAL YEARS 2024 AND 2025 ORIGINAL DSS APPROPRIATIONS

	FY 2024 APPROPRIATION	FY 2025 APPROPRIATION
Salaries and Wages	\$5,007,000	\$5,188,000
Printing and Supplies	\$39,000	\$39,000
Services Other Than Personal	\$705,000	\$1,433,000
Maintenance and Fixed Charges	\$2,000	\$2,000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL	\$5,753,000	\$6,662,000

2024 EVALUATION DATA

Disclosure Reports (Total)	32,605
Campaign and Quarterly	23,944
Lobbyist	6,145
Pay-to-Play	2,441
Professional Campaign Fundraiser	75
Investigations	52
Complaints	135
Public Assistance Requests	8,612
Fine Collection	\$114,536
Lobbying Annual Fees	\$438,775
Campaign Fundraiser Annual Fees	\$23,000



COMMISSION STAFF AND ORGANIZATION CHART

EXECUTIVE

Amanda S. Haines, ESQ., Executive Director
Joseph W. Donohue, Deputy Director
 Steven Kimmelman
 Christopher Vigale
 Elbia L. Zeppetelli

COMPLIANCE DIVISION

Aurea Vazquez-Alexander, Compliance Director
 Carl Skurat
 Daniel Horowitz
 Deegan Lewer
 Desiree DeVito
 Gianna Sama
 Kimberly Key
 Maite Hopkins
 Michel Donato-Suarez
 Milene Matos
 Monica Triplin-Nelson
 Nancy Fitzpatrick
 Titus Kamal
 Walter Leavey, Jr.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

Christopher Mistichelli, Director
 Aracelis Brown
 Barbara Rann
 Cheryl Lippincott
 Christine Clevenger
 Elaine J. Salit
 Kelvin Fisher
 Samantha Schutzbank
 Tamika McCoy

LAW DIVISION

Theresa J. Lelinski, ESQ., Legal Director
Scott Miccio, ESQ., Deputy Legal Director
 Alissa Young, Esq.
 Amy McClelland, Esq.
 Benjamin Kachuriner, Esq.
 Kelley Keane-Dawes, Esq.
 Maureen Tilbury

REVIEW AND INVESTIGATION

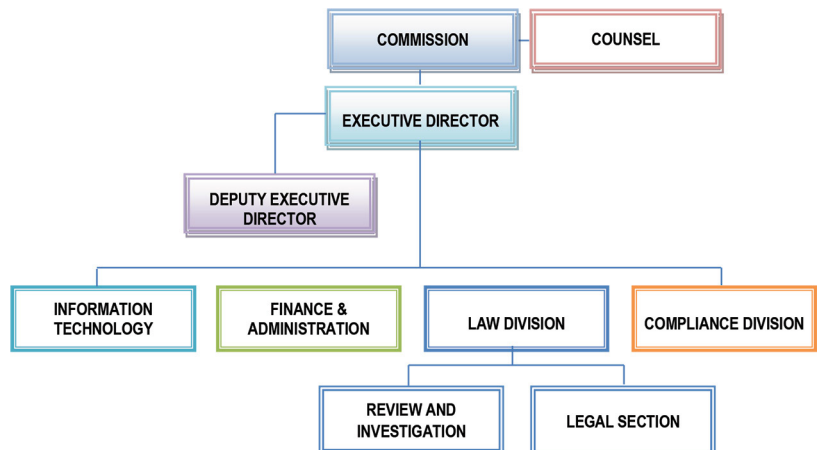
Shreve E. Marshall, Jr., Director
 Brett Mead
 Christopher Guear
 Danielle Hacker
 Laura Jurkiewicz
 Marcus Malmignati
 Matthew Krinsley
 Tamico Flack

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Anthony Giancarli, Director
 Aydan A. Altan
 Brian Robbins
 Elias J. Amaya
 Ken Colandrea
 Kim Swartz
 Louis Solimeo
 Maryanne Garcia
 Peter Palaitis
 Susan Danley

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DATA

Brenda A. Brickhouse
 Darlene Kozlowski
 Elizabeth Michael
 Helen Kelly
 Shirley R. Bryant





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 04/2011-Deceased 11/13/2011)
Jerry Fitzgerald English, Commissioner
(Retired 03/15/2011)

2012-2015

Ronald DeFilippis, Chairman
Walter F. Timpone, Vice Chairman
Judge Amos C. Saunders, Commissioner
(Deceased 08/16/2015)

2016

Ronald DeFilippis, Chairman
Walter F. Timpone, Vice Chairman
(Resigned 05/02/2016)

2017 (Retired 07/2017)

Ronald DeFilippis, Chairman

03/2017-03/2023

Eric H. Jaso, Chairman
Judge Stephen M. Holden, Commissioner

07/2017-03/2023

Marguerite T. Simon, Commissioner

07/2023-PRESENT

Thomas H. Prol, Chairman
Ryan Peters, Commissioner
Norma R. Evans, Commissioner
Jon-Henry Barr, Commissioner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

1973-1976	David F. Norcross
1976-1981	Lewis B. Thurston, III
1981-1984	Scott A. Weiner
1984-2009	Frederick M. Herrmann
2009-2023	Jeffrey M. Brindle
11/2023-05/2024	Joseph W. Donohue*
2024 to Present	Amanda S. Haines

LEGAL COUNSEL

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

*Acting Director