



State of New Jersey

ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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November 6, 1980

Henry Ramer, Esquire  
100 Ramilton Plaza  
Paterson, New Jersey 07505

Re: The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and  
Expenditures Reporting Act, Chapter 83, Laws  
of 1973 as Amended and Supplemented ("the Act")  
Your letter dated October 21, 1980  
Opinion #0-40-80

Dear Mr. Ramer:

Your letter dated October 21, 1980 to the New Jersey  
Election Law Enforcement Commission ("the Commission"), in-  
cluding a request for advisory opinion, has been forwarded  
to me for reply.

As you suggest, the Commission has a responsibility to  
protect the public funds which it must distribute in ac-  
cordance with the provisions of the Act. In order to avoid  
risks of improper distribution, as well as fraud as suggested  
in your letter, the Commission insists on adequate proof to  
reflect the identity of a contributor of a contribution not  
in excess of the contribution limit in order to qualify money  
for matching funds.

One method which the Commission had accepted throughout  
the 1977 General Election campaign as an adequate proof was  
the photocopy of the check from each such contributor. Copies  
of cancelled checks presumably are available to the banks upon  
which they were cashed, or from the contributors.

We recognize the concern which you may have with respect  
to unreasonable practical difficulties. In the event that it  
is shown that production of cancelled checks for those con-  
tributors is no longer feasible, signature cards setting forth  
the facts with respect to the amount and date of such contri-  
bution and signed by each such contributor, would be accepted  
by the Commission in lieu of copies of cancelled checks.

Very truly yours,

Edward J. Farrell

EJF:no