## State of New Jersey

## ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

SIDNEY GOLDMANN CMAIRMAN

JOSEPHINE S MARGETTS

NATIONAL STATE BANK BLDG.. SUITE 11) 4 28 W. STATE STREET TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08608 (608) 292-8700 LEWIS 8. THURSTON, IN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ÉDWARO J FARRELL COUNSEL

December 17, 1980

Elton A. Conda Public Accountant Box 147 Burlington, New Jersey 08016

Re: The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act, Chapter 83, Laws of 1973 as Amended and Supplmented ("the Act") Your letter dated October 17, 1980 Opinion #0-42-80

Dear Mr. Conda:

Your letter dated October 17, 1980 to the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission ("the Commission"), including a request for advisory opinion, has been forwarded to me for reply.

A committee of the kind you describe would be regarded as a continuing political club, and would have an obligation of filing pre-election and post-election reports, in essentially the same way as a political party committee would be required to file, as to any election in which it made expenditures on behalf of candidates or engaged in fund raising efforts on behalf of candidatee. Where there is an obligation of filing pre-and post-election reports, that obligation is independent of the obligation to file annual reports. As an ongoing group, the committee would have the obligation to file an annual report as a continuing political club.

As to paragraph 2 of your letter, the same rule with respect to pre-election and post-election reports would be applicable to the Burlington Township Republican Campaign Fund on the facts of your letter, as to any election in which the Burlington Township Republican Campaign Fund made expenditures on behalf of candidates or engaged in fund raising efforts on behalf of candidates. Since it is an ongoing fund, this group would also have the obligation to file an annual report as a continuing political club.

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There is an exception in the Act which may be applicable to your group. Section 8 of the Act provides in part that a committee such as yours supporting several candidates has no obligation of filing pre-election and post-election reports if none of the candidates supported by the committee is required to file the R-1 report (because the expenditures on behalf of such candidate do not exceed \$1,000, and the candidate therefore can file the sworn statement A-l instead of the R-l report).

In the filing of an annual report in such case, all of the materials included in the pre-election and post-election reports which were previously required for the same calendar year can be incorporated by reference.

I hope this answers your questions. Please feel free to call the Commission if you have any further questions with respect to the reporting obligations.

Yours very truly,

EDWARD J. FARRELL

Legal Counsel

EJF/cm