



Newsletter

ELECCtronic

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AN ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION NEWSLETTER
"Furthering the Interest of an Informed Citizenry"

Comments from the Chairman

Eric H. Jaso

"Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual." -- Mark Twain

Each New Year brings the promise of new beginnings as well as a chance to ponder the past. In this first newsletter of 2023, I will set forth the Commission's plans – how we intend to change and improve, and strengths we hope to maintain.

Part of the Commission's plans for 2023 and beyond is preserving what we do well. For example, ELEC has long maintained a well-deserved reputation for responsiveness to the public.

Unusual for this day and age, the Commission has clung to the old-fashioned notion that most people prefer talking to a human being when interacting with a State agency.

So, at the Commission our experienced receptionists still answer the phones and direct citizens to a knowledgeable

staff member to field questions. This gives the public the assurance that their concerns will be heard and responded to. This will not change.

Another feature that will not change is the service provided to candidates and treasurers and all other interested parties by our able Compliance staff.

The responsiveness and expertise of our Compliance staff members has consistently resulted in a compliance rate among filers exceeding 90 percent.

Also unchanged will be our policy of responding to citizen complaints reporting potential violations of campaign finance law. Our Investigative and Legal staffs will continue to evaluate complaints in a fair and neutral manner.

Finally, the Commission will continue to provide an extensive array of information involving campaign finance, lobbying, and pay-to-play to the public via its updated and award-winning website.

During the past year, the Commission put the finishing touches on its new and improved information and technology system. During 2022, the Commission installed a new telephone system, which

allows receptionists to patch callers directly to staff.

In the coming year, our IT staff will strive to make the website even more user-friendly and comprehensive. Our compliance manuals will be further simplified to make compliance with campaign finance law as pain-free as possible.

Candidate and treasurer training will be enhanced in the New Year as well as more sessions undertaken in person. In addition to in-house and off-site training, Compliance staff will be undertaking a project that will permit training programs to be conducted at libraries across the State.

Of course, enforcement of New Jersey's campaign-finance and lobbying laws remains the Commission's top goal. We will continue to evaluate how our investigative and enforcement tools can be made more effective and robust. To spread our compliance message far and wide, we will also continue efforts to raise ELEC's profile and visibility through the media and in other public forums.

We wish our fellow New Jerseyans a happy, prosperous -- and legally compliant – 2023.

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COMMISSIONERS

- Eric H. Jaso, Chairman
- Stephen M. Holden, Commissioner
- Marguerite T. Simon, Commissioner
- Edwin R. Matthews, Legal Counsel

Executive Director's Thoughts

Jeff Brindle

Whether Working from the Office or Remotely, ELEC Remains Committed to Providing Excellent Public Service

Reprinted from insidernj.com

In April 2021, anticipating that state government would establish a permanent remote work program, management at the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) prepared a telework plan.

Entitled N.J. Election Law Enforcement Commission: Teleworking Recommendations 2021, the plan is available on the Commission's website.

"This is a blueprint for how New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) might move forward in the event telework becomes a permanent part of state government," states the introduction.

"Management's preference is to have employees return to the office and provide in-person services to a deserving public. However, recognizing that a full return of employees to the office may not occur, given how the nature of work is changing, facilitated by the pandemic, this report highlights issues, needs and costs associated with the implementation of a hybrid telework plan."

While state workers did temporarily return fulltime to the office on January 18, 2022, the New Jersey Civil Service Commission April 6, 2022 approved a

pilot telework program for a trial period of one year starting July 1.

The ELEC telework plan identified services able to be performed remotely without any loss of service to the public while highlighting functions best provided in person.

Cyber-security issues as well as the cost of new technology, including a modernized phone system, were factored into the plan.

ELEC has equipped participating workers with laptop computers, monitors and other gear to enable them to do the state's business securely and efficiently from their homes.

The new phone system has been installed, which is designed to provide advanced ability to patch would-be-callers directly through to appropriate staff in the event a permanent remote work program becomes a reality.

Employee schedules have been readjusted, some software has been modified and other steps outlined in the ELEC plan have and will be taken to maintain excellent service even with some workers operating from their homes.

Just as during the height of the pandemic, ELEC has functioned well.

For its part, the Commission adapted quickly and instituted an emergency plan that not only allowed it to operate remotely but also to fulfill its mission of disclosure. Right from the start, the public was able to speak with a live person, thereby eliminating the need to leave a voice mail requesting a response.

Candidates, committees, lobbyists, and public contractors continued to file reports electronically and the public continued to receive timely, online access to reports. Further, virtual training sessions replaced in-person training, enabling candidates and treasurers to avail themselves of information provided by professional compliance staff.

Moreover, analytical press releases, white papers and columns continued to be published as receptionists and compliance staff responded in-person to phone call inquiries while at the same time legal and investigative functions continued to be maintained.

During this time, the Commissioners themselves held virtual meetings, allowing the public access to Commission proceedings. This remains a continuing option when necessary.

From the outset of the pandemic and the initial implementation of an emergency telework program, it has become clear that State government will ultimately follow the private sector toward a permanent telework program.

As for the pilot program, a total of 41 out of 59 Commission employees opted to take part while others decided to remain in an alternative week program (AWP) and forgo the pilot telework option at least for now. Further guidance and options continue to be provided and available as experience with the program develops.

Though the current program is a pilot program of a year's duration, signs point to a telework schedule for public employees that will become a permanent feature of how government operates in the future.

Training & Seminars • Webinars

PAY-TO-PLAY TRAINING FOR BUSINESS ENTITIES - WEBINARS

February 01, 2023 at 10:00 AM	March 08, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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PAC (CPC/PPC) WEBINARS

R-3 eFile ONLY Program Training	CPC/PPC Compliance Seminar AND eFile Training
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January 24, 2023 at 10:00 AM	January 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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February 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM	February 08, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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March 22, 2023 at 10:00 AM	March 15, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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April 13, 2023 at 10:00 AM	April 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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May 18, 2023 at 10:00 AM	May 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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July 20, 2023 at 10:00 AM	May 17, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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September 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM	June 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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October 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM	July 13, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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August 10, 2023 at 10:00 AM

September 07, 2023 at 10:00 AM

October 03, 2023 at 10:00 AM

CANDIDATE WEBINARS

R-1 eFile ONLY Program Training	Campaign Compliance Seminar AND eFile Training
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January 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM	January 10, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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February 15, 2023 at 10:00 AM	February 07, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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March 23, 2023 at 10:00 AM	March 09, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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April 04, 2023 at 10:00 AM	March 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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April 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM	April 05, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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May 03, 2023 at 10:00 AM	May 02, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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June 22, 2023 at 10:00 AM	May 04, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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July 26, 2023 at 10:00 AM	May 10, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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September 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM	June 13, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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October 05, 2023 at 10:00 AM	July 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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October 24, 2023 at 10:00 AM	August 08, 2023 at 10:00 AM
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September 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM

September 26, 2023 at 10:00 AM

October 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM

If you have any questions concerning ELEC's training program, please contact the staff of the Compliance Division at (609) 292-8700.

*All webinars will run for approximately 2 hours.

2023 Reporting Dates

	INCLUSION DATES	REPORT DUE DATE
FIRE COMMISSIONER – FEBRUARY 18, 2023		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 1/17/2023	1/20/2023
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	1/18/2023 – 2/4/2023	2/7/2023
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	2/5/2023 – 3/7/2023	3/10/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 2/5/2023 through 2/18/2023		
SCHOOLBOARD – APRIL 18, 2023		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 3/17/2023	3/20/2023
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	3/18/2023 – 4/4/2023	4/10/2023
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	4/5/2023 – 5/5/2023	5/8/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 4/5/2023 through 4/18/2023		
MAY MUNICIPAL – MAY 9, 2023		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 4/7/2023	4/10/2023
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	4/8/2023 – 4/25/2023	4/28/2023
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	4/26/2023 – 5/26/2023	5/30/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 4/26/2023 through 5/9/2023		
RUNOFF (JUNE)** – JUNE 13, 2023		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	4/26/2023 – 5/30/2023	6/2/2023
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	5/31/2023 – 6/30/2023	7/3/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 5/31/2023 through 6/13/2023		
PRIMARY (90 DAY START DATE: MARCH 8, 2023)*** - JUNE 6, 2023		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 5/5/2023	5/8/2023
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	5/6/2023 -5/23/2023	5/26/2023
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	5/24/2023 – 6/23/2023	6/26/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 5/24/2023 through 6/6/2023		
GENERAL (90 DAY START DATE: AUGUST 9, 2023)*** - NOVEMBER 7, 2023		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	6/24/2023 – 10/6/2023	10/10/2023
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	10/7/2023 – 10/24/2023	10/27/2023
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	10/25/2023 -11/24/2023	11/27/2023
48–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 10/25/2023 through 11/7/2023		
RUN-OFF (DECEMBER)** – DECEMBER 5, 2023		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	10/25/2023 – 11/21/2023	11/24/2023
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	11/22/2023 – 12/22/2023	12/26/2023
48 Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 11/22/2023 through 12/5/2023		

PACS, PCFRS & CAMPAIGN QUARTERLY FILERS

1 st Quarter	1/1/2023 – 3/31/2023	4/17/2023
2 nd Quarter	4/1/2023 – 6/30/2023	7/17/2023
3 rd Quarter	7/1/2023 – 9/30/2023	10/16/2023
4 th Quarter	10/1/2023 – 12/31/2023	1/16/2024

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AGENTS (Q-4)

1 st Quarter	1/1/2023 – 3/31/2023	4/10/2023
2 nd Quarter	4/1/2023 – 6/30/2023	7/10/2023
3 rd Quarter	7/1/2023 – 9/30/2023	10/10/2023
4 th Quarter	10/1/2023 – 12/31/2023	1/10/2024

*Inception Date of Campaign (first time filers) or from January 1, 2023 (Quarterly filers).

**A candidate committee or joint candidates committee that is filing in a 2023 Runoff election is not required to file a 20-day postelection report for the corresponding prior election (May Municipal or General).

***Form PFD-1 is due on April 6, 2023 for Primary Election Candidates and June 19, 2023 for Independent General Election Candidates.

Note: A fourth quarter 2022 filing is needed for Primary 2023 candidates if they started their campaign prior to December 8, 2022. A second quarter 2023 filing is needed by Independent/Non-Partisan General Election candidates if they started their campaign prior to May 10, 2023.

HOW TO CONTACT ELEC

www.elec.state.nj.us

In Person: 25 South Stockton Street, 5th Floor, Trenton, NJ
 By Mail: P.O. Box 185, Trenton, NJ 08625
 By Telephone: (609) 292-8700

DIRECTORS:

Jeffrey M. Brindle
 Joseph W. Donohue
 Demery J. Roberts
 Amanda Haines
 Stephanie A. Olivo
 Anthony Giancarli
 Shreve Marshall
 Christopher Mistichelli