

NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES - June 10, 1977 Meeting

PRESENT

Frank P. Reiche, Chairman  
Sidney Goldmann, Vice-Chairman  
Josephine S. Margetts, Member  
Archibald S. Alexander, Member  
Lewis B. Thurston, III, Executive Director  
Edward J. Farrell, Legal Counsel  
Herbert Alexander, Consultant  
Neil Upmeyer, E.L.E.C. staff

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Law, P.L. 1975, c.231, annual notice of the meetings of the Commission, as amended, was filed with the Secretary of State's office, copies were posted in the State House Annex, copies were mailed to the Newark Star Ledger and the Philadelphia Bulletin and the entire State House Press Corps.

The meeting convened at 10:30 a.m.

1. E.L.E.C. Annual Report for 1976

This subject was discussed and a number of suggestions as to format and content were given to the executive director. It was agreed that beginning with the 1977 Annual Report it would be desirable to include more evaluation data, if possible.

2. Report on 1977 Primary Election Filing and Public Financing Developments.

The executive director reported on the experience thus far in candidate filings for the 1977 Primary Election, particularly in regard to the reports filed by the gubernatorial candidates. The director of public financing reported on recent contacts with representatives of the various gubernatorial candidates. He indicated that shortly after the primary election he was in touch with representatives of both Governor Byrne and Senator Bateman. He further indicated that two independent candidates, John Gallagher and Frank Flowers, had requested the Commission to open bank accounts for them to qualify for public financing and that such accounts had been opened. The Commission agreed with Commissioner Alexander's suggestion that a press release be issued by the Commission just prior to August 1 as a reminder that August 1 is the deadline for candidates notifying the Commission that they wish to participate in public financing.

3. Current Investigation involving 1976 General Election

Pursuant to C.10:4-12 of the Open Public Meetings Law, the Commission went into executive session to discuss a matter currently being investigated.

4. Approval of Minutes of Executive Session of Commission Meeting on June 1, 1977

The minutes of the executive session of this Commission meeting were discussed and approved in executive session.

5. Current Investigation Involving 1977 Primary Election  
The Commission remained in executive session to discuss this matter. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Commission returned to public session.
6. E.L.E.C. Schedule  
The Commission agreed to hold its August 15 meeting, rather than its August 29 meeting, in Morristown. Mr. Farrell indicated that all the Commission meetings scheduled for Morristown will be held in his law firm's office.
7. Approval of Minutes of Commission Meeting of June 1, 1977  
The Commission approved the minutes of the public session of the Commission meeting on June 1, 1977.
8. Advisory Opinion Requests  
Advisory Opinions for the following Advisory Opinion Requests were approved:
  - 0-7-77, Michael Kingman, Treas. of Friends of Jos. Woodcock
  - 0-13-77, Richard K. Rosenberg
  - 0-15-77, G. E. Norman, Jr., Vice President Burlington Inds.
  - 0-19-77, Victor Abramowitz
9. Advisory Opinion Request 0-12-77 (Midlantic Bank)  
The Commission approved an advisory opinion for this advisory opinion request. Additionally, on a motion by Vice-Chairman Goldmann, seconded by Commissioner Alexander, the Commission agreed to request an opinion from the Attorney General as to whether use of staff and facilities and equipment of banks, insurance companies, public utilities or casino licensees or expenses paid by such entities in connection with political action committees of such entities, may constitute contributions to candidates by such entities in contravention of N.J.S.A. 19:34-45. The motion also included in the request the question of whether there might be such a contribution in contravention of 19:34-45 in regard to the contemplated activity of Midlantic Bank as indicated in advisory opinion request 0-12-77. The vote was 4-0.
10. Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at precisely 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lewis B. Thurston III*

LEWIS B. THURSTON, III  
Executive Director