

NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES - September 19, 1977 Meeting

PRESENT

Frank P. Reiche, Chairman  
Sidney Goldmann, Vice-Chairman  
Archibald S. Alexander, Member  
Lewis B. Thurston, III Executive Director  
Edward J. Farrell, Legal Counsel  
\*Herbert Alexander, Consultant  
Neil Upmeyer, Director of Public Financing

ABSENT

Josephine S. Margetts, Member

\*Mr. Alexander arrived at 12:00 o'clock and stayed for the remainder of the meeting.

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. in the Assembly Chamber of the State House.

1. Public Hearing on Proposed Regulation re Reporting of "Street Money"

For approximately 1/2 hour, the Commission conducted a public hearing on the above-cited subject and heard testimony from Assemblyman Kenneth Gewertz. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Commission returned to its office for the remainder of the meeting.

2. Proposed Regulation re Reporting "Street Money"

The Commission briefly discussed a proposed regulation and the testimony of Assemblyman Gewertz at today's public hearing. Because under the Administrative Procedure Act the Commission may not adopt this regulation until September 28, it was agreed that the matter be placed on the Commission Agenda for its October 3 meeting.

3. Certification of Public Matching Funds to Gubernatorial Candidates

The director of public financing presented a summary of the submissions for the 5th period by Governor Byrne and Senator Bateman, including staff recommendations for not matching certain items. After discussion, on a motion by Commissioner Alexander, seconded by Vice-Chairman Goldmann, the Commission approved \$115,790 in public matching funds to Governor Byrne. The vote was 3-0.

On a motion by Chairman Reiche, seconded by Commissioner Alexander, the Commission approved \$42,513 in public matching funds for Senator Bateman. The vote was 3-0.

The director of public financing reported on correspondence which had been received regarding the trust arrangement for the Effective Citizenship Program.

4. Report by Executive Director

A. Data Summaries - The executive director presented a memorandum outlining certain data summaries expected to be compiled by the Commission staff in a new format during 1977. He also reported on the first such data summary in this format (on the 1976 casino gambling referendum) and made copies of it available to the Commission members.

B. Gubernatorial Candidates' Statement - The executive director reported on the latest Commission staff activity regarding these statements provided for in 19:44A-37 and current legislation proposed to amend the statute to eliminate the provision for such statements.

5. ELEC Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 1978 - 1979

The executive director presented recommendations to the Commission for the proposed Commission budget for fiscal year 1978-79. During the course of his presentation the recommendations for each account were reviewed in some detail. After a very extensive discussion, the Commission agreed upon certain changes in the staff recommendations.

On a motion by Chairman Reiche, seconded by Vice-Chairman Goldman, the Commission agreed to propose a total budget of \$455,728 for fiscal year 1978-79. The vote was 3-0. The Commission's budget appropriation request must be submitted to the Division of Budget and Accounting by October 1.

6. Advisory Opinion 0-40-77 (Joseph Hayden for Essex County Democratic Committee)

This advisory opinion request was discussed and the general content of an opinion agreed upon. Counsel was directed to prepare the written opinion. The request concerns the reporting and allocation to candidates of "street money".

7. Current Investigations

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Goldman, seconded by Chairman Reiche, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Law, P. L. 1975, c.231, the Commission went into executive session to discuss 2 matters of current investigation involving 1977 elections. It is anticipated that both matters will be scheduled for further Commission discussion and possible action at its meeting on October 3. The vote was 3-0. At the conclusion of the discussion of these two matters, the Commission returned to public session.

Minutes  
September 19, 1977  
Page 3

8. Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lewis B. Thurston III*

LEWIS B. THURSTON, III  
Executive Director

LBT/cm