

NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

July 5, 1979 Meeting

PRESENT

Sidney Goldmann, Acting Chairman
Josephine S. Margetts, Member
Archibald S. Alexander, Member
Andrew Axtell, Member
Lewis B. Thurston, Executive Director
Edward J. Farrell, General Legal Counsel
Herbert Wolfe, Assistant Executive Director
Gregory E. Nagy, Staff Counsel

The acting chairman called the meeting to order and announced that pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Law, P. L. 1975, c.231, annual notice of the meetings of the Commission, as amended, has been filed with the Secretary of State's office, and that copies have been posted in the State House Annex, and mailed to the Newark Star Ledger, the Philadelphia Bulletin and the entire State House press corps.

The meeting convened at 10:15 a.m.

1. Proposed ELEC Regulation on Reporting by Political Action Committees

The Commission discussed a draft of a proposed regulation on the subject, made modifications in it and, on a motion by Commissioner Alexander, seconded by Commissioner Margetts and a vote of 4-0, agreed to pose the regulation. It will be published in the New Jersey Register and comments will be solicited from interested persons and organizations.

2. Reports by Executive Director

A. 1979 State Public Questions

The executive director indicated that he anticipated that at least two state public questions would be on the 1979 General Election ballot. They would be a \$95 million education bond issue and a \$475 million transportation bond issue. Additionally he indicated that there was a possibility of a jai alai referendum in that election.

B. Political Finance Forum

Mr. Thurston indicated that he and Commissioner Alexander had attended a meeting in Washington, D. C. on June 27 of an ad hoc group of individuals interested in political finance regulation, called the "Political Finance Forum". Mr. Alexander attended primarily in his capacity as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Citizens' Research Foundation. Commissioner Alexander and Mr. Thurston reported that the subject matter of the meeting related largely to a critique of the Federal Election Commission and the Federal Election Campaign Act.

C. Audit Program

The executive director indicated that a program of auditing all Republican and Democratic state and county political party committees as to their 1977 and 1978 records was appropriate at this time and the Commission agreed that the program should

be initiated immediately.

3. Presiding at Commission Meetings

After a brief discussion the Commission agreed that if acting chairman Goldman is unable to attend a Commission meeting Commissioner Alexander will preside at any such meeting.

4. Compensation of Commission Members

The executive director reviewed with the Commission the procedure which will be utilized to effect payment of Commission members for attendance at Commission meetings. He indicated that this would be done by vouchers submitted quarterly to the state treasurer who would then issue checks which would be forwarded directly to Commission members.

5. Legislation to Provide for Public Financing and Contribution Limits for Gubernatorial Primary Elections

The executive director reported on the current status of bills pending in the legislature on these subjects. He also reviewed with the Commission proposals by certain legislators and others for amendments to the bills or separate legislation to deal with the subject of the use of contributions for the 1981 gubernatorial primary election raised prior to the effective date of any new law specifying contributions limits and public financing. The Commission indicated its concern that no more than the contribution limit be permitted to be used from any individual contributor; that a political committee not be permitted to contribute in total more than the amount of the contributions limit to a gubernatorial candidate not associated with that group; and that adequate documentation as to contributions and contributors be required for such funds before any public matching funds would be forthcoming.

6. Minutes of Commission Meeting of June 20, 1979

On a motion by Commissioner Axtell, seconded by Commissioner Alexander the Commission approved with changes the minutes of the public session of the Commission meeting of June 20, 1979. The vote was 3-0, with Commissioner Margetts not voting because she was not present at that meeting.

7. Executive Session

On a motion by Commissioner Alexander, seconded by Commissioner Margetts and a vote of 4-0, the Commission went into executive session to discuss the executive session minutes of the Commission meeting of June 20, 1979, and the 1979 investigative matter. At the conclusion of the executive session, the Commission returned to public session.

8. E.L.E.C. Schedule

The Commission decided to cancel its meeting scheduled for September 19, 1979 and, instead, schedule a meeting for September 18, 1979.

9. Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



LEWIS B. THURSTON, III
Executive Director