



*State of New Jersey*

## **ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

RALPH V. MARTIN  
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DAVID LINETT  
Vice Chair

PAULA A. FRANZESE  
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LYNNAN B. WARE  
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### PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

December 15, 1999

Chair Martin, Vice Chair Linett, Commissioner Ware, Senior Staff, and Deputy Legal Director Nedda Gold Massar were present. Commissioner Franzese and Counsel Wyse were not present.

#### 1. Open Public Meetings Statement

Chair Martin called the meeting to order and announced that pursuant to the "Open Public Meetings Act," N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate notice of the meeting of the Commission had been filed with the Secretary of State's Office and distributed to the entire State House Press Corps.

The meeting convened at 10:30 a.m. in Trenton.

#### 2. Resolution to Go Into Executive Session

On a motion by Vice Chair Linett, seconded by Commissioner Ware and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission resolved to go into closed Executive Session to discuss the following matters which will become public as follows:

- A. Final Decision Recommendations in violation proceedings which will not become public. However, the Final Decisions resulting from those recommendations will become public no later than 35 days after mailing.
- B. Investigative Reports of possible violations, which reports will not become public. However, any complaint generated as the result of an Investigative Report will become public no later than 50 days after mailing.

#### 3. Return to Public Session

On a motion by Commissioner Ware, seconded by Vice Chair Linett and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission voted to return to Public Session.

4. Approval of Public Session Minutes of November 17, 1999

On a motion by Commissioner Ware, seconded by Vice Chair Linett and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the Public Session Minutes of November 17, 1999.

5. Executive Director's Report

A. Commission News

Executive Director Herrmann reported that former ELEC Chair Stanley G. Bedford's wife called on November 22, 1999, to thank the Commission for the tribute to her husband in the September minutes and to compliment the Commission on its new web site. According to the Executive Director, she said that it was quite an accomplishment and that she had read all about it in the newspapers.

Executive Director Herrmann noted that in January, 2000, new carpeting will be installed by the building management for the 12<sup>th</sup> floor hallways and the Edward J. Farrell Memorial Conference Room.

B. Staff Activities

The Executive Director said that he had prepared written testimony about the New Jersey Gubernatorial Public Financing Program for a Hearing of the Connecticut Elections Enforcement Commission on November 22, 1999.

Executive Director Herrmann mentioned that on November 24, 1999, Deputy Director Jeffrey M. Brindle was interviewed on the NJN Nightly News by Senior Correspondent Michael Aron about spending in the 1999 General Election for the General Assembly.

The Executive Director advised the Commission that on November 30, 1999, Director of Systems Administration Carol Neiman was the Guest Lecturer at Deputy Director Brindle's class at the College of New Jersey. According to Executive Director Herrmann, her topic was the use of the computer for doing campaign financing and lobbying research.

Executive Director Herrmann reported that Director of Systems Administration Neiman and Associate Data Entry Operator Barbara Counts chaired this year's United Fund Drive. He said that thanks to their efforts and the generosity of the entire staff ELEC is headed once again toward receiving a platinum award for 100% participation and more than \$60.00 per capita giving.

C. COGEL Conference

Executive Director Herrmann informed the Commission that the conference was held from December 5-8, 1999, in Providence, Rhode Island. According to the Executive Director, Legal Director Nagy, Deputy Legal Director Massar, Director of Compliance and Information Evelyn Ford, Director of Systems Administration Neiman, and he attended the conference. He said that Senator William E. Schluter was also present. Executive Director Herrmann advised the Commission that he ran a breakfast table topic discussion on the first two full days of the conference about the role of the Executive Director at an ethics agency. He said that keynote speakers included: former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, former ABC Reporter Bob Zelnick, and Pollster Kelly Anne Fitzpatrick. According to Executive Director Herrmann, the COGEL Award for contributions to governmental ethics went to Connecticut Congressman Christopher Shays, a co-sponsor of the Shays-Meehan Campaign Finance Reform Bill. Dr. Herrmann said that staff participated in a number of sessions including:

- The campaign finance law update
- The lobbying law update
- Independent expenditures and third party advertising
- Creating a positive image for a watchdog agency

The Executive Director noted that there were also numerous sessions related to electronic disclosure.

Executive Director Herrmann mentioned that Director of Systems Administration Neiman performed a successful demonstration of ELEC's new web site. Dr. Herrmann informed the Commission that the COGEL President-Elect commented very favorably on the site. Executive Director Herrmann added that a national expert at the conference stated that ELEC was leading the nation in disclosure of campaign financing information on the Internet. The Executive Director advised the Commission that in a luncheon address, the Chairman of the Ghana (Africa) National Electoral Commission said that "Technology is good but must be maintained and sustained." He added that as ELEC continues to progress in electronic disclosure, it is a good sentiment to keep in mind. Executive Director Herrmann cautioned that the creation of an outstanding web site is not the end of our work, it is only the beginning.

Executive Director Herrmann also announced that COGEL has decided that the Steering Committee will choose future conference sites and that a professional administrator will be responsible for running future annual meeting. He said that the Host State will participate by recommending local speakers and facilities.

D. Winter Meeting Schedule

January 10, 1999, 11:00 a.m. in Trenton.

February 17, 1999, 11:00 a.m. in Trenton.

March 13, 1999, 11:00 a.m. in Trenton.

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Ware, seconded by Vice Chair Linett and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission voted to adjourn at 12:00 p.m.

**ELEC's New Internet Web Site and Celebratory Reception**

A celebratory reception and demonstration were held at 12:30 p.m. to commemorate ELEC's new Internet web site.

In attendance were: Wendy W. Rayner, Chief Information Officer of the State; Ralph V. Martin, Chair; David Linett, Vice Chair; Lynn Ware, Commissioner; Frederick M. Herrmann, Executive Director; Jeffrey M. Brindle, Deputy Director; Gregory E. Nagy, Legal Director; Nedda Gold Massar, Deputy Legal Director; Evelyn Ford, Director of Compliance and Information; and Carol Neiman, Director of Systems Administration.

Chair Martin open the reception with the following statement:

“Welcome.

We at the Commission are very proud of our role in creating a revolutionary tool for the electronic disclosure of campaign financing information.

Thank you Wendy Rayner, New Jersey's Chief Information Officer, for coming and allowing us to demonstrate how our new system works.

Let me preface my remarks by saying that what you are about to see would not have been possible without the farsighted support of Governor Whitman.

The \$1 million dollar special appropriation recommended by the Governor and approved by the legislature enabled us to make campaign reports available on-line as well as to develop an electronic filing capability.

The new system involves four components:

1. Viewable campaign finance reports,
2. A contributor search mechanism,
3. A downloadable data base allowing citizens to arrange data in a number of formats, and
4. An electronic filing capability.

Since the system became operational on October 6 of this year, it has received high marks from officeholders, journalists, governmental activists, and citizens.

One of many newspapers to applaud the effort, the Atlantic City Press, called it “the most significant ‘campaign-finance reform’ New Jersey has ever undertaken . . . . A boon to democracy.”

Before our demonstration begins, allow me to make one more point. This project was completed on time and on budget. And it works.

Our task at present is to maintain and operate this high-tech system effectively and we are hopeful for the administration’s continued support.

We very much appreciate that Wendy Rayner has come today to celebrate the success of Governor Whitman’s electronic disclosure initiative. Thanks to our Governor the use of modern, computer technology will be an essential element in the preservation of the integrity of the political system as New Jersey enters the next millennium.

As the Asbury Park Press so aptly stated, “now everybody can follow the money.”

Our Director of Systems Administration Neiman, who was ELEC’s Project Manager for creating the new system, will now begin our demonstration.”

A Service Award was presented by Chair Martin to Director of Compliance and Information Ford, Director of Systems Administration Neiman, and Deputy Legal Director Massar in recognition of their excellent work.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick M. Herrmann, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

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