



NEWS RELEASE

N.J. Election Law Enforcement Commission

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The Election Law Enforcement Commission has released the names of two political committees that the Commission fined for failure to comply with the Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act.

The Committee for Progress and Y.O.U. supported candidates in the Union City 1982 municipal election. The Commission fined this Committee \$150 because it omitted certain expenditures from its 25 day pre-election report. In addition, the Committee filed its 7 day pre-election report after the date of the 1982 municipal election, thus, failing to fully disclose its pre-election receipts and expenditures before the election. The Committee's campaign records were reported stolen from the treasurer's car on April 26, 1982. However, after the loss of the campaign records, but on or prior to the date of the close of reporting for the 7 day pre-election report (May 3, 1982), the Committee deposited \$2,875 in contributions and spent \$10,925. The Committee did not report this activity until after the May 11, 1982 election. At the time of the theft, the Commission had advised the Committee to file as much information as it could and it was this failure to file anything for the 7-day pre-election reporting period that caused the Commission to fine the Committee.

The Builders Political Action Committee is the other committee against which the Commission imposed a fine. In the 1981 primary election, the Builders PAC failed to file a 25 day pre-election report and filed its 7 day pre-election report nine days late and after the date of the 1981 primary election, June 2, 1981. As a result, contributions over \$24,000 to candidates were not timely disclosed. The Commission imposed a fine of \$750 on the Builders PAC.

Both committees have paid their fines.

The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act requires that candidates and political committees spending more than \$1,000 file reports of their financial activities with the Commission 25 and 7 days prior to an election and 15 days after an election. Furthermore, the Act requires that political committees spending more than \$2,500 on a public question file reports of their financial activities with the Commission.

The penalties announced today were adopted by the Commission at public meetings in May and July, 1983. Final Decisions were subsequently mailed to the Committees. The publication of this list is part of revised Commission procedures begun, with the 1978 primary election, designed to foster compliance, enhance disclosure and make enforcement more effective.

The Act gives the Commission broad authority to initiate enforcement actions against such committees, including civil enforcement and imposition of monetary penalties.

Factors considered by the Commission in levying fines include the number of days the filing is late and any previous violations that are on record with the Commission.

Copies of the Complaints and Commission Final Decisions are available at the Commission offices at the National State Bank Building, 28 West State Street, Suite 1215, Trenton, New Jersey 08608.

In releasing the names of these political committees, Executive Director Scott A. Weiner commented: "We are striving to ensure that political committees and PACs file timely and complete pre-election reports. It is very important to the public to know of the receipts and expenditures by these and all other political committees which have a filing requirement before the date of an election."

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