



NEWS RELEASE

N.J. Election Law Enforcement Commission

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The Election Law Enforcement Commission has released the names of 11 political committees that the Commission fined for failure to comply with the Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act.

The Builders Political Action Committee supported candidates in the 1983 general election and filed its 7-day pre-election report two days late. In assessing a penalty, the Commission considered a previous violation by the Builders PAC in the 1981 primary election for the failure to file its 25-day pre-election report, and late filing of its 7-day pre-election report. The Commission imposed a fine of \$50/25.

The Interested Nurses Political Action Committee supported candidates in the 1983 primary election and filed its 25-day pre-election report 20 days late. The Commission imposed a fine of \$100/50.

The Anthony DiVincent Campaign Fund supported municipal candidates in the Township of North Bergen (Hudson County) in the 1983 municipal election and failed to disclose contributions received and expenditures made from two bank accounts in its initial 25-day pre-election report. This information was disclosed 18 days late in its 7-day pre-election report. The committee also failed to disclose contributions received and expenditures made from a third bank account in its 7-day pre-election report. This information was disclosed 76 days late in its 15-day post-election report. The Commission imposed a fine of \$250/125.

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The Somerset County Democratic Committee is a county committee of a political party which supported candidates in the 1982 general election. This committee filed a 1982 annual report which omitted certain contributions and a loan. The committee also failed to file campaign reports to disclose contributions received and expenditures made from its organizational bank account in the 1982 general election. This information was disclosed in its 1982 annual report which was filed on March 1, 1983. In assessing a penalty, the Commission considered a previous violation by the Somerset County Democratic Committee in the 1980 general election for the late filing of 25-day pre-election and 7-day pre-election reports disclosing contributions deposited into and expenditures made out of its committee account. The Commission imposed a fine of \$550/275.

The Camden County Democratic Committee is a county committee of a political party. This committee filed its 1982 annual report 73 days late. The Commission imposed a fine of \$100.

The Middlesex County Nuclear Weapons Freeze Referendum Committee supported the adoption of a public question in the 1982 general election. The committee failed to file 25-day pre-election and 7-day pre-election reports. The information was disclosed in its 15-day post-election report which was filed on November 27, 1982. The Commission imposed to a fine of \$400/200.

The Citizens for Local and Intelligent Control, Inc., (CLIC) supported the adoption of public questions in the 1981 and 1982 general elections. The committee filed its 7-day pre-election report 203 days late and its 15-day post-election report 178 days late in the 1982 general election. These reports were filed on May 17, 1983. The committee also filed its 7-day pre-election report 567 days late and a 15-day post-election report 545 days late in the 1981 general election. These reports were also filed on May 17, 1983. For these late filings, the Commission imposed a fine of \$800/400.

The Ringwood Republican Club supported candidates in the Borough of Ringwood (Passaic County) in the 1982 general election. In this election, the committee filed its 25-day pre-election report 31 days late. The committee failed to file 7-day pre-election and 15-day post-election reports. The required information was disclosed in its 1982 annual report. Therefore, the 7-day pre-election information was filed 122 days late and the 15-day post-election information was disclosed 100 days late. The committee filed a 60-day post-election report which was its final report 100 days late. The Commission imposed a fine of \$400/200.

The Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union No. 9 Political Action Committee supported candidates in the 1981 general, 1982 primary and 1982 general elections. The committee for the 1981 general election filed its 25-day pre-election report information 626 days late, its 7-day pre-election report information 608 days late and its 15-day post-election report information 586 days late. The committee in the 1982 primary election filed its 25-day pre-election report information 409 days late, its 7-day pre-election report information 391 days late and its 15-day post-election report information 369 days late. All of this information was disclosed in one 60-day post-election report which was filed on June 27, 1983. The committee also filed for the 1982 general election its 25-day pre-election report 10 days late. The Commission imposed a fine of \$400/200.

The Cape May County Republican Organization supported candidates in the 1982 primary election. The committee filed a 25-day pre-election report which omitted certain contributions and disbursements. It also filed a 7-day pre-election report which omitted certain disbursements. The Commission imposed a fine of \$500/250.

The YES Team supported municipal candidates in the Township of North Bergen (Hudson County) in the 1980 general election and failed to file a 7-day pre-election report and a 15-day post-election report. The 1980 annual report disclosed that these reports should have been filed. The YES Team requested a hearing before the Office of Administrative Law, however before the date of the hearing, the case was settled and the Commission imposed to a fine of \$1,000/500.

The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act required that during these elections political committees spending more than \$1,000.00 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 required that political committees spending more than \$2,500.00 on a public question file reports of their financial activities with the Commission. In addition to campaign reports, certain committees including county committees of a political party were required to file annual reports. Pursuant to the recent amendments in the Act, these committees will now be required to file quarterly reports instead of annual reports.

Final Decisions have been mailed to all of the committees. The publication of this list is part of revised Commission procedures, begun in 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 political 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. The Commission also considers the amount of information not disclosed when considering cases where reports are filed with omitted information. In some cases, the Commission has imposed fines with two figures, for example "\$50/\$25." This means that the Commission has imposed a fine \$50, which fine will be reduced to \$25 if payment is received within 30 days after service of the Final Decision.

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.

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