



NEWS RELEASE

N.J. Election Law Enforcement Commission

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The Election Law Enforcement Commission has announced that the filing deadline for quarterly reports of financial activity now required to be filed by State, county and municipal political party committees, political action committees, and certain other on-going political committees has been extended from April 15, 1984 to May 1984. Recent amendments to the Campaign Reporting Act requires the filing of the first quarterly report by all continuing political committees, on April 15, 1984. The Commission has approved an extension of that deadline until May 15, 1984 for all reporting entities, except for the state political party committees and those county political party committees and municipal committees in jurisdictions conducting a May 8th municipal election. In those cases the filing deadline has been extended until May 1, 1984 in order to provide for public disclosure prior to the May 8, 1984 election. The attached list identifies those counties and municipalities whose political party committees have a May 1 deadline.

Amendments to the Campaign Reporting Act enacted in January 1984 establish a new category of political committees known as "Continuing Political Committees". The statute now defines a continuing political committee to include the state, county or municipal committee of a political party or any organization of two or more persons including a corporation, partnership, political action committee, civic association or other organization which in any calendar year contributes or expects to contribute at least \$2500 on behalf of a candidate or public question and which may be expected to make contributions during a subsequent election.

The first quarterly reports will include all financial activity for the period January 1, 1984 through March 31, 1984.

The Commission is planning to mail forms and instructions to all known continuing political committees during the week of April 16, 1984. Any individual or organization may obtain earlier photocopy versions of the forms and instructions by contacting the Commission office. Photocopy versions will be available after April 9, 1984.

All political party committees including the state committee, county committee and municipal committees are now required to file quarterly reports of

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their financial activity. The quarterly reports replaces the obligation of these committees to file election cycle and annual reports. Also, the committees are no longer required to establish and maintain separate bank accounts for campaign activity, except when the committee serves as the campaign account of one or more candidates.

All political party committees are required to file quarterly reports regardless of how much money they expect to expend during the coming year.

Other on-going political committees which expect to expend more than \$2500 during 1984 and which may expect to make contributions in subsequent years may be required to file quarterly reports. The \$2500 threshold pertains to election related activity and includes, with limitation, contributions to candidates, expenditures for fund raising, expenditures on behalf of candidates, and other related political expenditures.

The precise nature and extent of the reporting to be required by on-going committees will be based, in part, upon the nature and extent of their financial activity. To determine whether a particular organization is a continuing political committee and, if so, the nature of its reporting obligation, the statute requires that all on-going political committees, except political party committees, which expect to exceed the \$2500 threshold are initially required to complete a Statement of Organization. Upon receipt of a Statement of Organization, the Election Law Enforcement Commission will advise the organization as to the nature of its filing obligation, if any.

The Election Law Enforcement Commission has drafted proposed regulations addressing the new reporting requirement by continuing political committees. The Commission expects to publish the proposed regulations within the coming month and to schedule a public hearing concerning those regulations in June 1984. Anyone interested in obtaining copies of the proposed regulations may contact the Commission office and request that their name be put on a mailing list.

Further information concerning the new quarterly reporting system may be obtained by contacting the Commission office at (609)292-8700.

Counties and Municipalities in which political party committees must file their 1st quarter report by May 1, 1984:

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>MUNICIPALITY</u>
Atlantic	Atlantic City Longport Ventnor
Bergen	Fairlawn Garfield Lodi Mahwah Ridgefield Park Ridgewood Village
Burlington	Delran
Camden	Gloucester Township
Cape May	Cape May City Cape May Point Lower Township Ocean City West Wildwood
Cumberland	Vineland
Essex	Belleville Irvington Montclair Nutley Orange City West Orange
Middlesex	Perth Amboy Spotswood
Monmouth	Allenhurst Deal Keansburg
Ocean	Long Beach
Passaic	Paterson
Sussex	Sparta