



## NEWS RELEASE

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### PRESS RELEASE

Owen V. McNany, III, Chairman of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, today announced the release of the Commission's 1991 Annual Report.

According to McNany, the Report includes several recommendations for reforming the Campaign Act and the Legislative Activities Disclosure Act, including suggested changes in the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program.

"The Annual Report picks up where the 1989 gubernatorial public financing report left off," said McNany. "It emphasizes the necessity of preserving public money placed in the Gubernatorial Elections Fund."

McNany said that the Report calls for the 1993 primary and general election public funds caps to be reduced, a 1:1 matching ratio in the general election instead of a 2:1 matching ratio, and an increase in the income tax check-off from \$1 to \$2.

"In the Annual Report, the Commission has reiterated the fact that the most important reform to the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program would be a

reduction in the public funds cap in the primary to \$1 Million and in the general election to \$2 Million," added McNany.

McNany noted that the 1989 election resulted in a record \$15.3 Million in public funds being distributed, depriving the Fund of the ability to replenish itself and achieve fiscal balance in the future.

McNany said: "there is no more important objective for the Commission to strive toward than to make sure that the public financing program, which is a model for the nation, remains strong and viable."

In addition to containing recommendations to improve the public funding law, the 1992 Annual Report contains numerous recommendations for reforming the Campaign and Lobbying Acts.

Commissioner Stanley G. Bedford said that the Commission would like to see the Legislature enact reforms urged by the Ad Hoc Commission on Legislative Ethics and Campaign Financing, including the imposition of contribution limits and guidelines for the use of surplus campaign funds.

"ELEC has long believed that reasonable contribution limits are in the best interest of the electoral process," said Bedford, "and that both the public and candidates deserve clear statutory guidelines in terms of how campaign funds may be spent."

He said that ELEC would continue to work for these reforms.

Commissioner David Linett added that the Annual Report called for a "full-fledged" PAC registration program to complement the partial PAC registration program signed by Governor Jim Florio last summer.

"Beyond the current PAC registration program that applies only to those corporate or union PACs which benefit from employee payroll deduction funds, the Commission would like to see a PAC registration program that applies to all PACs," said Linett.

"The current PAC registration program is a great first step," added Linett, "and the Commission trusts that the concept will be taken further to include all entities filing as PACs."

Chairman McNany noted that the Commission's Annual Report also praises Governor Florio and the Legislature for enacting meaningful and far reaching Lobbyist disclosure reform in 1991. Copies of the Annual Report are available at the Commission.

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