



## NEWS RELEASE

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### PRESS RELEASE

The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), will hold a public hearing on false campaign advertising at its meeting at the Maplewood Municipal Building, December 13, 1994, according to William H. Eldridge, Chairman of the Commission.

Eldridge said that there has been an outpouring of public support for his call for legislation to regulate deliberately false political advertising.

The response to my proposal has been overwhelmingly positive," said Eldridge. "In fact, one legislator has contacted me to express interest in exploring legislation that would discourage false political advertising that is dishonest and divisive."

Assemblyman Monroe Jay Lustbader (R-District 21) said: "I am currently researching appropriate legislation to further Chairman Eldridge's goals to raise ethical standards for campaigning."

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Eldridge spoke out on this issue last week when he suggested that "the bitter tone of many recent campaigns is a plague on our political process" and called for legislation to be drafted to regulate deliberately false political advertising.

"I am delighted to report that the ball is rolling with respect to my proposal," he said. "Assemblyman Lustbader's support is welcome indeed and indicates that there is legislative concern about the very negative tone of recent campaigns."

Chairman Eldridge said that the Commission will hold a thorough discussion at its meeting on Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Maplewood Municipal Building, and that he is anticipating that many members of the public, the press, and public officials will turn out to discuss, and in many cases, lend support for this effort.

"I have no illusions about the importance of crafting legislation that will meet constitutional standards of free speech," said Eldridge. "However, I believe that legislation can be drafted that will meet these constitutional questions and at the same time serve to squelch deliberately false and dishonest campaigning. We will make a very careful effort."

Eldridge said that he believes that "much good will come from this effort in terms of restoring public trust in the elections process."

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