



NEWS RELEASE

Respond to:
P.O. Box 185
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0185

(09) 292-8700 or Toll Free Within NJ 1-888-313-ELEC (3532)

CONTACT: FREDERICK M. HERRMANN, Ph.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:
OCTOBER 22, 2008

PRESS ADVISORY

The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission's website has been ranked first in the northeast and tenth nationally according to Executive Director Frederick M. Herrmann.

Each year The National Campaign Disclosure Project, a collaboration of the California Voter Foundation, the Center for Governmental Studies, the UCLA School of Law, and The Pew Charitable Trusts, releases its annual rankings of internet disclosure across the country. Along with last year's ranking of tenth nationally, this year's ranking is the highest grade the Commission has received since the project began in 2003.

"The Commission is rightfully proud of its accomplishments in the area of technology," said Herrmann. "Each year the Commission's website shows steady improvement, continuing to be an integral part of ELEC's mission to bring transparency to the electoral process."

The Executive Director added: "According to the project's report, the Commission earned an A or B in each of the four scoring categories for the first time."

The report gave its highest grade to ELEC's electronic filing program, which is mandatory for all gubernatorial candidates and for legislative candidates who spend over \$100,000.

The Commission's filer training program that includes: an online certification program for campaign treasurers, a dedicated electronic filing help desk, and multiple class room training seminars were also cited.

-- more --

“One of the improvements cited,” said Herrmann “is the enhancement of the online searchable database of contributors. Site visitors can now search transactions by a specific date and transaction amount or by donor name, zip code, or employer.”

Herrmann said that the report praised the reconfiguration of the website. He noted that the report stated that “the new site offers a clean design and is organized into easy-to-navigate sections for both the public and filers.”

“Our goal is to help the public understand campaign financing in New Jersey,” said Herrmann. “The website continues to provide detailed contextual information.”

The Commission’s website is very accessible to the public, allowing browsers access to up-to-date information on campaign finance information for all: candidates seeking office in the State of New Jersey, political parties, legislative leadership committees, and lobbyists. The website includes white paper studies of campaign financing trends in New Jersey as well as charts depicting campaign financial activity.

###