



NEWS RELEASE

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

(609) 292-8700 or Toll Free Within NJ 1-888-313-ELEC (3532)

CONTACT: JEFF BRINDLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:
May 18, 2011

More than 90 percent of all candidates seeking legislative seats in the June 7 primary have filed their personal financial disclosure reports (PFDs), according to an analysis by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission.

“This analysis shows that most candidates, whether they are incumbents or challengers, take the law seriously,” said Jeff Brindle, the Commission’s Executive Director. “The law requires disclosure of personal financial information to enable the public to determine if any financial conflicts might compromise an individual’s ability to govern.”

Incumbents had a higher compliance rate than challengers, the analysis shows. Of the 108 incumbents, 97 percent had filed the forms as of 5 p.m. on May 8, the cutoff date for the analysis. Among all 158 challengers, 87 percent were in compliance through that date.

**Table 1: Number of Legislative Primary Candidates
Who Filed Personal Financial Disclosure Forms with ELEC**

TYPE	TOTAL FILING	TOTAL CANDIDATES	COMPLIANCE RATE
Incumbents	105	108	97%
Challengers	137	158	87%
Total Candidates	242	266	91%

In both legislative houses, incumbents had a compliance rate of 97 percent. Challengers for State Assembly seats had the lowest rate- 85 percent.

Table 2: Compliance Rates among Various Candidate Groups

TYPE	COMPLIANCE RATE
Senate Incumbents	97%
Assembly Incumbents	97%
All Senate Candidates	93%
Senate Challengers	92%
All Candidates	91%
All Assembly Candidates	90%
Assembly Challengers	85%

-- more --

Compliance was virtually the same by party, with 91 percent compliance among Democrats and 92 percent among Republicans.

All 120 seats in the New Jersey Legislature are up for reelection this year, with more than 265 candidates vying in the primary. The primary election is June 7.

New Jersey law requires candidates for Governor, State Senate, and Assembly to file the seven-page personal financial disclosure forms during the year of their candidacy.

The disclosure forms require candidates to identify sources of earned income, such as salaries or bonuses, and unearned income, such as rents and dividends. Disclosure is required if the source of income exceeds \$1,000 in any one category. The statements list only sources of income, not dollar amounts. Candidates also report sources of income received by spouses and children of candidates.

Candidates also must disclose gifts valued at more than \$250, and whether they own any property in a city where casino gambling is authorized.

Not surprisingly, most candidates- 90 percent- checked the salary box. Forty-five percent of the candidates checked “other income including interest,” the second most frequent category.

By contrast, only 2 percent checked either royalties or honorariums, the categories selected the fewest times.

Table 3: Categories Checked Most Often By Candidates

CATEGORIES	NUMBER	CATEGORIES CHECKED AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL FILERS
Salary	219	90%
Other	109	45%
Dividends	85	35%
Rent	75	31%
Reimbursement	47	19%
Commissions	31	13%
Bonuses	29	12%
Fees	31	13%
Profits	28	12%
Gifts	9	4%
Own Property Where Casinos Are Allowed	7	3%
Royalties	5	2%
Honorariums	6	2%

In some cases, candidates have voluntarily disclosed more information than the law requires. For instance, in response to a question about whether they owned property in cities where casinos can operate, 12 candidates listed properties. Only seven of the properties actually are located in cities where gaming is allowed.

Also, some of the nine candidates who reported gifts received them from relatives. Gifts from relatives do not have to be revealed. Among those reporting gifts subject to disclosure rules, six are incumbents and three are challengers.

Overall, the 242 candidates filing reports reported receiving income from 681 sources.

Copies of the financial disclosure reports are available upon request by contacting the Commission at 609-292-8700.

The bipartisan Commission has urged the Legislature to move to May 15 the deadline for the filing of personal financial disclosure reports. Currently, candidates are supposed to file these forms within 10 days after they file their nomination petitions, which can be somewhat chaotic both for the candidates and the agency.

May 15 is the same date that incumbent legislators must file separate disclosure forms with the Office of Legislative Services. By using the same deadline for both reports, the filing process will be more orderly while still providing disclosure well before the election.

The Commission also requested legislative approval to post personal financial disclosure reports on its website. Under current law, copies of the reports are available only upon request and then only in paper form.

See blank PFD form attached.

###



PERSONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
P.O. Box 185, Trenton, NJ 08625-0185
(609) 292-8700 or Toll Free Within NJ 1-888-313-ELEC (3532)
Website: www.elec.state.nj.us

PFD-1

FOR STATE USE ONLY

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Candidate Name: Legislative District:

Address:

City: State: NJ Zip:

Election Date: Political Party, if any: Amendment

Office Sought: Governor Lieutenant Governor Senate Assembly

Calendar Year of Report:

Note: The PFD-1 form covers the calendar year preceding the year of election.

CANDIDATE CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify as follows:

The information reported in this personal financial disclosure statement is true and complete. I am aware that if any of the statements contained herein are willfully false or incomplete, I may be subject to punishment.

Candidate Signature

Date

SCHEDULE I - EARNED INCOME

**IDENTIFY EACH SOURCE IN EXCESS OF \$100 WHEN AGGREGATE RECEIPTS FROM ALL SOURCES
WITHIN A CATEGORY EXCEEDS \$1,000**

Check if aggregate received in each category exceeds \$1,000	Recipient	Name and Address of Source
<p>Salary</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Candidate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spouse</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Child</p>	
<p>Bonus</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Candidate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spouse</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Child</p>	
<p>Royalties</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Candidate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spouse</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Child</p>	
<p>Fees</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Candidate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spouse</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Child</p>	
<p>Commissions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Candidate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spouse</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Child</p>	
<p>Profit Sharing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Candidate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spouse</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Child</p>	

SCHEDULE II - UNEARNED INCOME

**IDENTIFY EACH SOURCE IN EXCESS OF \$100 WHEN AGGREGATE RECEIPTS FROM ALL SOURCES
WITHIN A CATEGORY EXCEEDS \$1,000**

Check if aggregate received in each category exceeds \$1,000	Recipient	Name and Address of Source
<p>Rents</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Child	
<p>Dividends</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Child	
<p>*Other Income (Including Interest)</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Child	

***Other Income from named investments, trusts and estates.**

SCHEDULE III - HONORARIUMS AND FEES IN EXCESS OF \$100

Description	Recipient	Name and Address of Payer
	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Child	

SCHEDULE IV - REIMBURSEMENTS IN EXCESS OF \$100

Description	Recipient	Name and Address of Payer
	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Child	

SCHEDULE V - GIFTS VALUED IN EXCESS OF \$250

Recipient	Name and Address of Donor
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Child	

SCHEDULE VI

OWNERSHIP, HOLDING OR CONTROL OF AN INTEREST IN ANY LAND OR BUILDING IN ANY CITY IN WHICH CASINO GAMBLING IS AUTHORIZED, WHICH LAND OR BUILDING SHALL BE SPECIFIED

Description	Person Owning, Holding, or Controlling Interest in Land/Building	Address of Land or Building
	<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Child	