



# NEWS RELEASE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:  
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Jeff Brindle, Executive Director of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), announced today that the Commission is seeking sponsors for primary election debates for gubernatorial candidates.

Participation in two primary election debates is required as a condition of each candidate's receipt of public matching funds. The first such debates were held in 1989. Brindle noted that no primary election debate is required to be held if only one candidate for a party's nomination qualifies to receive public funds.

Brindle explained that it is the responsibility of the Commission to select organizations to sponsor the mandatory debates. He indicated that the deadline for receipt of applications to sponsor a primary election debate is March 15, 2013, and that the selection process for primary election debate sponsors must be concluded by April 12, 2013. The Commission will select the sponsors at its meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

The 2013 gubernatorial primary election debates must occur between April 17 and May 24, 2013, unless the candidates agree to an emergency postponement of the second debate deadline.

Brindle outlined the specific statutory criteria which must be met by an organization in order to be considered by the Commission for debate sponsorship. A sponsor must not be affiliated with any political party or with any holder of or candidate for public office and must agree not to make any endorsement in the pending primary election for the office of Governor until the completion of any debate which the organization may be selected to sponsor.

Representatives of organizations which meet the sponsorship criteria and wish to apply to sponsor one or more of the 2013 primary election debates are invited to visit the Gubernatorial Public Financing link to forms on the Commission's website at [www.elec.state.nj.us](http://www.elec.state.nj.us) located under the "Candidates and Committees" tab to complete a "fill-in" application or may contact the Special Programs section at (609) 292-8700 for further information.