



# 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

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## PRESS RELEASE

The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) is seeking sponsors for two general election debates for gubernatorial candidates and one lieutenant gubernatorial debate.

Participation in two general election debates is required as a condition of each gubernatorial candidate's receipt of public matching funds. The first such debates were held in 1989. No general election debate is required to be held if only one candidate qualifies to receive public funds.

The Commission is required to select organizations to sponsor the mandatory debates. The deadline for receipt of applications to sponsor a general election debate is July 1, 2013 and the selection process for general election debate sponsors must be concluded by July 31, 2013. The Commission will meet on July 16<sup>th</sup> to select the sponsors.

The 2013 gubernatorial general election debates must occur between September 17 and October 25, 2013, unless the candidates agree to an emergency postponement of the second debate deadline.

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 general election for the office of Governor until the completion of any debate which an 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 general election debates are invited to visit the Gubernatorial Public Financing link under the Candidates and Committees tab on the Commission's website to complete a "fill-in" application or may contact the Special Programs section at (609) 292-8700 for further information.

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