



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:
December 23, 2013

More than 400 press releases issued between 1983 and 2005 by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) are now available on the agency's website, Executive Director Jeff Brindle announced today.

"This is the latest in a series of steps to give the public broad, convenient access to documents generated by the agency," Brindle said. "Media members, the political community, researchers and the voters all will be better informed as a result."

Some highlights include a press release about the agency's 25th anniversary issued in August 1998 and several that accompanied "white papers" or in-depth research reports, such as "Technology in the Future-Strengthening Disclosure" issued in October 1992 and "Is There a PAC Plague in New Jersey" released in November 1991. The older press releases also indicate news about campaign finance trends, lobbying, the gubernatorial public finance program and agency milestones, such as when commissioners began their terms.

Previously, only press releases since 2006 could be retrieved at the website (www.elec.state.nj.us).

Since Brindle assumed his position in June 2009, ELEC has pursued various projects to expand transparency. Previous efforts include online viewing of all advisory opinions, minutes, and annual reports dating back to 1973, when the agency was created. The public also can now do searches of contributions to local candidates and view quarterly lobbying reports soon after they are filed.

In 2010, ELEC was recognized as "Best Official New Jersey Web Site" by the Documents Association of New Jersey.

Along with the more recent initiatives, ELEC's website lets the public view campaign fundraising reports filed by state and local candidates, complaints and final decisions filed against fund-raising committees, annual lobbying reports, annual reports of political activity filed by public contractors, statistics about various elections, research reports, agency regulations and compliance manuals. Contributions made to state elections and personal financial disclosure forms filed by candidates before those elections also can be searched online.

Brindle expressed his appreciation to Principal Webmaster Maryanne Garcia, Administrative Assistant Elbia Zeppetelli and Legal Secretary Renee Zach for their work on the press release disclosure project.

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