

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: RONALD DEFILIPPIS CHAIRMAN

FOR RELEASE: February 14, 2017

The Chairman of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, Ron DeFilippis, has asked legal staff to provide guidance on selecting debate sponsors for the gubernatorial public financing debates as well as the disbursement of public funds.

"The inability of the Commission to hold a meeting due to the vacancies on the Commission has led to an unprecedented situation in terms of the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program," said DeFilippis.

"In the past, the Commission has selected debate sponsors at a public meeting and has been informed of the disbursement of public funds," he said.

"Given this unprecedented situation, it is critical that all the t's are crossed and the i's dotted," added DeFilippis. "The Gubernatorial Public Financing Program is a national model that dates back to 1977."

DeFilippis said that he and Executive Director Jeff Brindle just want to make sure that the proper legal steps are followed as decisions are made regarding public financing going forward.

Chairman DeFilippis is the lone remaining member on the Commission. Attorney Eric Jaso and retired Judge Stephen Holden have been nominated to be on the Commission and are awaiting confirmation by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

With only one member, the Commission has not been able to hold a meeting since last April.

###