NEW JERSEY

Election Law Enforcement Commission ELEC

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:
October 24, 2023

FILING PERIOD BEGINNING FOR LATE- ARRIVING CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES

Starting tomorrow (October 25), candidates vying in the November 7 general election in New Jersey must begin filing "72/24-hour" notices with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) when they receive late arriving contributions or make expenditures valued at more than $200.

The law previously required candidates to report to ELEC contributions and expenditures above $1,900 that occur within 13 days of the election. They were known as "48-hour notices" because ELEC was supposed to be notified within 48 hours of the transactions.

Under a new law enacted by Governor Phil Murphy on April 3 (P.L. 2023 C.30), the 13-day window has been divided into two reporting periods. Contributions and expenditures of more than $200 must be reported between day 13 and day 8 before an election. ELEC must be notified within 72 hours. In the final seven days before the election, all transactions above the same dollar threshold must be reported within 24 hours.

"These notices provide key pre-election disclosure. They show who is receiving and spending significant sums in the critical late stages of a campaign," said Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director.

Reporting of Last-Minute Contributions and Expenditures		
Requirements	Old Law	New Law
Disclosure Threshold	Above $1,900	Above $200
Reporting period- Days before election	13	13 to 8 days/ 7 days
Transaction should be reported to ELEC within:	48 hours	72 hours/ 24 hours
Last minute reporting must be done by:	All committees	All but independent expenditure committees

Contribution disclosures required during the 72/24-hour period are filed on Form C-1 or 72/24-HR forms.

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These reports must contain the following information:

1.   the name of the candidate committee or joint candidates committee receiving the contribution;
2.   the date the contribution was received;
3.   the amount of the contribution;
4.   the name and mailing address of the contributor; and,
5.   in the case of an individual, his or her occupation and the mailing address of his or her employer.

Expenditure disclosure is required only when a candidate or joint candidate committee spends money on behalf of another candidate or joint candidate committees, or a committee such as a state or county party makes an expenditure on behalf of a candidate or joint candidate committee. Candidates and joint candidate committees do not have to report money they spent directly on their own campaigns.

Expenditure information during the 72/24-HR period is filed on Form E-1 or 72/24/-HR forms.

E-1 forms require the following information:

1   the name of the candidates or committee making the expenditure;
2.   the name of the person, firm, or organization to whom or which the expenditure was paid; and,
3.   the payment date, check number, amount and purpose of the expenditure.

These notices must be filed electronically, either using the ELEC eFile system or on Commission's website at www.elec.nj.gov.

Continuing political committees and party committees are also required to file "72/24-hour" notices.

These committees, which file quarterly, can file individual notices or a cumulative notice at the 11-day pre-election reporting deadline (October 27). A cumulative notice must include all reportable activity between October 1 and 25. For activity beyond this period, they must file 72/24-HR notices.

These requirements apply to all filers except a new type of committee created under the new law-independent expenditure committees.

The independent expenditure committees created by the new law must disclose contributions as well as expenditures. Such independent spenders must file if they spend at least $7,500. They must report contributions above $7,500 as well as all expenditures in detailed reports filed 29 days and 11 days before, and 20 days after, the general election.

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