



Newsletter

ELECtronic

MAY
2024

ISSUE

175

AN ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION NEWSLETTER
"Furthering the Interest of an Informed Citizenry"

Amanda S. Haines is New ELEC Executive Director



From left: Executive Director Amanda S. Haines and Chairman Thomas H. Prol.

Thomas H. Prol, chair of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), announced today the appointment of Amanda S. Haines as the Commission's new Executive Director.

Haines replaces Jeffrey M. Brindle, who retired in October 2023.

She is the sixth person and first woman to serve in the Director's seat since ELEC's formation in 1973.

Haines assumed the position on May 4, 2024.

"With Executive Director Haines at the helm, New Jersey voters can be confident that ELEC will continue to fulfill its transparency mandate and will vigorously monitor and enforce campaign financing laws with an eye toward protecting and lifting up vulnerable and historically disenfranchised communities," Prol said.

"Amanda Haines has dedicated 19 years to fulfilling the mission of the ELEC and we are pleased to advance her to this pinnacle role at the Agency," Prol added. "Her credentials are impeccable, and her service has seen the organization through several significant milestone events and numerous changes."

Amanda Haines began her career at ELEC in 2005, serving as an Assistant Legal Counsel for 12 years. In 2017, she became the Deputy Legal Director and since March 2023, has served the Commission as Acting Legal Director.

Haines has extensive experience prosecuting matters within the Commission's jurisdiction and advising the Commission on legal issues.

She has represented the Commission before the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division, and the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

Haines has an A.B in Sociology from Princeton University and received her J.D. cum laude from Temple University Beasley School of Law.

She is a native of Hammonton and lifelong New Jersey resident.

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COMMISSIONERS

- P. 1 Thomas H. Prol, Chairman
- P. 2 Norma R. Evans, Commissioner
- P. 2 Ryan Peters, Commissioner
- P. 4 Jon-Henry Barr, Commissioner
- P. 7 Edwin R. Matthews, Legal Counsel

Amanda Haines “Profile”

Executive Director

Amanda Haines wasn't sure where her career path would lead after she graduated from Temple Law School twenty years ago.

After she saw a notice about a job as Assistant Legal Director at the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission, the South Jersey native ended up working in Trenton, NJ in June of 2005. On May 21, 2024, Haines was announced as the new executive director of ELEC.

“From the very beginning, it was clear that ELEC is a special place to work.” said Haines. “We have the privilege of serving the people of New Jersey and the regulated community by disclosing the financing of elections for public office.”

Earlier in her career, she drafted complaints against violators of the laws ELEC enforces and managed cases as they proceed through the legal system, appearing before the Office of Administrative Law, the Appellate Division, and the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Haines tries to bring a supportive, upbeat professionalism to her job “I think I have a personality that puts people at ease,” she said. “People generally appreciate when you are kind and patient. In my experience, most people want to comply with the law,” Haines said.

In her spare time, Haines umpires fastpitch softball and teaches group fitness. She loves being outdoors and enjoys reading. Haines grew up in Hammonton, where her parents still live.

Like most people in her family, Haines loves sports. “I have an older brother. Everything he did, I wanted to do.”

She played field hockey, basketball and softball in high school, and guarded first base on her college softball team.

Like the rest of her family, she is a devoted fan of Philadelphia sports teams, including the Phillies, Eagles and Flyers.

Haines earned her undergraduate degree in sociology from Princeton University.

ELEC Officials Inform Lawyers and Law Students About Agency’s Mission

By Joe Donohue

The chairman and newly named executive director of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) led a panel discussion about the agency and its mission at a May 22, 2024 conference at Rutgers Law School in Newark.



Left: Chairman Thomas H. Prol and his dog Sparky, Executive Director Amanda S. Haines, Legal Counsel Edwin R. Matthews, and Deputy Director Joseph W. Donohue.

Chairman Thomas H. Prol and Executive Director Amanda S. Haines keynoted a panel discussion entitled “What You Should Know About the NJ Election Law Enforcement Commission.”

At its monthly meeting one day earlier, the four-member bipartisan commission had announced the appointment of Haines as its sixth Executive Director and its first woman.

Other panel participants included Edwin R. Matthews, the Commission’s legal counsel, and Joseph W. Donohue, the agency’s deputy director.

During the hour-and-a-half long session before an audience of 27, Chairman Prol said the Commission was committed to ensuring that the Elections Transparency Act, signed into law April 3, 2023, lives up to its name. The Commission already has asked the Governor and Legislature to support three changes in the law, including more transparency for independent expenditure committees.

His comments echoed his first message in the agency's 2023 Annual Report, part of which stated:

"The integrity of elections is a vital and sacrosanct component of a free and fair democracy. I commit to engaging the important work ahead with fairness, honesty, and respect for the dignity of all. Our representative government requires adherence to the rule of law and due process, and I look forward to implementing the Commission's mandate with the guidance of those bedrock democratic principles...."

"We focus particular attention on preventing the use of campaign funds to target vulnerable and historically disenfranchised communities by suppressing voter turnout sowing, disinformation or fraudulently misrepresenting the truth."

(To read the Chairman's full message, see pages five and six in the annual report-

https://www.elec.nj.gov/pdf/annual_reports/annual2023.pdf).

Matthews gave a broad overview of the agency, Haines discussed compliance and enforcement matters, and Donohue recounted the history of the state's gubernatorial public financing program and reviewed how ELEC compared to its federal counterpart, the Federal Election Commission.

The panel was held before members of the C. Willard Heckel Inn of Court, which was founded in 1990 to further civility and excellence in the practice of law in New Jersey in both the state and federal courts.

The Inn brings together highly experienced and distinguished justices, judges, trial attorneys, members of the bar, and select Rutgers Law School students to enhance their skills and focus on emerging and important issues facing the bar and bench.

The Commission wishes to extend its thanks to Deputy Attorney General Donna J. Dorgan, who was an organizer and co-moderator of the panel discussion; co-moderator Tim Anderson, Managing Partner, Tim Anderson Law, LLC, and past-president, Heckel Inn of Court; and co-organizer Josephine T. Nagle, Continuing Legal Education Program Administrator at Rutgers Law School.



County Party Fund-raising Continues To Flourish in Wake of New Law

(Released on May 2, 2024)

First quarter fund-raising by county party committees was the highest in a decade as higher contribution limits have made it easier for officials to amass donor dollars, according to reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

The number of dollars raised during the quarter totaled almost \$2.2 million- nearly 37 percent higher than the decade-long average.¹

Cash reserves also are at a high for the period- \$4.2 million, or 38 percent above average.

Table 1
First Quarter Totals for County Party Committees 2014-2024

YEAR	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND
2014	\$1,048,455	\$1,099,335	\$1,312,788
2015	\$1,080,157	\$1,118,813	\$1,437,520
2016	\$1,499,334	\$ 970,613	\$2,027,203
2017	\$1,195,248	\$1,250,534	\$2,086,933
2018	\$1,371,138	\$1,378,945	\$2,657,429
2019	\$1,648,413	\$1,654,402	\$3,341,448
2020	\$1,234,693	\$1,290,897	\$2,155,834
2021	\$ 695,644	\$ 897,135	\$2,657,845
2022	\$1,346,643	\$1,538,378	\$3,872,588
2023	\$1,675,860	\$1,552,863	\$3,193,619
2024	\$2,157,259	\$1,635,625	\$4,227,400
1st Quarter Averages- 2014-2024	\$1,359,349	\$1,307,958	\$2,633,691
Difference	37%	20%	38%

“The numbers are up despite the fact that six committees have yet to report their first quarter campaign finance activity,” said Joe Donohue, ELEC’s Acting Executive Director. “This is a strong clue that legislative changes have made fund-raising easier for party committees.”

Donohue said the impact is likely due to the enactment last year of the Elections Transparency Act (P.L. 2023, c.30). On April 3, 2023, Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation (S-2866) that made several changes to the laws that are enforced by ELEC.

One change that had a direct impact on county party finances raised from \$37,500 to \$75,000 the regular annual contribution limit that applies to those committees. In addition, state and county parties can annually accept an additional \$37,500 for “housekeeping accounts” that some, though not all, have created to defray administrative expenses.

Committees with these accounts can raise up to \$112,500 each year. These increases in contribution limits followed an 18-year freeze lifted by the Legislature through the 2023 law.

The new law also allowed public contractors to resume making political donations to all party committees, including counties, for the first time in more than a decade up to the same limit as other donors.

¹ Some earlier totals adjusted for inflation might have had more buying power.

During the quarter, Democratic party committees raised more than twice the Republican committees and spent about twice as much. Democratic committees also have four times as much cash-on-hand as their GOP counterparts at the end of the quarter.

One caveat is that these numbers are preliminary since two Democratic and four Republican committees have yet to file their first quarter reports.

Table 2
First Quarter Snapshot of 2024 Campaign Finance Activity by County Parties

PARTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Democrats	\$1,536,728	\$1,092,420	\$3,372,439	\$3,254,469
Republicans	\$ 620,531	\$ 543,205	\$ 854,961	\$ 807,262
Combined	\$2,157,259	\$1,635,625	\$4,227,400	\$4,061,730

*Cash-on-hand plus or minus debts owed to or by the committee.

Among Democratic county party committees that have filed their reports, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Passaic, Somerset and Union Counties all reported cash balances of more than \$100,000. Hudson County reported a negative cash balance when adjusting for outstanding debts.

Table 3
Campaign Finance Activity of Democratic County Party Committees
January 1 through March 31, 2024

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Atlantic	\$ 30,195	\$ 19,545	\$ 12,997	\$ 12,997
Bergen	\$ 242,226	\$ 100,058	\$ 467,608	\$ 467,608
Burlington	\$ 114,830	\$ 4,301	\$ 165,124	\$ 158,749
Camden	\$ 112,793	\$ 120,703	\$ 274,403	\$ 274,403
Cape May	\$ 1,285	\$ 4,148	\$ 15,602	\$ 15,602
Cumberland	\$ 22,400	\$ 8,307	\$ 32,742	\$ 32,742
Essex	\$ 163,460	\$ 114,253	\$ 298,639	\$ 298,639
Gloucester	\$ 138,300	\$ 63,084	\$ 288,349	\$ 269,940
Hudson	\$ 12,500	\$ 31,497	\$ 9,598	\$ (99,176)
Hunterdon	\$ 7,670	\$ 10,245	\$ 23,467	\$ 23,467
Mercer	\$ 50	\$ 9,313	\$ 331,453	\$ 330,875
Middlesex	\$ 193,143	\$ 277,311	\$ 274,451	\$ 274,451
Monmouth	\$ 46,981	\$ 50,936	\$ 1,909	\$ 1,909
Morris	\$ 13,773	\$ 28,364	\$ 43,597	\$ 43,596
Ocean	\$ 7,626	\$ 3,620	\$ 40,754	\$ 56,921
Passaic	\$ 192,190	\$ 69,226	\$ 365,848	\$ 365,848
Salem	NA	NA	NA	NA
Somerset	\$ 63,160	\$ 94,287	\$ 196,317	\$ 196,317
Sussex	\$ 1,203	\$ 3,768	\$ 36,445	\$ 36,445
Union	\$ 172,944	\$ 79,452	\$ 493,136	\$ 493,136
Warren	NA	NA	NA	NA
Democrats-Total	\$1,536,728	\$1,092,420	\$3,372,439	\$3,254,469

*Net worth is cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the committee.

Among Republican county party committees that have filed their reports, Cape May and Monmouth Counties reported cash balances above \$100,000. Passaic County reported a negative balance when adjusting for outstanding debts.

Table 4
Campaign Finance Activity of
Republican County Party Committees
January 1 through March 31, 2024

COUNTY	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
Atlantic	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bergen	\$ 35,737	\$ 36,535	\$ 10,329	\$ 329
Burlington	NA	NA	NA	NA
Camden	\$ 13,952	\$ 12,632	\$ 9,445	\$ 9,440
Cape May	\$ 20,914	\$ 20,914	\$346,862	\$346,861
Cumberland	\$ 43,210	\$ 19,693	\$ 65,806	\$ 65,806
Essex	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,002	\$ 3,808	\$ 3,808
Gloucester	\$ 20,475	\$ 19,435	\$ 12,746	\$ 7,746
Hudson	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hunterdon	\$ 39,858	\$ 46,137	\$ 4,180	\$ 4,180
Mercer	NA	NA	NA	NA
Middlesex	\$ 9,772	\$ 10,340	\$ 19,766	\$ 19,637
Monmouth	\$ 65,695	\$ 65,352	\$110,289	\$110,289
Morris	\$ 32,312	\$ 37,545	\$ 18,034	\$ 12,834
Ocean	\$149,567	\$103,434	\$ 58,403	\$ 58,403
Passaic	\$ 78,720	\$ 72,953	\$ 24,700	\$ (2,069)
Salem	\$ 23,450	\$ 9,795	\$ 52,164	\$ 52,164
Somerset	\$ 6,880	\$ 24,329	\$ 1,679	\$ 1,679
Sussex	\$ 11,645	\$ 8,821	\$ 14,161	\$ 13,890
Union	\$ 30,295	\$ 20,795	\$ 65,961	\$ 65,961
Warren	\$ 33,050	\$ 30,492	\$ 36,629	\$ 36,304
Republicans-Total	\$620,531	\$543,205	\$854,961	\$807,262

*Net worth is cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the committee.

The numbers in this analysis are based on reports filed by noon May 1, 2024. They have yet to be verified by ELEC staff and should be considered preliminary.

Individual reports can be reviewed on ELEC's website (www.elec.nj.gov).

2024 REPORTING DATES

	INCLUSION DATES	REPORT DUE DATE
FIRE COMMISSIONER – FEBRUARY 17, 2024		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 01/16/2024	01/19/2024
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	01/17/2024 – 02/03/2024	02/06/2024
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	02/04/2024 – 03/05/2024	03/08/2024
72–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 02/04/2024 through 02/09/2024		
24–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 02/10/2024 through 02/17/2024		
APRIL SCHOOL BOARD – APRIL 16, 2024		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 03/15/2024	03/18/2024
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	03/16/2024 – 04/02/2024	04/05/2024
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	04/03/2024 – 05/03/2024	05/06/2024
72–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 04/03/2024 through 04/08/2024		
24–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 04/09/2024 through 04/16/2024		
MAY MUNICIPAL – MAY 14, 2024		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 04/12/2024	04/15/2024
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	04/13/2024 – 04/30/2024	05/03/2024
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	05/01/2024 – 05/30/2024	06/03/2024
72–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 05/01/2024 through 05/06/2024		
24–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 05/07/2024 through 05/14/2024		
RUNOFF (JUNE)** – JUNE 11, 2024		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	05/01/2024 – 05/28/2024	05/31/2024
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	05/29/2024 – 06/28/2024	07/01/2024
72–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 05/29/2024 through 06/03/2024		
24–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 06/04/2024 through 06/11/2024		
PRIMARY (90 DAY START DATE: MARCH 06, 2024)*** – JUNE 04, 2024		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 05/03/2024	05/06/2024
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	05/04/2024 -05/21/2024	05/24/2024
20–Day Postelection Reporting Date	05/22/2024 – 06/21/2024	06/24/2024
72–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 05/22/2024 through 05/27/2024		
24–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 05/28/2024 through 06/04/2024		
GENERAL (90 DAY START DATE: AUGUST 07, 2024)*** – NOVEMBER 05, 2024		
29–day Preelection Reporting Date	06/22/2024 – 10/04/2024	10/07/2024
11–day Preelection Reporting Date	10/05/2024 – 10/22/2024	10/25/2024
20–day Postelection Reporting Date	10/23/2024 -11/22/2024	11/25/2024
72–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 10/23/2024 through 10/28/2024		
24–Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 10/29/2024 through 11/05/2024		

RUN-OFF (DECEMBER) – DECEMBER 03, 2024**

29-day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	10/23/2024 – 11/19/2024	11/22/2024
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	11/20/2024 – 12/20/2024	12/23/2024
72-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 11/20/2024 through 11/25/2024		
24-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 11/26/2024 through 12/03/2024		

PACS, PCFRS & CAMPAIGN QUARTERLY FILERS

1 st Quarter	01/01/2024 – 03/31/2024	04/15/2024
2 nd Quarter	04/01/2024 – 06/30/2024	07/15/2024
3 rd Quarter	07/1/2024 – 09/30/2024	10/15/2024
4 th Quarter	10/01/2024 – 12/31/2024	01/15/2025

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AGENTS (Q-4)

1 st Quarter	01/01/2024 – 03/31/2024	04/10/2024
2 nd Quarter	04/01/2024 – 06/30/2024	07/10/2024
3 rd Quarter	07/01/2024 – 09/30/2024	10/10/2024
4 th Quarter	10/01/2024 – 12/31/2024	01/10/2025

* Inception Date of Campaign (first time filers) or from January 1, 2024 (Quarterly filers).

** A candidate committee or joint candidates committee that is filing in a 2024 Runoff election is not required to file a 20-day postelection report for the corresponding prior election (May Municipal or General).

*** Form PFD-1 is due on April 04, 2024 for Primary Election Candidates and June 14, 2024 for Independent General Election Candidates.

Note: A 4th quarter 2023 filing is needed for Primary 2024 candidates if they started their campaign prior to December 06, 2023. A 2nd quarter 2024 filing is needed by Independent/Non-Partisan General Election candidates if they started their campaign prior to May 07, 2024.

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