



NEWS RELEASE

Respond to:
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CONTACT: FREDERICK M. HERRMANN, Ph.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:

May 25, 2005

PRESS ADVISORY

Executive Director Frederick M. Herrmann announced today that the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission is proposing new rules to implement the New Jersey Fair and Clean Elections Pilot Project (P.L.2004, c.121), which creates a public financing pilot project for General Assembly candidates in selected legislative districts in the 2005 general election.

The proposed new rules include definitions specifically applicable to the pilot project, including “certified candidate,” “initial grant amount,” “participating candidate,” “nonparticipating candidate,” “qualifying contribution,” “qualifying period,” and “seed money.” The Commission’s proposal instructs Clean Elections candidates on the specific limits applicable to “seed money” and “qualifying contributions.”

The proposal further includes procedures for: notifying candidates who are eligible to participate in the pilot project, filing the declaration of intent to be a certified Clean Elections candidate, creating a written receipt for each qualifying contribution, applying for the initial Clean Elections grant amount and for additional Clean Elections funds, appealing a Commission certification decision, returning unspent seed money and Clean Elections funds, establishing a separate Clean Elections campaign depository account, and submitting a candidate statement for inclusion in the voter’s guide. Spending limits, political identification requirements, debate rules, and penalties are also included.

The proposed amendments appeared in the New Jersey Register on May 16, 2005, and are currently available on the Commission’s website at www.elec.state.nj.us. Copies of the Commission’s proposals may also be obtained by calling the Commission at (609) 292-8700.

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The Commission will conduct a hearing to elicit public comment concerning the proposal on **Tuesday, June 21, 2005**, at 11:15 a.m. at:

Election Law Enforcement Commission
Edward J. Farrell Memorial Conference Room
28 West State Street, 12th Floor
Trenton, New Jersey

The Commission invites participation in the hearing and requests that any testimony be limited to no more than ten minutes. Persons wishing to testify are requested to reserve time to speak by contacting Administrative Assistant Elbia L. Zeppetelli at (609) 292-8700, no later than Friday, June 17, 2005.

Submit written comments by July 15, 2005, to:

Michelle R. Levy, Associate Legal Director
Election Law Enforcement Commission
P. O. Box 185
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0185

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