



NEWS RELEASE

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PRESS ADVISORY

The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) learned this morning that the State Appellate Division has granted its motion to intervene in the case of Margaret Nordstrom v. William “Hank” Lyon.

The Commission contends that a September 13 decision by Morris County Assignment Judge Thomas Weisenbeck ventured into ELEC’s legal domain.

In the ruling, the Court overturned the June Republican freeholder primary election in which Lyon won by six votes over Nordstrom based in part on allegations that Lyon violated campaign finance laws.

“The lower Court’s ruling has the strong potential to negatively affect the Commission’s legislative mandate of primary jurisdiction, resulting in the public’s and the regulated community’s inability to rely upon the Commission’s uniform administration of the Campaign Reporting Act,” said the motion filed on the Commission’s behalf.

“If the lower Court’s ruling stands, it would subject candidates and committees to inconsistent application of the Campaign Reporting Act in enforcement actions dependent upon the forum where the matter is adjudicated,” the motion adds.

Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director, emphasized that while the Commission is intervening in the case to uphold its statutory prerogatives, it is not taking sides in the case.

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