



NEWS RELEASE

Respond to:
P.O. Box 185
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0185

(609) 292-8700

CONTACT: AMANDA S. HAINES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:
December 23, 2024

ELEC ENDORSES HIGHER PUBLIC FUNDING AND SPENDING THRESHOLDS DUE TO PRIMARY ELECTION SHIFT

During their regular monthly meeting on December 17, 2024, members of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) publicly agreed that specific limits related to the state's Gubernatorial Public Financing program should be adjusted if the primary election is moved to June 10.

In a letter to the legislative leaders, ELEC Executive Director Amanda S. Haines referenced legislative action in 2001 that increased certain Gubernatorial Public Financing limits due to a primary election date change. "If the 2025 primary election is moved to June 10, 2025, ELEC recommends increasing the public funds cap and the expenditure cap for qualified gubernatorial candidates," Haines said.

Attached is a copy of her letter.

###



State of New Jersey

ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

THOMAS H. PROL
Chairman

RYAN PETERS
Commissioner

NORMA R. EVANS
Commissioner

JON-HENRY BARR
Commissioner

Respond to:
P.O. Box 185
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0185

(609) 292-8700

Website: www.elec.nj.gov/

AMANDA S. HAINES
Executive Director

JOSEPH W. DONOHUE
Deputy Director

THERESA J. LELINSKI
Legal Director

AUREA VAZQUEZ-ALEXANDER
Compliance Director

EDWIN R. MATTHEWS
Legal Counsel

December 20, 2024

The Honorable Senator Nicholas P. Scutari
Senate President
67 Walnut Ave., Suite 406
Clark, NJ 07066

The Honorable Senator Anthony M. Bucco
Senate Minority Leader
75 Bloomfield Ave., Suite 302, 3rd Fl.
Denville, NJ 07834

The Honorable Assemblyman Craig J. Coughlin
Assembly Speaker
569 Rahway Ave.
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

The Honorable Assemblyman John DiMaio
Assembly Minority Leader
208 Mountain Ave., Suite 3
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Dear Senate Leaders Scutari and Bucco and Assembly Leaders Coughlin and DiMaio:

The Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) is aware that A5152, which moves the date of the 2025 primary election from June 3, 2025 to June 10, 2025, has passed in both houses and has been sent to the Governor. ELEC supports the laudable purpose for this change. However, as 2025 is a gubernatorial election year, ELEC recommends that the Legislature consider adjusting certain limits in the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program to account for the additional week of campaigning, should the primary election be moved to June 10, 2025.

There is precedent for increasing certain Gubernatorial Public Financing Program limits when the date of the primary election is changed. In 2001, the primary election was moved from June 5, 2001 to June 26, 2001. P.L. 2001, c. 73. This legislation also increased the maximum amount of public funds a qualified candidate could receive in the 2001 primary election and increased the maximum amount a qualified candidate could spend in the 2001 primary election. To support the enhanced limits, P.L. 2001, c. 73 appropriated additional funds to ELEC.

If the 2025 primary election is moved to June 10, 2025, ELEC recommends increasing the public funds cap and the expenditure cap for qualified gubernatorial candidates. As such an increase would be in excess of amounts originally provided for the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program, an additional appropriation to fund the increase and administer the program would be necessary.

Deputy Director Joe Donohue and I are available to discuss these recommendations at your convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda S. Haines
Executive Director