

## **FIVE PRIORITY ELEC RECOMMENDATIONS (LAST UPDATE 3/15/17)**

### **❖ SIMPLIFY AND UPDATE PAY-TO-PLAY LAW**

- **COMBINE PAY TO PLAY RESTRICTIONS INTO A SINGLE LAW THAT APPLIES STATEWIDE; CURRENTLY, COUNTY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL BODIES CAN SET DIFFERENT PAY-TO-PLAY STANDARDS THAN THE STATE**
- **REQUIRE CONTRACTORS TO FILE ANNUAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS WITH ELEC IF THEY HAVE AT LEAST \$17,500 IN PUBLIC CONTRACTS; CURRENTLY, THE DISCLOSURE THRESHOLD IS \$50,000**
  - **REQUIRE CONTRACTORS TO DISCLOSE ALL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO 527 AND 501C COMMITTEES AS WELL AS SUPERPACS**
- **ALLOW CONTRACTORS TO CONTRIBUTE UP TO \$1,000 BEFORE THEY RISK LOSING A CONTRACT; CURRENT CONTRIBUTION THRESHOLD IS \$300**
- **END "FAIR AND OPEN" LOOPHOLE THAT ALLOWS CONTRACTORS TO MAKE MUCH LARGER CONTRIBUTIONS IF A MUNICIPALITY ADVERTISES THE CONTRACT**
- **REMOVE PAY-TO-PLAY RESTRICTIONS FROM STATE, COUNTY AND LOCAL POLITICAL PARTIES WHILE IMPOSING THEM ON CONTINUING POLITICAL COMMITTEES (PACS)**

### **❖ ENACT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO STRENGTHEN POLITICAL PARTIES**

- **RAISE CONTRIBUTION LIMITS TO ADJUST FOR INFLATION**
- **ALLOW PARTIES TO SPEND DIRECTLY ON GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS**
- **END BAN ON PARTY TRANSFERS DURING PRIMARIES**
- **REMOVE PAY-TO-PLAY RESTRICTIONS FROM STATE, COUNTY AND LOCAL POLITICAL PARTIES WHILE IMPOSING THEM ON CONTINUING POLITICAL COMMITTEES (PACS)**

### **❖ REQUIRE INDEPENDENT SPECIAL INTEREST SPENDERS TO DISCLOSE CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES JUST LIKE CANDIDATES AND PARTIES**

- **CURRENT LAW REQUIRES INDEPENDENT CAMPAIGN SPENDERS ENGAGED IN "EXPRESS ADVOCACY" TO DISCLOSE ONLY THEIR EXPENDITURES. EXPRESS ADVOCACY MEANS EXPLICITLY URGING VOTERS TO SUPPORT OR OPPOSE CANDIDATES USING TERMS LIKE "VOTE FOR" OR "VOTE AGAINST."**
  - **ELEC PROPOSES THAT THESE GROUPS IDENTIFY ALL CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$5,000 OR MORE.**
- **CURRENT LAW DOES NOT REQUIRE DISCLOSURE REPORTS FROM INDEPENDENT GROUPS THAT RUN ISSUE-ORIENTED CAMPAIGN ADS KNOWN AS "ELECTIONEERING" ADS.**
  - **ELEC PROPOSES THAT THESE GROUPS BE REQUIRED TO FILE REPORTS LISTING CONTRIBUTIONS ABOVE \$5,000 AND ALL EXPENDITURES IF THE ADS RUN AFTER JANUARY 1 OF AN ELECTION YEAR.**
  - **DISCLOSURE WOULD APPLY TO ANY COMMUNICATION THAT IS THE FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENT OF EXPRESS ADVOCACY BECAUSE IT CAN BE INTERPRETED BY A REASONABLE PERSON ONLY AS ADVOCATING THE ELECTION OR DEFEAT OF A CANDIDATE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT**

WHETHER THE COMMUNICATION INVOLVED MENTIONS A CANDIDACY, A POLITICAL PARTY OR A CHALLENGER TO A CANDIDATE, OR TAKES A POSITION ON A CANDIDATE'S CHARACTER, QUALIFICATIONS OR FITNESS FOR OFFICE.

- ❖ **CANDIDATES WHO SPEND CAMPAIGN FUNDS ON DINNERS OR OTHER MEETINGS MUST KEEP DETAILED RECORDS, INCLUDING WHO ATTENDED THE EVENT, WHAT WAS PURCHASED AND WHY IT WAS CONSIDERED "ORDINARY AND NECESSARY."**
- ❖ **ENACT LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE PUBLIC FINANCING IN EVENT OF A SPECIAL GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION**

(FOR A LIST OF ALL RECOMMENDATIONS, SEE LEGISLATIVE SECTION OF LATEST ANNUAL REPORT AT [WWW.ELEC.NJ.GOV](http://WWW.ELEC.NJ.GOV))