



ELEC *tronic*

An Election Law Enforcement Commission Newsletter

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Comments from the Chairman

Eric H. Jaso

ELEC Continues Work During COVID Crisis

We wish to assure the public that the work of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) has continued during the unprecedented crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus. In March, responding promptly to directives from the Governor and following CDC guidance, management swiftly implemented a work-from-home plan for ELEC staff which has enabled the Commission’s functions to continue with relatively little interruption.

While certain of our functions may be delayed, or even disrupted, for the most part our staff has been able to continue carrying out the

responsibilities of the Commission remotely.

During the course of the Coronavirus shutdown, ELEC will continue to receive and respond to phone calls from entities and persons under our jurisdiction as well as the general public. While in-person training sessions have been suspended, Compliance staff is prepared to answer questions involving campaign finance law, pay-to-play disclosure, and lobbying laws, as well as provide guidance concerning ELEC’s filing requirements and procedures.

Likewise, our IT staff is available to assist with questions involving electronic filing of required reports. Filed reports and information will continue to be posted on the Commission’s website (www.elec.nj.gov).

Filers may continue to submit their reports by U.S. Mail or electronically.

ELEC’s enforcement functions also continue. Legal staff and Investigative staff have continued to perform their responsibilities remotely. As necessary, staff can access our office to obtain files.

ELEC has also continued to draft required regulations as well as providing responses to advisory opinion requests.

With these measures in place, the work of the Commission has continued with relatively little disruption, and will carry on for the duration of this unprecedented crisis. For further and continued information involving possible changes to filing dates due to changes in the dates of the elections, please visit the Commission’s website or call 1-888-313-ELEC.

On behalf of our entire ELEC team, I wish all our fellow New Jerseyans safety and good health.

“Furthering the Interest of an Informed Citizenry”

IN THIS ISSUE

Comments from the Chairman	1
Executive Director’s Thoughts	2
Bloomberg Self-financing in Recent Presidential Campaign Makes Past NJ Mega-Spenders Look like Skinflints	3
Annual Lobbying 2019	4
Candidates in Special and School Board Elections Face New Filing Deadlines	10
Webinars	10
2020 Reporting Dates	11

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Executive Director's Thoughts

Jeff Brindle

Sixteen Years Later, the McCain Feingold Law of 2002 Appears More Boomerang than Reform

Reprinted from insidernj.com

The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA), often referred to as McCain/Feingold, was enacted in 2002. Though well meaning, McCain/Feingold sparked the rise in dark money spending and a spate of legal action.

Among the provisions of the Act was a ban on "soft" money contributions to national party committees. In other words, donors could no longer contribute unlimited amounts to the Republican and Democratic national committees.

Contributions to the national committees became subject to tight contribution limits, replacing "soft" money with "hard" money.

McCain/Feingold also prohibited issue and express advocacy advertising within 30-days of a primary and 60-days of a general election.

As predicted at the time by me and others, the ban prompted a stampede of donors away from the national parties and toward independent, outside special interest groups that were far less accountable and transparent.

Just between the enactment of BCRA and 2008, there was more than a 1,000 percent growth in independent group spending at the national level.

This spending ultimately filtered down to the states, including New Jersey.

Immediately upon enactment of BCRA, a lawsuit challenged its constitutionality. Senator Mitch McConnell and a variety of interest groups targeted the soft money ban and the advertising blackout periods before elections.

A ruling by the D.C. District Court upheld most of BCRA but struck down the soft money ban. The U.S. Supreme Court took up the case, rendering an opinion on December 10, 2003.

In its ruling, the Supreme Court upheld as constitutional most of BCRA, including the soft money ban, the 30- and 60-day blackout periods, and the ban on corporate and union independent expenditures.

What came next, however, demonstrated that despite the McConnell decision, BCRA was far from settled law.

In Federal Election Commission (FEC) v. Wisconsin Right to Life (WRTL), the non-profit group maintained that its advertisements were issue ads and as such should be allowed to be aired during the blackout periods. The ads encouraged U.S. Senators to oppose filibusters of judicial nominees.

By virtue of a 5-4 decision on June 25, 2007, the Supreme Court began the process of chipping away at the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. It ruled that pure issue ads were not subject to the ban imposed on express advocacy during the periods prior to primary and general elections.

The Court, in WRTL, came down on the side of "speech, not censorship" and established the functional equivalent of express advocacy test. The test held that an ad is subject to the restrictions under BCRA "only if the ad is susceptible of no reasonable interpretation other than as an appeal to vote for or against a specific candidate."

Other rulings further chipped away at BCRA, such as Davis v. FEC (2008). In this case, BCRA's millionaire's amendment allowing congressional candidates opposed by self-financed candidates to triple their contribution limits was struck down by the high court,

The situation truly reached critical mass in the Court's Citizens United v. FEC ruling on January 10, 2010.

The 5-4 majority overturned as unconstitutional Austin v. Michigan Chamber of Commerce (1990), which had banned corporate and union independent expenditures. Austin was a departure from the landmark Buckley v. Valeo (1976) decision.

In Citizens United, the Court determined that the 30-day and 60-day blackout periods on express advocacy were unconstitutional hinderances to free speech.

Thus, the Supreme Court in Citizens United all but eviscerated McCain/Feingold. It did sustain the ban on direct contributions to candidates and political parties by corporations and unions, and strongly endorsed the disclosure of campaign advertisements even if they went beyond the functional equivalent of express advocacy.

The unintended consequence of McCain/Feingold was to light the match that sparked the growth of independent spending often was done with no donor disclosure. Citizens United further fueled this raging forest fire of “dark money” spending. After the 2010 ruling, independent group spending took off exponentially in federal, state and even local elections.

Other decisions would follow that would further the growing influence of independent, dark money groups, such as SpeechNow (2010), which said independent expenditure-only committees could accept unlimited contributions, and Carey v. FEC (2011), which further clarified that corporations and unions could make unlimited contributions to 527 political organizations.

In the end, a 2002 law intended to reign in election spending backfired by triggering an era of court-ordered deregulation that led to massive new spending.

Throughout the modern era, it has become abundantly apparent that changes in campaign finance law, as well as court decisions, determined the flow of money within the political system. Though it may be desirable on the part of some to stem the flow of money in politics, history has shown it is not going to happen.

Money always finds its way into elections.

In New Jersey, it would be best to remember that adage and enact laws that will redirect the flow of contributions back to more accountable, transparent political parties and the candidates themselves.

Bloomberg Self-financing in Recent Presidential Campaign Makes Past NJ Mega-Spenders Look Like Skinflints

By Joe Donohue

In any other election year, it would have been major news when billionaire Tom Steyer dropped out of the Democratic primary campaign on February 29, 2020.

After all, he had just spent \$267 million of his personal wealth on a losing effort, according to Center for Responsive Politics. Normally, that would have been the most any candidate had ever plowed into their campaign in US history. Yet people barely talked about Steyer’s failed investment.

In a way, he was like the sea monster in “Gorgo,” a 1961 British science fiction film. While most of the movie was about the 65-foot-tall beast terrorizing the Irish sea coast and England, we learned at the end that Gorgo actually was a baby!

In this year’s race, the role of Gorgo’s 200-foot tall mom went to an even bigger billionaire- Mike Bloomberg.

Bloomberg spent \$935 million- over three times more than Steyer- on another losing effort in the Democratic primary since he too recently withdrew from the race.

By comparison, Presidential Donald Trump, another billionaire, sank just \$66.1 million of his own money into his successful 2016 victory over Hillary Clinton.

Don’t forget, though, that Trump harnessed his celebrity status to draw nearly \$5.6 billion in free media during his run for president, according to mediaQuant, an ad tracking firm. That all-time record makes even

Bloomberg’s self-funding figure look puny.

Despite all the big bucks being thrown around by some candidates today, it wasn’t that long ago (2000) when former Goldman Sachs head Jon Corzine stunned the nation by spending \$60.2 million on his successful U.S. Senate race. In today’s dollars, the same campaign would cost \$90 million.

What’s most mind-boggling about Bloomberg’s spending is that he did it in just 100 days. Corzine’s spending involved the full primary and general elections.

Bloomberg’s spending makes Corzine and other, more recent New Jersey self-funders, look like pikers.

Bloomberg paid \$45 million to just one firm for digital advertising. That was more than the \$36.8 million businessman Bob Hugin personally invested in his unsuccessful 2018 U.S. Senate bid in the Garden State.

Bloomberg also spent \$30 million just on direct mail during his 100-day run. That is \$7 million more than the \$22.5 million Governor Phil Murphy spent from his own wallet on a few years of promotional advertising during the pre-primary and primary periods of his victorious 2017 campaign.

The most self-financing ever done by a New Jersey resident on a presidential campaign was the \$37.4 million by Steve Forbes in 1996- an amount equal to \$61 million today.

Bloomberg spent 15 times more.

For more information on the history of self-financed campaigns in New Jersey, see "White Paper No. 26- Legislative Elections 2013: Big Spending, Little Change Plus A History of Self-financing by Legislators and Others" <https://www.elec.nj.gov/aboutelec/whitpapers.htm>.

Special Interest Trifecta Helps Propel Lobbying Expenditures to All-Time Peak Marijuana Industry Spending Also Sets Record

A flourish of spending in 2019 by the state's largest teacher union, an issue advocacy group and a health insurance firm helped pump lobbying expenses above \$100 million for the first time ever, according to annual reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Overall lobbying expenditures jumped nearly \$8.4 million, or 9.1 percent, said Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director. It was the biggest one-year jump since 2015, when total expenditures rose \$8 million, or 9.6 percent. The number is preliminary because it excludes late-arriving reports and amendments.

"After four years during which annual lobbying outlays hovered around \$91 million, industry spending now has hit a new, all-time milestone," said Brindle. "Spikes in grassroots lobbying and the number of new clients appear to be key factors."

The surge in lobbying activity occurred as the three top-spending groups - New Jersey Education Association, New Direction NJ Corporation and Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ- together spent \$10.2 million more in 2019 than they did a year earlier.

New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), the state's oldest registered lobbying group that represents about 200,000 teachers and other school workers, increased its spending 1,187 percent in 2019 to \$6.2 million. It was the group's largest lobbying expenditure since 2015, when it spent \$10 million.

ENTITY	2019	2018	CHANGE-\$	CHANGE-%
New Jersey Education Association	\$ 6,240,028	\$ 484,740	\$5,755,288	1,187%
New Direction NJ Corporation	\$ 3,911,200	\$ 503,750	\$3,407,450	676%
Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield Of NJ	\$ 1,437,314	\$ 429,841	\$1,007,473	234%
Move Health Care Forward NJ Inc (Horizon)	\$ 849,866			
Public Service Enterprise Group	\$ 769,883	\$ 1,475,770	\$ (705,887)	-48%
AARP NJ	\$ 739,153	\$ 722,562	\$ 16,591	2%
Hackensack Meridian Health	\$ 724,056	\$ 845,527	\$ (121,471)	-14%
Engineers Labor Employer Cooperative	\$ 682,697	\$ 970,528	\$ (287,831)	-30%
NJ State League Of Municipalities	\$ 600,439	\$ 527,139	\$ 73,300	14%
Prudential Financial Inc	\$ 588,735	\$ 565,532	\$ 23,203	4%
Total Lobbying Expenditures	\$100,093,332	\$91,720,129	\$8,373,203	9.1%

NJEA has 15 registered lobbyists and showed an interest in 350 different bills during the last legislative session. Some of its legislative priorities included school funding, pension and health benefits, arbitration, school meals, sick leave and programs to help deaf students.

NJEA also provided funds to New Direction NJ, a 501(c) 4 social welfare group that has run a series of issue advertisements touting the policies of Governor Phil Murphy since its formation in November 2017 shortly after his election. New Direction is run by Murphy's former campaign manager. It also ramped up its spending from the previous year, jumping to \$3.9 million- a 676 percent change.

Reports filed by Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ showed the third largest increase in spending dollar-wise. It sank \$1.4 million into its lobbying efforts last year, a 234 percent jump. Part of its funds went to Move Health Care Forward NJ Inc., the fourth top spender last year. That group ran an advertising campaign seeking support for legislation that would let the state's largest health insurer modernize its corporate structure.

Another factor fueling the 2019 increase in lobbying activity was more spending by members of the marijuana industry, which didn't even exist in New Jersey until a few years ago.

With the several marijuana issues pending before the Legislature last year, lobbying expenses by industry representatives shot up 32 percent from \$1.4 million to \$1.9 million. During the past three years, marijuana interests have spent about \$3.8 million (See Table 2) on issues that included medical marijuana expansion, decriminalization of marijuana use and legalization of recreational marijuana use.

After being unable to get enough votes in the Legislature to legalize recreational use for those 21 years or older, lawmakers have decided to ask voters to decide the issue this fall.

Brindle said spending on the ballot question is likely to eclipse the amount spent so far.

"The spending we've seen so far on lobbying, while substantial, may just be a warmup act to this year's star event- the referendum," Brindle said.

"Since 2004, voters in 17 states have decided initiatives on marijuana legalization. Eight were defeated, while nine won approval," said Brindle.

He noted that that \$141 million has been spent on those ballot questions, according to followthemoney.org. That's an average of more than \$8 million. The 2016 California referendum cost \$39.2 million. A 2014 election in Ohio drew \$23.4 million in spending. A 2016 Arizona measure cost \$15.2 million.

"Given the big numbers from other states and the fact that the creation of a lucrative new industry hangs in the balance, it isn't inconceivable that the fall ballot contest could cost upwards of \$10 million," Brindle said.

Even a local ballot question in Jersey City in 2019 about short-term rental rules drew \$5.5 million in spending, he noted. "The New Jersey advertising market is expensive. So, when controversial issues like marijuana get on the ballot, the paid media bills can quickly add up" Brindle said.

**Table 2
Lobbying Spending by Marijuana Interests**

GROUP	2019	2017-2019
Abira Medical Laboratories LLC D/B/A Genesis Diagnostics		\$ 70,000
Acreage Holdings	\$ 245,000	\$ 365,000
Aria Mello LLC		\$ 12,000
Altus NJ LLC	\$ 32,500	\$ 32,500
Beyond Green	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Biotrack THC	\$ 4,000	\$ 16,000
Cedar Creek Plus One	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Cherry Hill Skinny Investors	\$ 59,000	\$ 126,419
Community Greenhouse	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Compassionate Care Centers Of America Foundation/Garden State Dispensary	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000
Compassionate Care Foundation	\$ 48,204	\$ 108,204
Compassionate Care Research Institute Inc.	\$ 10,000	\$ 202,500
Compassionate Sciences		\$ 75,000
Cresco Labs	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Curaleaf NJ	\$ 89,500	\$ 161,000
Drug Policy Alliance	\$ 35,000	\$ 195,666
Eaze Solutions Inc	\$ 99,255	\$ 229,566
Eliasof, Steven And Holub, Michael		\$ 7,500
Euphoria Wellness NJ	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
Formula Two Realty LLC		\$ 22,714
Galenas New Jersey LLC	\$ 3,000	\$ 21,061
Garden State Of Mind	\$ 37,000	\$ 74,500
Garden State Releaf	\$ 28,500	\$ 36,000
Glt Cannabis C/O Masterpiece Advertising	\$ 31,000	\$ 31,000
Green Check Verified	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Green Medicine NJ	\$ 15,702	\$ 45,710
Greenwich Biosciences Inc		\$ 84,000
GW Pharmaceuticals	\$ 46,500	\$ 130,500
Holistic Industries	\$ 96,276	\$ 96,276
Hope Holistic Healthcare LLC	\$ 40,445	\$ 40,445
Ianthus Capital Management		\$ 43,565
IMX Medical Management Services Inc		\$ 1,750
Jushi Holdings Inc	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Kusbotanix	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Mainline Investment Partners	\$ 120,000	\$ 150,000
Marijuana Policy Project	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
Modern Remedies LLC		\$ 20,000
MTRAC Tech Corp	\$ 8,000	\$ 10,000
New Jersey Cannabusiness Association	\$ 34,000	\$ 154,000
NJ Buds LLC	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
Nuka Enterprises LLC	\$ 95,133	\$ 95,133
Panacea Inc		\$ 66,334
Parallel (Formerly Surterra Holdings)	\$ 52,500	\$ 52,500
Pharmacann LLC		\$ 28,000
Pure NJ LLC/ Moxie		\$ 16,417
Remedy NJ; Remedy Columbia		\$ 52,562
Responsible Approaches To Marijuana Policy (Ramp)		\$ 24,000
Restore NJ	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
Ruby Farms USA LLC	\$ 60,000	\$ 120,000
Sanctuary Medicinals		\$ 10,000
Standard Farms LLC	\$ 52,000	\$ 52,000
Superior Grow Labs	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Telebrands Corp	\$ 25,000	\$ 49,000
Terra Tech/ Sament Capital/ So Cal Eats	\$ 55,000	\$ 131,935
Theory Wellness Of NJ LLC	\$ 2,320	\$ 2,320
Trulieve Cannabis Corp	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,000
Vinedrea		\$ 10,000
Weedmaps	\$ 60,000	\$ 135,000
Totals	\$ 1,910,335	\$ 3,833,577

One reason overall expenditures rose so much in 2019 was a \$13.6 million spurt in communication spending. It was the third biggest total ever for that category. The highest spending on communications was \$15.2 million in 2011. In 2018, the total was just \$6.5 million- the smallest since 2014.

Given the growing sophistication of the industry, lobbyists are relying more frequently on the airwaves and Internet to build pressure for or against legislation.

“The days when lobbyists depended mostly on buttonholing legislators in the statehouse hallways are long over. They now are often inclined to seek to mobilize grassroots support for or against bills using television, radio, digital, billboards and other advertising methods,” Brindle said. “This strategy can be effective, but it costs money.”

GROUP	AMOUNT
New Jersey Education Association	\$ 5,894,718
New Direction NJ Corporation	\$ 3,911,200
Move Health Care Forward NJ Inc (Horizon)	\$ 849,866
Engineers Labor Employer Cooperative	\$ 487,597
AARP NJ	\$ 389,008
Insurance Council Of NJ Inc	\$ 382,744
Public Service Enterprise Group	\$ 326,984
Altria Client Services Inc & Affiliates	\$ 96,915
RAI Services Co	\$ 91,260
NJ Association For Justice	\$ 76,688
Total Communications Expenditures	\$13,620,399

The amount spent on “benefit passing”- gifts like meals, trips or other things of value- dispensed by lobbyists more than doubled. But the total remained small compared to previous years- \$5,180. The \$2,331 handed out in 2018 was an all-time low, and both totals are dwarfed by the all-time high of \$163,375 in gifts sprinkled around by lobbyists in 1992.

After peaking at 1,043 in 2008, the number of lobbyists gradually declined to 900 in 2017- the lowest number since 2005. However, the total has risen over the past two years to 945 in 2019.

The number of clients rose to 2,222- the largest total ever and a 16 percent increase. It is likely one reason overall lobbying expenses reached a new high.

Reports filed by 72 governmental affairs agents (lobbyists) shows that it pays to be big in the New Jersey lobbying world. The top ten multi-client firms received \$38.2 million in receipts- 64 percent of the total of nearly \$59.7 million

FIRM	RECEIPTS	2019 RANK	2018 RANK
Princeton Public Affairs Group Inc	\$10,577,074	1	1
Public Strategies Impact LLC	\$ 7,411,886	2	2
CLB Partners Inc	\$ 4,025,750	3	3
MBI Gluckshaw	\$ 3,095,101	4	5
Kaufman Zita Group LLC	\$ 2,954,575	5	4
Gibbons PC	\$ 2,828,065	6	6
Optimus Partners LLC	\$ 2,270,500	7	7
Capital Impact Group	\$ 1,810,933	8	8
Advocacy & Management Group	\$ 1,700,274	9	9
Tonio Burgos & Associates Of NJ LLC	\$ 1,544,000	10	13
Total Top Ten	\$38,218,158		
Total Lobbying Receipts	\$59,699,378		
Percent Top Ten	64 %		

Of the 846 represented entities who reported expenses in 2019, the top 25, who represent just three percent of all filers, alone accounted for \$23 million- nearly 23 percent- of total lobbying expenditures.

GROUP	2019 SPENT	2019 RANK	2018 RANK
NJ Education Association	\$6,240,028	1	13
New Direction NJ Corporation	\$3,911,200	2	12
Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield Of NJ	\$1,437,314	3	19
Move Health Care Forward NJ Inc	\$ 849,866	4	NA
Public Service Enterprise Group	\$ 769,883	5	1
AARP NJ	\$ 739,153	6	4
Hackensack Meridian Health	\$ 724,056	7	3
Engineers Labor Employer Cooperative	\$ 682,697	8	2
NJ State League Of Municipalities	\$ 600,439	9	9
Prudential Financial Inc	\$ 588,735	10	8
Insurance Council Of NJ Inc	\$ 546,547	11	80
NJ Business & Industry Association	\$ 516,425	12	17
NJ Hospital Association	\$ 487,802	13	15
Comcast Corp	\$ 467,194	14	23
RWJBarnabas Health	\$ 458,223	15	11
Williams Companies	\$ 455,000	16	10
Atlantic Health System	\$ 440,919	17	21
Firstenergy/Jersey Central Power & Light	\$ 424,000	18	18
Carepoint Health Management Association	\$ 421,662	19	22
NJ Realtors	\$ 402,219	20	37
NJ Society Of CPAs	\$ 397,043	21	25
Verizon	\$ 386,000	22	7
Balloon Council	\$ 365,593	23	NA
Chemistry Council Of NJ / State Street Associates	\$ 357,913	24	NA*
American Property Casualty Insurance Association	\$ 357,556	25	NA

*Not combined in 2018. Would have ranked 24.

In terms of rankings, Insurance Council of NJ Inc. jumped the most, ranking 80 in 2018 and 11 in 2019. Except for travel, lobbying expenses by category in 2019 were up across-the-board.

Table 6
Lobbying Expenses by Category

CATEGORY	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018-2019 % + OR -
Salary ¹	\$49,833,613	\$52,479,413	\$51,886,231	\$54,931,497	\$ 55,163,767	0.4%
Support Personnel	\$ 2,604,048	\$ 2,498,862	\$ 2,395,907	\$ 2,463,181	\$ 2,635,804	7.0%
Fees ²	\$ 2,297,495	\$ 2,313,953	\$ 4,603,279	\$ 2,261,072	\$ 2,801,598	23.9%
Communication Costs	\$14,779,709	\$10,574,948	\$ 8,510,409	\$ 6,929,935	\$ 13,620,399	96.5%
Travel	\$ 522,622	\$ 439,326	\$ 449,989	\$ 541,575	\$ 474,264	-12.4%
Benefit Passing ³	\$ 2,439	\$ 3,501	\$ 6,042	\$ 2,331	\$ 5,180	122.2%
Total	\$70,039,926	\$68,310,003	\$67,851,858	\$67,129,591	\$ 74,701,012	11.3%
Compensation to Governmental Affairs Agent Not Included on Annual Reports	\$21,464,784	\$22,052,126	\$23,866,952	\$24,590,538	\$ 25,392,321	3.3%
Adjusted Total*	\$91,504,710	\$90,362,129	\$91,718,809	\$91,720,129	\$100,093,332	9.1%

1- Salary includes in-house salaries and payments to outside agents.

2- Fees include assessments, membership fees and dues.

3- Benefit passing includes meals, entertainment, gifts, travel and lodging.

Annual reports filed by lobbyists showed 111 served on 147 different boards, commissions or authorities, including 28 who served on multiple boards.

Lobbying summary data shown for 2019 should be considered preliminary.

The analysis reflects a review of reports received as of noon March 6, 2019. In New Jersey, lobbyists who raise or spend more than \$2,500 were required to file a report on February 15th that reflects activity from the prior calendar year.

Summary information about lobbyist activities in 2019 can be obtained at the following website: http://www.elec.state.nj.us/publicinformation/gaa_annual.htm. Copies of annual reports also are available on ELEC's website.

Candidates in Special and School Board Elections Face New Filing Deadlines

Candidates in three municipal special elections and 13 school board elections originally scheduled March face new filing deadlines with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) due to an emergency shift of the election dates to May 12.

Governor Phil Murphy, in Executive Order 105, made the dates later to increase safety in the wake of the COVID-19 virus outbreak while ensuring voters have an opportunity to cast their ballots.

Candidates running in the Fire District 1 special election in Old Bridge and in special elections in West Amwell and Atlantic City, as well as school board races in Cliffside Park, Fairview, Garfield, Hackensack, Irvington, New Brunswick, Newark, North Bergen, Oakland, Passaic, Ridgewood, Totowa and Weehawkin, now face the following reporting deadlines:

Report Due	Period Covered	Due Date
29-day Preelection	Inception of campaign* – 4/10/2020	4/13/2020
11-day Preelection	4/11/2020 – 4/28/2020	5/1/2020
20-day Postelection	4/29/2020 – 5/29/2020	6/1/2020

*Inception date of campaign for first-time filers or January 1, 2020 for quarterly filers.

Candidates also must file 48-hour notice reports for reportable activity that occurs between 4/29/2020 and 5/12/2020.

All in-person training sessions are cancelled. However, electronic filing webinars and manuals are available online plus candidates can call ELEC at 609-292-8700 to speak to members of Compliance staff.

Webinars

Introducing ELEC’s new web-based Electronic File Filing System.
Please register for one of the following Webinars.

Webinars		
R-1 WEBINARS	4/14/2020	2:00 pm
	5/12/2020	2:00 pm
	6/16/2020	10:00 am
	9/22/2020	2:00 pm
	10/1/2020	10:00 am
R-3 WEBINARS	4/8/2020	10:00 am
	5/26/2020	2:00 pm
	6/9/2020	10:00 am
	7/6/2020	2:00 pm
	9/17/2020	10:00 am
	10/8/2020	2:00 pm

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Should you need assistance please call (609) 292-8700 or visit https://www.elec.nj.gov/seminar_train/SeminarTraining.html.

2020 Reporting Dates

	INCLUSION DATES	REPORT DUE DATE
FIRE COMMISSIONER – FEBRUARY 15, 2020		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 1/14/2020	1/17/2020
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	1/15/2020 – 2/1/2020	2/4/2020
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	2/2/2020 – 3/3/2020	3/6/2020
48-Hour Notice Reports Start on 2/2/2020 through 2/15/2020		
APRIL SCHOOL BOARD – (NEW ELECTION DATE) May 12, 2020		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 4/10/2020	4/13/2020
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	4/11/2020 – 4/28/2020	5/1/2020
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	4/29/2020 – 5/29/2020	6/1/2020
48-Hour Notice Reports Start on 4/29/2020 through 5/12/2020		
MAY MUNICIPAL – MAY 12, 2020		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 4/10/2020	4/13/2020
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	4/11/2020 – 2/28/2020	5/1/2020
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	4/29/2020 – 5/29/2020	6/1/2020
48-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 4/29/2020 through 5/12/2020		
RUNOFF (JUNE) ** – JUNE 9, 2020		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	4/29/2020 – 5/26/2020	5/29/2020
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	5/27/2020 – 6/26/2020	6/29/2020
48-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 5/27/2020 through 6/9/2020		
PRIMARY (90-DAY START DATE: MARCH 4, 2020) *** – JUNE 2, 2020		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	Inception of campaign* – 5/1/2020	5/4/2020
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	5/2/2020 – 5/19/2020	5/22/2020
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	5/20/2020 – 6/19/2020	6/22/2020
48-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 5/20/2020 through 6/2/2020		
GENERAL (90-DAY START DATE: AUGUST 5, 2020) – NOVEMBER 3, 2020		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	6/20/2020 – 10/2/2020	10/5/2020
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	10/3/2020 – 10/20/2020	10/23/2020
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	10/21/2020 – 11/20/2020	11/23/2020
48-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 10/21/2020 through 11/3/2020		
RUNOFF (DECEMBER)** – DECEMBER 8, 2020		
29-day Preelection Reporting Date	No Report Required for this Period	
11-day Preelection Reporting Date	10/21/2020 – 11/24/2020	11/27/2020
20-day Postelection Reporting Date	11/25/2020 – 12/25/2020	12/28/2020
48-Hour Notice Reporting Starts on 11/25/2020 through 12/8/2020		

PACs, PCFRs & CAMPAIGN QUARTERLY FILERS

1 st Quarter	1/1/2020 – 3/31/2020	4/15/2020
2 nd Quarter	4/1/2020 – 6/30/2020	7/15/2020
3 rd Quarter	7/1/2020 – 9/30/2020	10/15/2020
4 th Quarter	10/1/2020 – 12/31/2020	1/15/2021

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AGENTS (Q-4)

1 st Quarter	1/1/2020 – 3/31/2020	4/13/2020
2 nd Quarter	4/1/2020 – 6/30/2020	7/10/2020
3 rd Quarter	7/1/2020 – 9/30/2020	10/13/2020
4 th Quarter	10/1/2020 – 12/31/2020	1/11/2021

*Inception Date of Campaign (first time filers) or January 1, 2020 (Quarterly filers)

**A candidate committee or joint candidates committee that is filing in a 2020 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 19, 2020 for the Primary Election Candidates and June 12, 2020 for the Independent General Election Candidates.

Note: A fourth quarter 2019 filing is needed for the Primary 2020 candidates if they started their campaign prior to December 4, 2019.
A second quarter is needed by Independent/Non-Partisan General Election candidates if they started their campaign prior to May 5, 2020.

HOW TO CONTACT ELEC

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