



NEWS RELEASE

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In a statement made today, Frederick M. Herrmann, Executive Director of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), said that PACs contributed \$4,358,143 to and on behalf of local, county and legislative candidates in 1987.

Herrmann said that PAC contributions to these candidates increased by 98 percent over 1985, when these same groups contributed \$2,200,982.

ELEC chose the years 1987 and 1985 for comparative purposes because legislative races occurred in both years. Exact comparisons cannot be made, however, because only the Assembly ran for election in 1985 whereas both the Assembly and State Senate ran in 1987. Conversely, there was a gubernatorial election in 1985 but none in 1987.

The number of Statewide PACs filing with ELEC has also increased by 65 percent since 1985. In 1987, 187 PACs filed with ELEC compared with 113 filing in 1985.

Herrmann remarked, "the recent rise in the number of PACs filing with ELEC stems from more corporations, businesses and professionals forming PACs to do their campaign contributing rather than giving directly."

According to Herrmann, "the doubling of contributions by PACs and the large increase in their number indicates that the trend is clearly toward more spending by more PACs."

The statistics were compiled from all four quarterly reports filed in both 1987 and 1985 by PACs established by corporations, trade associations, businesses, labor unions, professional organizations, ideological groups, etc.

Herrmann said that the PACS selected were those located within the State that have engaged in election-related activity throughout New Jersey. This report does not include political party committees or personal PACS set up by candidates and officeholders to raise and spend money on their behalf.

A PAC is required to file with ELEC when in a calendar year, or in future calendar years, it expects to exceed \$2500 in contributions to aid State and local candidates. PACs as well as political party committees, are required to file with ELEC on January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15.

"The New Jersey Education Association is the top PAC contributor for both the 1987 and 1985 calendar years. In 1987, it made contributions to and on behalf of candidates totalling \$269,548, while in 1985 its contributions totalled \$166,719," stated Herrmann.

He noted that New Jersey's PAC contributions are following federal trends. Herrmann said that three of the same interests - real estate, medicine and education - are contributing heavily both in New Jersey and on the federal level.

The attached appendices detail the top twenty PAC contributors for the years 1987 and 1985 and includes a comparison of the rankings from each year.

Herrmann stated, "in 1987, the top twenty PACs contributed 58 percent of the total amount given by all PACs in that calendar year. The top twenty PACs totalled \$2,535,500 in contributions.

He added, "similarly, contributions by the top twenty PACs in 1985 totalled \$1,329,935. This figure was 60 percent of the total amount contributed by all PACs in 1985."

"The major portion of PAC contributions have presently and in the past come from the top twenty PACs," said Herrmann.

Herrmann noted, "the reports of the PACS which made the top twenty list were reviewed for out-of-state contributions or transfers to other accounts such as a national parent organization. For the purposes of this press release, these amounts were not included in the totals, and therefore may vary with actual report totals which the public may review."

Herrmann also said that it may be difficult to determine the identity of some of the PACs listed. He said that the Commission has recently called for legislation that would require PACs to identify themselves without ambiguity in their titles.

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APPENDIX

1987 Top Twenty PAC Contributors
and 1985 Rank Comparison

<u>1987 Rank</u>	<u>1985 Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	1	New Jersey Education Association Political Action Committee	\$269,548
2	2	Builders Political Action Committee	211,765
3	8	MEDAC-Medical Action Committee	190,173
4	3	Campaign Fund of Lawyers Encouraging Government and Law	188,470
5	6	Realtors Political Action Committee	177,415
6	5	New Jersey Dental Political Action Committee	144,750
7	15	Operating Engineers Local 825 Political Action and Education Committee	137,112
8	7	New Jersey Car (Conference of Auto Retailers)	134,424
9	4	New Jersey Organization For a Better State	127,500
10	-	American Trial Lawyers Association (New)	119,336
11	12	New Jersey CPA Political Action Committee	118,525
12	-	MPAC-New Jersey Council of Multi-Housing Industries	109,350
13	-	Transportation Trust Fund II (New)	107,500
14	9	SAPEC-NJ'87 (Savings Association Political Election Committee-New Jersey)	85,475
15	-	Greater Camden Committee	78,931
16	13	South Jersey Builders Political Action Committee	73,615

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1985 Top Twenty PAC Contributors

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	New Jersey Education Association Political Action Committee	\$166,719
2	Builders Political Action Committee	125,910
3	Campaign Fund of Lawyers Encouraging Government and Law	106,720
4	New Jersey Organization For a Better State	102,950
5	New Jersey Dental Political Action Committee	97,999
6	Realtors Political Action Committee	92,600
7	New Jersey Car Political Action Committee (Conference of Auto Retailers)	84,831
8	MEDAC-Medical Action Committee	73,611
9	SAPEC-NJ '87 (Savings Association Political Election Committee-New Jersey)	71,957
10	First Fidelity Bank Political Action Committee	51,310
11	New Jersey United Auto Workers Political Action Committee	50,505
12	New Jersey CPA Political Action Committee	48,320
13	South Jersey Builders Political Action Committee	45,000
14	New Jersey American Physical Therapists Political Action Committee (formerly PT-PAC)	39,810
15	Operating Engineers Local 825 Political Action and Education Committee	39,552
16	New Jersey Soft Drink Committee	38,050
17	Political Committee for New Jersey	37,600
18	Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #9 Political Action Committee	36,716
19	New Jersey Motor Truck Political Action Committee	34,920
20	Food Council Committee	34,855

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17	-	Midlantic State Bank Political Action Committee	70,375
18	-	Private Enterprise Political Action Committee	64,000
19	20	Food Council Committee	63,650
20	-	Laborer's Union Local 172 Political Action Committee Fund	63,586