



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:
October 19, 1988

PRESS ADVISORY

Attached is a letter sent yesterday by the Election Law Enforcement Commission to Governor Thomas Kean and the leaders of the New Jersey Senate and Assembly.

The purpose of the letter was to alert the Governor and the Legislature to the costs associated with implementing at a late date certain provisions of the Assembly State Government Committee Substitute Bill for S-24881R (Van Wagner) and A-3257 (Martin) and to request an appropriation to cover those costs.

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State of New Jersey

ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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October 18, 1988

Honorable Thomas H. Kean
Governor
Governor's Office
State House - CN 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Honorable John F. Russo
President
New Jersey State Senate
State House Annex - CN 099
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Honorable Chuck Hardwick
Speaker
New Jersey State Assembly
State House Annex - CN 098
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Honorable James R. Hurley
Senate Minority Leader
New Jersey State Senate
State House Annex - CN 099
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Honorable Willie B. Brown
Assembly Minority Leader
New Jersey State Assembly
State House Annex - CN 098
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Gentlemen:

With the 1989 gubernatorial election rapidly approaching, the Commission has reviewed the potential impact of pending legislation upon the Gubernatorial Public Financing Program. The Commission is especially concerned with maintaining two goals in its administration of Public Financing, providing prompt distribution of matching funds to candidates and providing accurate contributor information to the public in a timely fashion.

With those goals in mind, the Commission is concerned about the time and cost necessary to implement certain provisions of the Assembly State Government Committee Substitute Bill for S-24881R (Van Wagner) and A-3257 (Martin) if it were to be enacted close to January 3, 1989, the first date for public funds submissions in the 1989 primary election. Major modifications to the Commission computer software would be required to perform new tasks included in the bills.


Governor Kean
Senators Russo & Hurley
Assemblymen Hardwick & Brown
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Design and testing of these computer changes in a short time frame would be quite costly. In the alternative, it might be necessary to hire additional staff to perform these tasks manually until software modifications could be in place. The 1989 budget for Public Financing did not contemplate either expenditure.

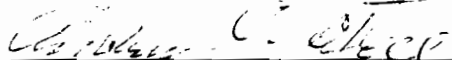
The Commission therefore respectfully urges the Governor and the Legislature to include an appropriation of at least \$75,000 in any bill enacted at this point to reform the Gubernatorial Public Financing system. Such funding would permit the Election Law Enforcement Commission to maintain its goals of prompt distribution of public matching funds and prompt public access to contribution information despite major changes to the program.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


Stanley C. Bedford, Chairman


Owen V. McNany, III, Vice Chairman


Andrew C. Axtell, Commissioner


David Linett, Commissioner

SGB/slm