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**NEW JERSEY CITIZENS' CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

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# PRESS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

Date: August 25, 2005  
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**ADDED "CLEAN ELECTIONS" CONTRIBUTION  
METHOD APPROVED**

Trenton, New Jersey—Check cards may now be used to make contributions to candidates seeking election to the General Assembly in the 6th and 13th Legislative districts through the Clean Election Pilot Project, the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) ruled today in a special meeting. News of this change was received by the New Jersey Citizens' Clean Election Commission (NJCCEC) from ELEC late this afternoon.

Before the ruling, candidates participating in the pilot project could only accept contributions of \$5 or \$30 if made in the form of a money order or a paper check. As a result of the ruling by ELEC, which is the executive agency administering the program, registered voters who live in the same district as the candidate will be able to make contributions in person or on a special secure internet website using check cards. The ability to make such donation should be completed within the next few days, according to officials at ELEC. The deadline for all contributions to candidates in the pilot project is 4 PM on Wednesday, September 7, 2005.

“This is a move of seismic proportions for clean elections. The check card process should make it easier for candidates to secure qualifying contributions,” noted William E. Schluter, chairman of the NJCCEC, who attended the special meeting held by ELEC. “It was clear from the discussion that occurred at the meeting that using a check card system will not diminish the integrity of the clean elections system. The same information about contributors as before will be still be required. No standards will be loosened. Instead, ELEC’s decision gives support and encouragement to all of the people involved in the pilot project.”

“The cooperation from all persons and agencies involved in the clean elections program has been incredible, “ commented Chairman Schluter. “This includes the ELEC commissioners and staff, the State Treasury Department, the candidates, the NJCCEC commissioners and the Office of Legislative Services staff.”

The NJCCEC is charged by law with monitoring and evaluating the pilot project and reporting back to the Legislature in May 2006, so that it can decide whether to expand the program, make changes or discontinue it.

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