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New Jersey State Legislature

NEW JERSEY CITIZENS' CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: December 1, 2005
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National Elections Experts to Discuss NJ Clean Elections

Trenton, New Jersey—Two national elections experts, one from Maine and the other from Washington, D.C., will be addressing the New Jersey Citizens' Clean Election Commission when it convenes tomorrow at Seton Hall University's South Orange Campus, according to William E. Schluter, chairman of the commission. The meeting, which begins at 2 P.M. in Duffy Hall, will be the last of the three public hearings held in different parts of the State to elicit testimony from the candidates and the public regarding the success and failures of the clean elections pilot project, as required by the

law that created the experimental project.

Mr. Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director of the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Elections Practices, will be one of the speakers. He will offer an overview of the current clean elections program in Maine and respond to any questions from the commissioners or the public about the program. The other speaker will be Mr. David Donnelly, National Campaigns Director for the non-profit think tank Public Campaign. He will be discussing the clean elections legislation recently passed by the Connecticut Legislature and provide information on the experience of other states that have adopted clean elections programs.

“This will be a unique and exciting opportunity for the commissioners and the public to learn about clean elections programs that have worked in Maine and nationally. I am confident that the information these speakers will present to the commissioners will be critical as we work to prepare a preliminary report to the Legislature that will guide the future of clean elections in New Jersey,” noted Chairman Schluter. “The commissioners, members of interested organizations and the public will hear much of value regarding clean elections from these two national experts.”

Following the meeting on December 2, the commission will meet on December 9 at the Douglass College Center, Rutgers University, starting at 2 P.M. and on December 13 and 14, at Winants Hall, Old Queen’s Campus, Rutgers University, also starting at 2 P.M. The Commission will convene for work sessions to discuss the content and structure of its preliminary report. Members of the public are welcome. But since the three public hearings required by law have already been held, the commission will limit presentation of additional public testimony to the first half-hour of the meeting, or in accordance with pre-arranged scheduling. Any additional testimony must be submitted in written form.

The NJCCEC is charged by law with monitoring and evaluating the pilot project and reporting back to the Legislature with a preliminary report in February 2006 and a final report in May 2006, so that the Legislature can decide on changes to the project for the 2007 primary and general elections.

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