

**NJCCEC COMMISSION**

HONORABLE BILL SCHLUTER  
*Chairman*

*SENATE*

ANTHONY BUCCO

*ASSEMBLY*

BILL BARONI  
LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

*PUBLIC Members*

VICTOR DeLUCA  
STEVEN LENOX  
HONORALBE CAROL MURPHY  
CURTIS TAO



FRANK PARISI  
*Office of Legislative Services*  
*Commission Secretary*  
(609) 292-9106  
(609) 777-2998 fax

## New Jersey State Legislature

### NEW JERSEY CITIZENS' CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

STATE HOUSE ANNEX  
PO BOX 068  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0068

# PRESS RELEASE

---

#### **For Immediate Release**

Date: May 8, 2006  
Contact: Frank J. Parisi, Secretary,  
New Jersey Citizens' Clean Elections Commission  
Phone: (609) 292-9106  
Fax: (609) 777-2998

### **“CLEAN ELECTIONS” FINAL REPORT RELEASED**

Trenton, New Jersey—A series of recommendations and proposed legislation for the 2007 clean elections pilot project are the subject of the final report of the New Jersey Citizens' Clean Election Commission (NJCCEC). The report was made public at 2 PM today at a press conference at the State House.

“This report offers a balanced and comprehensive approach that will address many of the concerns raised about the 2005 pilot project,” noted William E. Schluter, chairman of the NJCCEC. “The commission strongly believes that a successful clean elections program will strengthen the integrity of the political process in this State by

removing special interest money which has always been a major factor in financing legislative campaigns. This is the basic objective of the Clean Elections program.”

“Further, the Commission believes that there will be the additional benefit of greater competition and greater accessibility in the political process for individuals and groups that have not traditionally been part of it.”

The following are the key recommendations of the commission:

- 1) The commission recommends the continuation of the Fair and Clean Elections Pilot Project in 2007.
- 2) The 2007 pilot project will be expanded to include six districts, including the two districts that participated in the 2005 pilot project. The districts will be distributed geographically throughout the State, with two in North Jersey, two in Central Jersey, and two in South Jersey.
- 3) Districts will be selected by the State party chairs from a set of competitive and moderately competitive districts.
- 4) Assembly candidates from the same political party can choose to run independently or as a “team” of clean candidates. Senate candidates will run independently from Assembly candidates.
- 5) The time permitted to collect the number of contributions required to become clean elections candidates (known as the qualifying period) will begin on January 1, 2007. The deadline for collecting qualifying contributions to become a clean elections candidate for the primary election will be 27 days before the primary election, which is May 10, 2007. The deadline for collecting qualifying contributions to become a clean elections candidate for the general election will be August 31, 2007.

- 6) Seed money will be permitted to be collected in increments of no more than \$100, up to a \$10,000 maximum.
- 7) Participating clean elections candidates will be required to collect at least 800 qualifying contributions of \$10 each.
- 8) A candidate who is certified and receives public funds for the primary election is automatically a clean elections candidate for the general election. A candidate who is unable to raise sufficient qualifying contributions to be certified for the primary election may continue to try to be certified and receive public funds for the general election.
- 9) Qualifying contributions and seed money may be submitted by check, money order, check card, credit card, or cash.
- 10) Seed money received as in-kind contributions will be limited to no more than \$100, which is the maximum amount from an individual contributor. Qualifying contributions are not permitted to be in-kind contributions. The Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) will define de minimis in-kind contributions, which will not count as seed money.
- 11) Seed money and qualifying contributions will be given directly to a participating candidate, not the Clean Elections fund. A participating candidate must maintain two separate accounts: one to deposit and spend seed money, and one to deposit qualifying contributions.
- 12) Paperwork requirements will be streamlined and clarified, including the elimination of the employer information requirement for qualifying contributions; multiple individuals will have the ability to make qualifying contributions to a participating clean elections candidate using a single form, and candidates will be

- permitted to create a form to mail to potential contributors. Electronic filing should be used whenever possible.
- 13) Participating candidates will report seed money and qualifying contribution amounts to ELEC each time they receive 200 or more qualifying contributions.
  - 14) Once certified, candidates will receive \$60,000 in the primary election and \$100,000 in the general election as their initial allotment from the Clean Elections fund. If, however, a clean elections candidate is unopposed, the candidate will receive \$30,000 in the primary election and \$50,000 in the general election.
  - 15) Third party or independent candidates who become clean elections candidates will receive the same amount of public funds as are available to major party candidates.
  - 16) If a clean elections candidate is opposed by a nonparticipating candidate in the primary or general election, the clean elections candidate will receive additional funding (known as forfeiture money) within 24 hours of the nonparticipating candidate notifying ELEC that he or she has raised an amount equal to the initial allotment from the Clean Elections fund.
  - 17) In the general election, if a nonparticipating candidate raises funds in excess of the initial allotment given to clean elections candidates, additional funds (known as rescue money) will be released to the clean elections candidates.
  - 18) In the primary or general election, if independent expenditures are made against a clean elections candidate, additional funds can be released to that candidate.
  - 19) The voter's guide will be printed on the back of the sample ballot, and counties will be encouraged to copy and distribute it.

20) ELEC will administer the pilot project and provide adequate information about the program, technical monitoring and support to candidates and the public. ELEC will also administer a general public information campaign, for which it may contract with a private entity.

21) The 2007 pilot project will be funded by a legislative appropriation of \$8.995 million.

22) The 2005 NJCCEC will be dissolved no later than 180 days after issuance of its final report, pursuant to current law. A new commission will be created for the 2007 pilot project, and there will be a seamless transition between the 2005 commission and the commission to oversee the 2007 pilot project.

23) The provisions of the law that created the 2005 pilot project will apply to the 2007 pilot project in places where this report is silent.

#####