

SUBTITLE H. ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

CHAPTER 25

REGULATIONS OF THE ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

Authority

N.J.S.A. 19:44A-6, 19:44A-38, 19:44B-7 and 52:13C-23.2.

Source and Effective Date

R.1995 d.509, effective August 16, 1995.
See: 27 N.J.R. 2564(a), 27 N.J.R. 3621(d).

Executive Order No. 66(1978) Expiration Date

Chapter 25, Regulations of the Election Law Enforcement Commission, expires on August 16, 2000.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 25, Regulations of the Election Law Enforcement Commission, became effective September 25, 1974 as R.1974 d.267. See: 6 N.J.R. 371(a), 6 N.J.R. 418(a).

1975 Revisions: Amendments became effective December 9, 1975 as R.1975 d.359. See: 7 N.J.R. 527(a), 7 N.J.R. 52(b).

1977 Revisions: Subchapter 15 became effective March 7, 1977 as R.1977 d.72. See: 9 N.J.R. 102(a), 9 N.J.R. 201(a). Rules in Subchapter 18 were originally codified as N.J.A.C. 19:25-15.38 and 15.39 which were adopted as R.1977 d.350, effective September 19, 1977. See: 9 N.J.R. 395(a), 9 N.J.R. 496(b). Further amendments became effective October 6, 1977 as R.1977 d.379. See: 9 N.J.R. 447(b), 9 N.J.R. 548(a).

1979 Revisions: Further amendments became effective March 22, 1979 as R.1979 d.121. See: 11 N.J.R. 107(c), 11 N.J.R. 266(a). Further amendments became effective October 1, 1979 as R.1979 d.391. See: 11 N.J.R. 416(a), 11 N.J.R. 597(b).

1980 Revisions: The text of Subchapter 20 "Financial disclosure by lobbyists and legislative agents" replaced in its entirety text concerning "Lobbying disclosure" which was filed and became effective on August 6, 1980 as R.1980 d.349. See: 12 N.J.R. 442(a), 12 N.J.R. 557(b). Subchapter 19 formerly contained rules concerning public financing of primary elections for governor which became effective September 25, 1980 as R.1980 d.411. See: 12 N.J.R. 555(a), 12 N.J.R. 681(b). Subchapter 19 was repealed and recodified as N.J.A.C. 19:26-16 effective November 6, 1980 as R.1980 d.491. See: 12 N.J.R. 621(a), 12 N.J.R. 732(b). The previous text of Subchapter 16 on public financing of primary election for governor was codified as N.J.A.C. 19:25-19. Also, Investigations by Commission was recodified from Subchapter 16 to 19:25-17.33 effective November 6, 1980 as R.1980 d.491. See: 12 N.J.R. 621(a), 12 N.J.R. 732(b).

1981 Revisions: Substantial amendments which also deleted the existing text of Subchapter 15 and substituted new text became effective February 13, 1981 as R.1981 d.54. See: 13 N.J.R. 49(a), 13 N.J.R. 248(b). Amendments became effective December 7, 1981 as R.1981 d.471. See: 13 N.J.R. 695(a), 13 N.J.R. 895(d), 14 N.J.R. 392(a).

1983 Revisions: Subchapter 19 was readopted effective July 18, 1983 as R.1983 d.285. See: 15 N.J.R. 799(a), 15 N.J.R. 1183(a). Subchapter 3 which contained rules concerning limitation of expenditures was repealed and a new Subchapter 3 became effective July 18, 1983 as R.1983 d.287. See: 15 N.J.R. 616(a), 15 N.J.R. 1182(e).

1984 Revisions: Further amendments and the readoption to Subchapters 12 and 16 became effective March 12, 1984 as R.1984 d.85. See: 16 N.J.R. 236(a), 16 N.J.R. 748(b). Subchapter 20 was recodified

without change from Subchapter 8 and Subchapter 21 was recodified from 19:25-20 and became effective August 6, 1984 as R.1984 d.324. See: 16 N.J.R. 1044(a), 16 N.J.R. 2154(a). Subchapters 2, 4, 5 through 10, 12, 13 and 20 were readopted pursuant to the above R.1984 d.324. Subchapter 8 was originally "Financial disclosure by lobbyists and legislative agents" and was recodified to Subchapter 20, effective August 6, 1984 as R.1984 d.324. See: 16 N.J.R. 1044(a), 16 N.J.R. 2154(a). Subchapter 18 was repealed effective August 6, 1984 as R.1984 d.324. See: 16 N.J.R. 1044(a), 16 N.J.R. 2154(a). Amendments were filed as R.1984 d.461, effective October 15, 1984. See: 16 N.J.R. 2256(a), 16 N.J.R. 2830(a).

1985 Revisions: Subchapters 1, 7 and 11 were readopted pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978) filed July 15, 1985 as R.1985 d.398. See: 17 N.J.R. 1399(b), 17 N.J.R. 1917(a).

1986 Revisions: Subchapter 15 was readopted pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978) effective January 9, 1986 as R.1986 d.17. See: 17 N.J.R. 2868(b), 18 N.J.R. 312(a). Subchapter 17, Complaints and other proceedings, expired pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978) on March 15, 1984. Amendments were filed as R.1986 d.223 and d.224, effective June 16, 1986. See: 18 N.J.R. 630(a), 18 N.J.R. 1310(d); 18 N.J.R. 630(b), 18 N.J.R. 1311(a). New rules for Subchapter 17 became effective June 16, 1986 as R.1986 d.226. See: 18 N.J.R. 632(a), 18 N.J.R. 1311(c).

1989 Revisions: Amendments were filed as R.1989 d.623, effective December 18, 1989. See: 21 N.J.R. 3273(a), 21 N.J.R. 3931(a).

1990 Revisions: Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 25 was readopted as R.1990 d.526, effective October 1, 1990. See: 22 N.J.R. 2251(a), 22 N.J.R. 3391(a).

1993 Revisions: Subchapter 4, Reporting Requirements, was repealed and Subchapter 4, Establishment of Reporting Committees, was adopted as New Rules; Subchapter 5, Appointment of Treasurers and Depositories, consisting of sections 5.1 through 5.7, was repealed and Subchapter 5, Appointment of Campaign Officers and Depositories, was adopted as New Rules; Subchapter 6, Deposit of Funds, was repealed and Subchapter 6, Receipt and Use of Funds, was recodified from Subchapter 7; Subchapter 7, Use or Transmittal of Deposited Funds; Surplus Campaign Funds, was repealed in part and recodified in part to Subchapter 6, and Subchapter 7, Recordkeeping, was recodified from Subchapter 8; Subchapter 8, Candidate, Joint Candidates, and Political Committee Reporting, was adopted as new rules; and Subchapter 9, Pre-Election and Post-Election Reports, was repealed by R.1993 d.509, effective October 18, 1993. See: 25 N.J.R. 3429(b), 25 N.J.R. 4753(a).

1994 Revisions: Subchapter 9, Continuing Political Committee, Political Party Committee, and Legislative Leadership Committee Reporting, was adopted as new rules by R.1994 d.573, effective November 21, 1994. See: 26 N.J.R. 3138(a), 26 N.J.R. 4638(a).

1995 Revisions: Subchapter 11, Contributions; Reporting of, was recodified as Subchapter 10, Contribution Reporting, and Subchapter 11, Contribution Limits, was adopted as new rules by R.1995 d.209, effective April 17, 1995. See: 27 N.J.R. 312(a), 27 N.J.R. 480(a), 27 N.J.R. 1643(c). Subchapter 12 was repealed and Subchapter 12, Reporting of Expenditures; Independent Expenditures, was adopted as new rules by R.1995 d.433, effective August 21, 1995. See: 27 N.J.R. 2110(a), 27 N.J.R. 3214(a). Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 25 was readopted as R.1995 d.509, effective August 16, 1995. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

19:25-1.1 Scope of regulations

The provisions of this chapter are promulgated pursuant to the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act, P.L. 1973, c.83, as amended, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 and following ("the act"); the Gubernatorial Legislative Disclosure Statement Act; N.J.S.A. 19:44B-1 et seq.; and the Legislative Activities Disclosure Act of 1971, N.J.S.A. 52:13C-18 et seq. Such provisions shall constitute the rules and regulations of practice and procedure of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission ("the Commission").

Amended by R.1990 d.526, effective November 5, 1990.
 See: 22 N.J.R. 2251(a), 22 N.J.R. 3391(a).
 Citations added.

19:25-1.2 Short title

The provisions of this chapter shall be known as "Regulations of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission".

19:25-1.3 Liberal construction of regulations

The provisions of this chapter shall be liberally construed to permit the commission to discharge its statutory functions and to secure a just and speedy determination of all matters before it.

19:25-1.4 Relaxation

The commission may, upon notice to all parties or persons in interest, relax the application of this chapter whenever the interest of justice shall so require.

19:25-1.5 Amendment of regulations

The commission may at any time and from time to time, rescind, alter or amend the provisions of this chapter in the manner prescribed by law as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the act. Any new regulation resulting from such action shall be filed with the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law.

As amended, R.1984 d.324, effective August 6, 1984.
 See: 16 N.J.R. 1044(a), 16 N.J.R. 2154(a).

Deleted "Secretary of State" and added "Office of Administrative Law".

19:25-1.6 Practice where regulations do not govern

In any matter not governed by the provisions of this chapter, the commission shall exercise its discretion so as to carry out the purposes of the act.

19:25-1.7 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter and in the interpretation of the act, shall have the following meanings unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context.

"The act" means The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act, L.1973, c.83, as amended, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 and following.

"Candidate" means:

1. An individual seeking election to a public office of this State or of a county, municipality or school district to any election; and
2. An individual who shall have been elected or failed of election to an office, other than a party office, for which he sought election and who receives contributions and makes expenditures for any of the purposes authorized by N.J.S.A. 19:44A-11.2.

(c) In the event contributions are received as the result of a public solicitation, the date and location of each such public solicitation must be identified in any report showing receipt of proceeds from the public solicitation.

19:25-10.8 Anonymous contributions

(a) No contribution shall be made by a person or received by a candidate, candidate committee, joint candidates committee, political committee, continuing political committee, political party committee or legislative leadership committee on an anonymous basis, that is without making known, or knowing, the identity of the person making the contribution, or in a fictitious name, or by one person or group in the name of another, and no person shall contribute or purport to contribute to any candidate, candidate committee, joint candidates committee, political committee, continuing political committee, political party committee, or legislative leadership committee, any funds or property not actually belonging to him or her and in his or her full custody and control, or which have been given or furnished to him or her by any other person or group for the purpose of making a contribution thereof.

(b) A contribution shall not be deemed anonymous if the identity of the contributor was known to the candidate, candidate committee, joint candidates committee, political committee, continuing political committee, political party committee or legislative leadership committee, or to the treasurer or organizational treasurer of such committee, at the time when the contribution was received, even though the committee or treasurer may later be unable to identify the contributor because of loss or destruction of records. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the Commission from imposing a penalty pursuant to the act or these regulations for failure to keep proper records.

(c) A group contribution, that is a contribution made collectively by persons who are members of the contributing group, shall not be deemed an anonymous contribution by any individual member of the group.

19:25-10.9 Contributions for pre-candidacy activity

In the event that an individual who has been receiving funds or other benefits pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:25-3.1 solely for the purpose of determining whether or not to become a candidate, actually becomes a candidate in an election, all funds or benefits received in connection with his or her pre-candidacy activity shall be considered contributions under the act and shall be reported in accordance with the applicable reporting requirements in the initial report filed by such candidate's candidate committee, or joint candidates committee.

19:25-10.10 Political communication contributions

(a) The term "political communication" means any written statement, pamphlet, advertisement or other printed or broadcast matter containing an explicit appeal for the election or defeat of a candidate which is circulated or broadcast to an audience substantially comprised of persons eligi-

ble to vote for the candidate on whose behalf the appeal is directed. Words such as "Vote for (name of candidate)," "Vote against (name of opposing candidate)," "Elect (name of candidate)," "Support (name of candidate)," "Defeat (name of opposing candidate)," "Reject (name of opposing candidate)," and other similar explicit political directives constitute examples of appeals for the election or defeat of a candidate.

(b) A written statement, pamphlet, advertisement or other printed or broadcast matter that does not contain an explicit appeal pursuant to (a) above for the nomination for election or for the election or defeat of a candidate shall be deemed to be a political communication if it meets the following conditions:

1. The communication is circulated or broadcast within 90 days of the date of any election in which the candidate on whose behalf the communication is made is seeking nomination for election or elected office; except that in the case of a candidate for nomination for the office of Governor in a primary election, the period of time that a communication shall be deemed political shall be on or after January 1st in a year in which a primary election for Governor is being conducted, and in the case of a candidate for election to the office of Governor in a general election, the period of time that a communication shall be deemed political shall begin on the day following the date of the gubernatorial primary election;
2. The communication is circulated or broadcast to an audience substantially comprised of persons eligible to vote for the candidate on whose behalf the communication was made;
3. The communication contains a statement or reference concerning the governmental or political objectives or achievements of the candidate; and
4. The production, circulation or broadcast of the communication, or any cost associated with the production, circulation or broadcast of the communication, has been made in whole or in part with the cooperation of, prior consent of, in consultation with, or at the request or suggestion of the candidate.

(c) Nothing contained in (b) above shall be construed to require reporting of a communication by an incumbent officeholder seeking reelection if the communication is in writing and is made to a constituent in direct response to a prior communication received from that constituent, if it is circulated or broadcast for the sole and limited purpose of communicating governmental events requiring constituents to make applications or take other actions before the date of the upcoming election, or if it is circulated or broadcast to constituents for the sole and limited purpose of communicating facts relevant to a bona fide public emergency.

(d) Nothing contained in (b) above shall be construed to require reporting of a communication by a candidate seeking nomination for election in a primary election if that candidate is not opposed by another candidate seeking nomination for election in that primary election.

19:25-10.11 Reporting of political communication costs

(a) If any political communication as defined in N.J.A.C. 19:25-10.10 is incurred or paid for by any candidate committee or joint candidates committee, the committee shall report such expenditure in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:25-12.

(b) Any political communication as defined by N.J.A.C. 19:25-10.10 incurred or paid for by any person or entity other than the candidate's candidate committee or joint candidates committee, which political communication is prepared, made or circulated with the consent or cooperation of the candidate, shall be reported by that candidate as a campaign contribution of goods and/or services in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:25-10.4(a).

(c) Any political communication not prepared, made or circulated with the consent or cooperation of a candidate and incurred or paid for by any other person or entity shall be reported in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:25-12.

19:25-10.12 Interest income

Any payment received as interest income for funds on deposit in a campaign or organizational depository account established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:25-5.2 is not subject to contributor identification requirements, provided that such interest payment amount is included in amounts reported as received and deposited.

19:25-10.13 Loans as contributions

(a) A loan received by a candidate, candidate committee, joint candidates committee, political committee, continuing political committee, political party committee or legislative leadership committee, or by the treasurer of such committee, shall be reported as a contribution by the person or entity making the loan.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) above, if a loan is made to a candidate, committee or treasurer by a banking or lending institution, and if the candidate as an individual using personal assets, or some third party person or entity, in the ordinary course of business, has guaranteed, co-signed or otherwise assured repayment of the loan to the banking or lending institution, the contributor of the loan shall be reported as the person or entity guaranteeing, co-signing or otherwise assuring the repayment of the loan, and the banking or lending institution shall not be deemed to be the contributor.

(c) A loan made by a banking or lending institution to a candidate, candidate committee, joint candidates committee, political committee, continuing political committee, political party committee or legislative leadership committee which loan is not secured pursuant to (b) above is a contribution to the candidate or committee by that banking or lending institution.

SUBCHAPTER 11. CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

19:25-11.1 Candidates subject to contribution limits

(a) All candidates, candidate committees, and joint candidates committees, and all treasurers of such committees, shall observe the contribution limits set forth in this subchapter and shall not knowingly accept any contribution in excess of such contribution limits, except that candidates for nomination for election to the office of Governor shall be subject to the contribution limits set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:25-16, Public Financing of Primary Election for Governor, and candidates for election to the office of Governor shall be subject to the contribution limits set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:25-15, Public Financing: General Elections for the Office of Governor.

(b) All political committees, continuing political committees, legislative leadership committees, political party committees, and all treasurers or organizational treasurers of such committees, shall observe the contribution limits set forth in this subchapter and shall not knowingly accept any contribution in violation of such contribution limits.

19:25-11.2 Contribution limit chart

(a) The following chart sets forth the contribution limits applicable to persons or entities making contributions to candidates, candidate committees, political committees, continuing political committees, legislative leadership committees, and State, county or municipal political party committees:

Entities Making Contributions	Entities Receiving Contributions						
	Candidate Committee (see N.J.A.C. 19:25-11.3)	Political Committee (see N.J.A.C. 19:25-11.6)	Continuing Political Committee	Legislative Leadership Committee	State Political Party Committee	County Political Party Committee	Municipal Political Party Committee
Individual to:	\$1,800 per election	No Limit	No Limit	\$30,000 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$5,900 per year
Corporation or Union to:	\$1,800 per election	No Limit	No Limit	\$30,000 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$5,900 per year
Association or Group to:	\$1,800 per election	No Limit	No Limit	\$30,000 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$5,900 per year
Candidate Committee to:	\$5,900 per election	\$5,900 per election	\$5,900 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$5,900 per year

Entities Making Contributions

Entities Receiving Contributions

	Candidate Committee (see N.J.A.C. 19:25-11.3)	Political Committee (see N.J.A.C. 19:25-11.6)	Continuing Political Committee	Legislative Leadership Committee	State Political Party Committee	County Political Party Committee	Municipal Political Party Committee
(see N.J.A.C. 19:25-11.3)							
Political Committee to:	\$5,900 per election	\$5,900 per election	\$5,900 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$5,900 per year
Continuing Political Committee to:	\$5,900 per election	\$5,900 per election	\$5,900 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$5,900 per year
Legislative Leadership Committee to:							
State Political Party Committee to:							
County Political Party Committee to:							
(see N.J.A.C. 19:25-11.7)							
Municipal Political Party Committee to:							
National Political Party Committee to:	\$5,900 per election	\$5,900 per election	\$5,900 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$59,000 per year	\$30,000 per year	\$5,900 per year

NO LIMITS, except those set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:26-11.7 for a county political party committee.

(b) No contributing person or entity listed in (a) above shall make a contribution, or aggregate contributions, in excess of the contribution limits set forth in (a) above.

(c) No candidate, candidate committee, political committee, continuing political committee, legislative leadership committee, political party committee, or treasurer or organizational treasurer of any of such committee, shall knowingly accept a contribution, or aggregate contributions, in excess of the contribution limits set forth in (a) above.

(d) A partnership of two or more persons conducting a business as co-owners shall not be permitted to make contributions as an entity. In the absence of written instructions to the contrary as provided below, a contribution received by a campaign or organizational treasurer drawn on a partnership account must be deemed to be a contribution from the partner or individual who has executed the check or written instrument by which the contribution was conveyed or, in the case of a contribution of currency, the partner or individual who has conveyed the currency. If it is the intent of the contributor that any portion of a contribution received from a partnership account is to be attributed to a partner or individual other than the partner or individual executing the check or written instrument, or to a partner or individual other than the partner or individual conveying the currency, the following written information must be received and maintained by the campaign or organizational treasurer:

1. Written instructions concerning the allocation of the contribution amount to a contributing partner, or among contributing partners;

2. A signed acknowledgment of the contribution from each contributing partner who has not signed the contribution check or other written instrument; and

3. Contributor information for each contributing partner as required by N.J.A.C. 19:25-7.1.

Amended by R.1996 d.167, effective April 1, 1996.

See: 27 N.J.R. 4855(a), 28 N.J.R. 1880(a).

Added provisions relating to partnerships.

Amended by R.1996 d.582, effective December 16, 1996 (operative January 1, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4388(b), 28 N.J.R. 5193(b).

Raised contribution limits.

19:25-11.3 Candidate contributions

(a) A candidate may make a contribution as an individual and subject to the limits set forth in this subchapter notwithstanding any contribution made by the candidate's candidate committee or joint candidates committee, provided that the contribution made by the candidate as an individual is not derived from funds controlled by the candidate committee or joint candidates committee.

(b) Notwithstanding the contribution limits set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:25-11.2 above, a candidate, or a corporation one hundred percent of the stock of which is owned by the candidate, or by the candidate's spouse, child, parent, or sibling residing in the candidate's household, may make contributions without limit to a candidate committee established by that candidate, or to a joint candidates committee established by that candidate.

(c) Notwithstanding the contribution limits set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:25-11.2 above, a candidate committee can make contributions in an election without limit to another candidate committee if both the contributing and recipient candidate committees are established by candidates who are seeking nomination for election, or election to, legislative offices within the same legislative district, or to the same offices within the same political subdivision of this State.

19:25-11.4 Joint candidates committee contribution limits

(a) A joint candidates committee established by candidates who have not established any candidate committees in an election may accept a contribution from a contributor in an amount equal to but not in excess of the sum of the number of candidates participating in the joint candidates committee multiplied by the contribution limit applicable to a contribution made by the contributing entity to a candidate committee of a single candidate.

Example: A joint candidates committee in which three candidates are participating, none of whom have established candidate committees, may receive from an individual a contribution not to exceed \$5,400 in an election, that is three multiplied by the \$1,800 contribution limit applicable to a contribution from an individual to a candidate committee.

(b) A joint candidates committee established by candidates who have not established any candidate committees in an election may make a contribution to a political committee not to exceed \$5,900 per candidate in the election, and may make a contribution to a continuing political committee not to exceed \$5,900 per candidate in a calendar year.

(c) In the event any of the candidates participating in a joint candidates committee also has established a candidate committee in an election, the amount of a contribution that the joint candidates committee may accept from a contributor without violating the contribution limit will be determined by application of the equal attribution requirement set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:25-11.5, Equal attribution requirements.

(d) A joint candidates committee may receive a contribution in an election from another joint candidates committee in an amount equal to \$5,900 multiplied by the number of candidates participating in the contributing joint candidates committee, and that sum may be further multiplied by the number of the candidates participating in the recipient joint candidates committee, provided that the contributing joint candidates committee, and any candidate committee established by any of the participating candidates, have not made any other contributions to the recipient joint candidates committee, or to any candidate committee established by any of the candidates participating in the recipient joint candidates committee.

Example: Joint candidates committee ABC has three candidates participating in it (candidates A, B and C) and wishes to make a contribution to a joint candidates committee DEFG with four candidates participating in it (candidates D, E, F and G.). Neither the joint candidates committee ABC, nor any individual candidate committee established by candidates A, B or C, has made any contributions in the election to the joint candidates committee DEFG, or to any individual candidate committee established or maintained by candidates D, E, F or G. Joint candidates committee ABC may contribute the sum of \$70,800 in the election to joint candidates committee DEFG, that is \$5,900 multiplied by three (that is, the three candidates participating in ABC), for a total of \$17,700, further multiplied by four (that is, the four candidates participating in DEFG) for a total maximum permissible contribution in the election of \$70,800.

(e) In the event that a joint candidates committee makes a contribution to another joint candidates committee as described in (c) above, but there have been one or more contributions by the contributing joint candidates committee, or by a candidate committee established by one of the joint candidates committee's candidates, to one or more candidate committees of a candidate or candidates participating in the recipient joint candidates committee, or to the recipient joint candidates committee, the amount of a contribution that the recipient joint candidates committee may receive cannot, after application of the equal attribution requirement set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:25-11.5, exceed \$5,900 per candidate in the election.

Amended by R.1996 d.582, effective December 16, 1996 (operative January 1, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4388(b), 28 N.J.R. 5193(b).

Raised contribution limits.

19:25-11.5 Equal attribution requirements

(a) A candidate who has established a candidate committee in an election and is also participating in a joint candidates committee in that election may not receive contributions to those committees from a contributor that in the aggregate exceed the applicable contribution limit set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:25-11.2.

(b) Each contribution received in an election by the joint candidates committee of a candidate who has also established a candidate committee in that election must be equally attributed to each of the candidates participating in the joint candidates committee, and the contribution limits in this subchapter must be applied to those participating candidates and to any candidate committee established by any of the participating candidates.

1. Example: The ABC joint candidates committee, consisting of Candidates A, B, and C, receives a contribution from an individual in the amount of \$5,400 in an election. For purposes of applying the contribution limits to the participating candidates and their individual candidate committees, the contribution must be equally attributed to each of the three participating candidates so that each is deemed to have received a contribution, in the amount of \$1,800 in the election from the contributor. The sum of \$1,800 is the maximum amount an individual can contribute to a candidate in an election. Therefore, no further contributions can be made by the contributor in the election to the ABC joint candidates committee, or to any candidate committee established in the election by candidates A, B or C.

2. Example: The ABC joint candidates committee receives a contribution of \$300 in an election from a contributor who has contributed \$1,800 in that election to an individual candidate committee established or maintained by candidate A. The sum of \$1,800 is the maximum amount an individual can contribute to a candidate committee in an election. Application of the equal attribution requirement set forth in (a) above would result in the attribution of \$100.00 to Candidate A of the total \$300.00 contribution to joint candidates committee ABC. Since the sum of the amount contributed to the candidate committee of A \$1,800, plus the attribution of \$100.00 of the \$300.00 contribution made to the ABC joint candidates committee, results in a total contribution from the contributor in the election of \$1,900 to Candidate A, the ABC joint candidates committee must refund the \$300.00 contribution to avoid receipt of an excessive contribution, or alternatively the candidate committee of A must refund \$100.00 in order that the total contribution from the contributor in the election does not exceed the \$1,800 per election contribution limit of candidate A.

Amended by R.1996 d.582, effective December 16, 1996 (operative January 1, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4388(b), 28 N.J.R. 5193(b).

Raised contribution limits.

19:25-11.6 Public question political committees

(a) A political committee which is organized to, or does, aid or promote the passage or defeat of a public question in an election, may accept a contribution from a contributor without limit, notwithstanding the contribution limits set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:25-11.2.

(b) A political committee which is organized to, or does, aid or promote the passage or defeat of a public question in an election, may make contributions without limit to another political committee, or to a continuing political committee.

19:25-11.7 County political party contribution limits

(a) In addition to the limits set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:25-11.2, a county political party committee shall not

make a contribution, or aggregate contributions, in excess of \$5,900 in an election to a candidate committee established by a candidate seeking election for an office in another county.

(b) In addition to the limits set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:25-11.2, a county political party committee shall not make a contribution, or aggregate contributions, in excess of \$5,900 in a calendar year to a municipal political party committee in another county.

(c) In addition to the limits set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:25-11.2, a county political party committee may make contributions, or aggregate contributions, subject to the following limits:

1. To a candidate for State legislature in a legislative district in which less than 20 percent of the legislative district's population resides in the county of the contributing county political party committee, a contribution not to exceed \$5,900 in the election; and

2. To a candidate for State legislature in a legislative district in which at least 20 percent but less than 40 percent of the legislative district's population resides in the county of the contributing county political party committee, a contribution not to exceed \$30,000 in the election.

Amended by R.1996 d.582, effective December 16, 1996 (operative January 1, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4388(b), 28 N.J.R. 5193(b).

Raised contribution thresholds and limits.

19:25-11.8 Return of excessive contributions

(a) A candidate, candidate committee, joint candidates committee, political committee, continuing political committee, legislative leadership committee, or political party committee, or a treasurer or organizational treasurer of such a committee, who receives a contribution in an amount exceeding any contribution limit set forth in this subchapter, shall return that portion of the contribution which exceeds the contribution limit to the contributor within 48 hours of such receipt, and shall make and maintain a written record of the contribution containing the following:

1. The date the contribution was received;
2. The name and mailing address of the contributor;
3. If the contributor is an individual, the occupation of the individual and the name and mailing address of the individual's employer;
4. The amount of the contribution;
5. The amount of the contribution that exceeds the applicable contribution limit;
6. A photocopy of the check or written instrument received as a contribution; and
7. A photocopy of the refund check issued by the committee.

(b) A candidate, committee or treasurer who makes a refund pursuant to (a) above, shall report the refund transaction on the election fund or quarterly report required for the reporting period in which the refund was made.

(c) Failure to make a refund pursuant to (a) and (b) above may result in a finding of a knowing violation of the contribution limits set forth in this subchapter or the act.

SUBCHAPTER 12. REPORTING OF EXPENDITURES; INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES

19:25-12.1 General provisions

(a) An expenditure made by a candidate, candidate committee, joint candidates committee or political committee shall be reported as provided by N.J.A.C. 19:25-8, and as provided by this subchapter.

(b) An expenditure made by a continuing political committee, political party committee, or legislative leadership committee shall be reported as provided in N.J.A.C. 19:25-9, and as provided by this subchapter.

19:25-12.2 Expenditure reporting

(a) An expenditure shall be reported by providing the following information:

1. The date the expenditure was made;
2. The checking account title and number;
3. The full name and address of the payee;
4. The purpose of the expenditure; and
5. The amount of the expenditure.

(b) In describing the purpose of an expenditure pursuant to (a)4 above, the specific election-related reason for the expenditure shall be provided. Descriptions such as "operations," "campaign expense" or "reimbursement" do not satisfy the reporting requirement because they do not provide any specific election-related information. Examples of satisfactory descriptions include such information as "newspaper advertising," "telephone expense," "postage," "printing of campaign flyers," "headquarter rental" and similarly specific items.

19:25-12.3 Written notification of a coordinated expenditure

(a) Whenever a candidate committee, joint candidates committee, political committee, continuing political committee, political party committee or a legislative leadership committee makes or authorizes an expenditure on behalf of a candidate with the cooperation or prior consent of that candidate, or in consultation with or at the request or suggestion of that candidate, or of any person acting on behalf of that candidate, the committee shall provide immediate written notification to that candidate's candidate committee of the expenditure.

(b) When an individual seeking political party office makes or authorizes an expenditure on behalf of a candidate with the cooperation or prior consent of that candidate, or in consultation with or at the request or suggestion of that candidate, or of any person acting on behalf of that candidate, the individual shall provide immediate written notification to the candidate's candidate committee of the expenditure.

(c) "Immediate written notification" for the purposes of this section shall mean written notice delivered to the candidate or the candidate's candidate committee or joint candidates committee within 48 hours of the making or authorizing of the expenditure, which notice shall contain:

1. The date of the making or authorizing of the expenditure;
2. The name and address of the payee;
3. The purpose of the expenditure; and
4. The amount of the expenditure.

(d) "Expenditure on behalf of a candidate" for the purposes of this section shall mean an expenditure made to a payee or recipient other than that candidate's candidate committee or joint candidates committee and made for the purpose of aiding or promoting the candidate's candidacy, such as the purchase for a vendor of brochures advocating the candidate's election (commonly described as "in-kind contributions"). A contribution made directly to a candidate committee or joint candidates committee is not included in the meaning of "expenditure on behalf of a candidate."

19:25-12.4 Expenditures made by credit card

(a) If an expenditure is made on behalf of a candidate committee, joint candidates committee, political committee, continuing political committee, political party committee or legislative leadership committee by use of or by a charge against a credit card account that was not established in the name of that candidate committee, joint candidates committee, political committee, continuing political committee, political party committee or legislative leadership committee, the person or entity owning the credit card and who is liable for any debt charged against that credit card account shall be deemed to have made a loan to that committee subject to reporting as a loan in the amount charged until such time as the committee reimburses that person or entity for that amount.

(b) Whenever a committee pursuant to (a) above makes an expenditure to reimburse a person or entity for a charge made against that person's or entity's credit card account, that committee shall report the following information for each such charge:

1. The exact name or title of the person or entity owning the credit card account, and the name of the lending institution that issued the card;