

INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS For Completing The “Two- Year Vendor Certification and Disclosure of Political Contributions” Forms

Background Information

On September 22, 2004, then-Governor James E. McGreevey issued Executive Order 134, the purpose of which was to insulate the negotiation and award of State contracts from political contributions that posed a risk of improper influence, purchase of access or the appearance thereof. To this end, Executive Order 134 prohibited State departments, agencies and authorities from entering into contracts exceeding \$17,500 with individuals or entities that made certain political contributions. Executive Order 134 was superseded by Public Law 2005, c. 51, signed into law on March 22, 2005 (“Chapter 51”).

On September 24, 2008, Governor Jon S. Corzine issued Executive Order No. 117 (“E.O. 117”), which is designed to enhance New Jersey’s efforts to protect the integrity of procurement decisions and increase the public’s confidence in government. The Executive Order builds upon the provisions of Chapter 51.

Two-Year Certification Process

Upon approval by the State, the Certification and Disclosure of Political Contributions form (CH51.1R1/21/2009) is valid for a two (2) year period. Thus, if a vendor receives approval on Jan 1, 2009, the certification expiration date would be Dec 31, 2011. Any change in the vendor’s ownership status and/or political contributions during the two-year period will require the submission of new Chapter 51/EO117 forms to the State Review Unit. **Please note that it is the vendor’s responsibility to file new forms with the State should these changes occur.**

Prior to the awarding of a contract, the agency should first send an e-mail to CD134@treas.state.nj.us to verify the certification status of the vendor. If the response is that the vendor is NOT within an approved two-year period, then forms must be obtained from the vendor and forwarded for review. If the response is that the vendor is within an approved two-year period, then the response so stating should be placed with the bid/contract documentation for the subject project.

Instructions for Completing the Forms

NOTE: *Please refer to the next section, “Useful Definitions for Purposes of Ch. 51 and E.O. 117,” for guidance when completing the forms.*

Part 1: VENDOR INFORMATION

Business Name – Enter the full name of the Vendor, including trade name if applicable.

Business Type -- Select the vendor’s business organization from the list provided.

Address, City, State, Zip and Phone Number -- Enter the vendor’s street address, city, state, zip code and telephone number.

Vendor Email – Enter the vendor’s primary email address.

Vendor FEIN – Please enter the vendor’s Federal Employment Identification Number.

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Part 2: PUBLIC LAW 2005, Chapter 51 / EXECUTIVE ORDER 117 (2008) DUAL CERTIFICATION

Read the following statements and verify that from the period beginning on or after October 15, 2004, no contributions as set forth at subsections 1(a)-(c) have been made by either the vendor or any individual whose contributions are attributable to the vendor pursuant to Executive Order 117 (2008).

NOTE: Contributions made prior to November 15, 2008 are applicable to Chapter 51 only.

Part 3: DISCLOSURE OF CONTRIBUTIONS MADE

Check the box at top of page 2 if no reportable contributions have been made by the vendor. If the vendor has no contributions to report, this box must be checked.

Name of Recipient Entity – Enter the full name of the recipient entity.

Address of Recipient Entity – Enter the recipient entity’s street address.

Date of Contribution – Indicate the date of the contribution.

Amount of Contribution – Enter the amount of the reportable contribution.

Type of Contribution – Select the type of contribution from the list provided.

Contributor Name – Enter the full name of the contributor.

Relationship of Contributor to the Vendor -- Indicate relationship of the contributor to the vendor, e.g. officer or partner of the company, spouse of officer or partner, resident child of officer or partner, parent company of the vendor, subsidiary of the vendor, etc.

NOTE: If form is being completed electronically, click “Add a Contribution” to enter additional contributions. Otherwise, please attach additional pages as necessary.

Part 4: CERTIFICATION

Check box A if the person completing the certification and disclosure is doing so on behalf of the vendor and all individuals and/or entities whose contributions are attributable to the vendor.

Check box B if the person completing the certification and disclosure is doing so on behalf of the vendor only.

Check box C if the person completing the certification and disclosure is doing so on behalf of an individual and/or entity whose contributions are attributable to the vendor.

Enter the full name of the person authorized to complete the certification and disclosure, the person’s title or position, date and telephone number.

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USEFUL DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF Ch. 51 and E.O. 117

- “**Vendor**” means the contracting entity.
- “**Business Entity**” means any natural or legal person, business corporation, professional services corporation, limited liability company, partnership, limited partnership, business trust, association or any other legal commercial entity organized under the laws of New Jersey or any other state or foreign jurisdiction. The definition also includes (i) if a business entity is a for-profit corporation, any officer of the corporation and any other person or business entity that owns or controls 10% or more of the stock of the corporation; (ii) if a business entity is a professional corporation, any shareholder or officer; (iii) if a business entity is a general partnership, limited partnership or limited liability partnership, any partner; (iv) if a business entity is a sole proprietorship, the proprietor; (v) if the business entity is any other form of entity organized under the laws of New Jersey or any other state or foreign jurisdiction, any principal, officer or partner thereof; (vi) any subsidiaries directly or indirectly controlled by the business entity; (vii) any political organization organized under 26 U.S.C.A. § 527 that is directly or indirectly controlled by the business entity, other than a candidate committee, election fund, or political party committee; and (viii) with respect to an individual who is included within the definition of “business entity,” that individual’s spouse or civil union partner and any child residing with that person.¹
- “**Officer**” means a president, vice-president with senior management responsibility, secretary, treasurer, chief executive officer, or chief financial officer of a corporation or any person routinely performing such functions for a corporation. Please note that officers of non-profit entities are excluded from this definition.
- “**Partner**” means one of two or more natural persons or other entities, including a corporation, who or which are joint owners of and carry on a business for profit, and which business is organized under the laws of this State or any other state or foreign jurisdiction, as a general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, limited partnership association, or other such form of business organization.
- “**Reportable Contributions**” are those contributions, including in-kind contributions, in excess of \$300.00 in the aggregate per election made to or received by a candidate committee, joint candidates committee, or political committee; or per calendar year made to or received by a political party committee, legislative leadership committee, or continuing political committee.
- “**In-kind Contribution**” means a contribution of goods or services received by a candidate committee, joint candidates committee, political committee, continuing political committee, political party committee, or legislative leadership committee, which contribution is paid for by a person or entity other than the recipient committee, but does not include services provided without compensation by an individual volunteering a part of or all of his or her time on behalf of a candidate or committee.
- “**Continuing Political Committee**” includes any group of two or more persons acting jointly, or any corporation, partnership, or any other incorporated or unincorporated association, including a political club, political action committee, civic association or other organization, which in any calendar year contributes or expects to contribute at least \$4,300 to aid or promote the candidacy of an individual, or the candidacies of individuals, for elective public office, or the passage or defeat of a public questions, and which may be expected to make contributions toward such aid or promotion or passage or defeat during a subsequent election, provided that the group, corporation, partnership, association or other organization has been determined by the Commission to be a continuing political committee in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-8(b).

¹ Contributions made by a spouse, civil union partner or resident child to a candidate for whom the contributor is eligible to vote or to a political party committee within whose jurisdiction the contributor resides are permitted.

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- “**Candidate Committee**” means a committee established by a candidate pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-9(a), for the purpose of receiving contributions and making expenditures.
- “**State Political Party Committee**” means a committee organized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:5-4.
- “**County Political Party Committee**” means a committee organized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:5-3.
- “**Municipal Political Party Committee**” means a committee organized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:5-2.
- “**Legislative Leadership Committee**” means a committee established, authorized to be established, or designated by the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, or the Minority Leader of the General Assembly pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-10.1 for the purpose of receiving contributions and making expenditures.
- “**Political Party Committee**” means:
 1. The State committee of a political party, as organized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:5-4;
 2. Any county committee of a political party, as organized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:5-3; or
 3. Any municipal committee of a political party, as organized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:5-2.

Agency Submission of Forms

The agency should submit the completed and signed Two-Year Vendor Certification and Disclosure forms, together with a completed Ownership Disclosure form, either electronically to cd134@treas.state.nj.us or regular mail at Chapter 51 Review Unit, P.O. Box 039, 33 West State Street, 9th Floor, Trenton, NJ 08625. Original forms should remain with the Agency and copies should be sent to the Chapter 51 Review Unit.

Questions & Answers

Questions regarding the interpretation or application of Public Law 2005, Chapter 51 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13) or Executive Order 117 (2008) may be submitted electronically through the Division of Purchase and Property website at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/execorder134.shtml>. Responses to previous questions are posted on the website, as well as additional reference materials and forms.

NOTE: *The Chapter 51 Q&A on the website **DOES NOT** address the expanded pay-to-play requirements imposed by Executive Order 117. The Chapter 51 Q&A are only applicable to contributions made prior to November 15, 2008. There is a separate, combined Chapter 51/E.O. 117 Q&A section dealing specifically with issues pertaining to contributions made after November 15, 2008, available at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/execorder134.shtml#state>.*