

# INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

## For Completing the “Two-Year Chapter 51/Executive Order 333 Vendor Certification and Disclosure of Political Contributions for Non-Fair and Open Contracts” Form

### Background Information

New Jersey law insulates the negotiation and award of State contracts from political contributions that posed a risk of improper influence, purchase of access or the appearance thereof. P.L.2005, c.51, as amended by the Elections Transparency Act, P.L.2023, c.30, codified at N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 to 20.25 (“Chapter 51”) and Executive Order No. 333 (2023).

#### For Contracts Awarded Pursuant to a Fair and Open Process

Pursuant to P.L.2005, c.51, as amended by the Elections Transparency Act, P.L.2023, c.30, codified at N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 to 20.25 (“Chapter 51”), and Executive Order No. 333 (2023), contracts awarded pursuant to a fair and open process do **not** require a certification or disclosure of any solicitation or contribution of money, or pledge of contribution, including in-kind contributions.

#### For Contracts Awarded Pursuant to a Non-Fair and Open Process

Pursuant to P.L.2005, c.51, as amended by the Elections Transparency Act, P.L.2023, c.30, codified at N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 to 20.25 (“Chapter 51”), and Executive Order No. 333 (2023), the State shall not enter into a Contract to procure services or any material, supplies or equipment, or to acquire, sell, or lease any land or building from any Business Entity, where the value of the transaction exceeds \$17,500, if that Business Entity has solicited or made any contribution of money, or pledge of contribution, including in-kind contributions, to a Continuing Political Committee or to a candidate committee and/or election fund of any candidate for or holder of the public office of Governor during certain specified time periods.

#### Definitions:

A “fair and open process” means, at a minimum, that the contract shall be: publicly advertised in newspapers or on the Internet website maintained by the public entity in sufficient time to give notice in advance of the contract; awarded under a process that provides for public solicitation of proposals or qualifications and awarded and disclosed under criteria established in writing by the public entity prior to the solicitation of proposals or qualifications; and publicly opened and announced when awarded. A contract awarded under a process that includes public bidding or competitive contracting pursuant to State contracts law shall constitute a fair and open process. N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.23 (P.L.2005, c.51, rev. P.L.2023, c.30).

A “Continuing Political Committee” means any political organization (a) organized under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code; and (b) consisting of 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 \$5,500 to the aid or promotion of the candidacy of an individual, or of the candidacies of individuals, for elective public office, or the passage or defeat of a public question or 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 to be a continuing political committee by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission under N.J.S.A. 19:44A-8(b)(8). A Continuing Political Committee does not include a “political party committee,” a “legislative leadership committee,” or an “independent expenditure committee,” as defined in N.J.S.A. 19:44A-3.

### Two-Year Certification Process

Upon approval by the State Chapter 51 Review Unit, the Certification and Disclosure of Political Contributions form **for Non-Fair and Open Contracts** is valid for a two (2) year period. Thus, if a Business Entity and/or vendor receives approval on January 1, 2022, the certification expiration date would be December 31, 2023. Any change in the Business Entity’s ownership status and/or political contributions during the two-year period will require the submission of new Chapter 51 forms to the contracting State Agency. **Please note that it is the Business Entity’s responsibility to file new forms with the State should these changes occur.**

## State Agency Instructions

Prior to the awarding of a contract, the State Agency should first use NJSTART (<https://www.njstart.gov/bsol/>) to check the status of a Business Entity's Chapter 51 certification before contacting the Review Unit's mailbox at [CD134@treas.nj.gov](mailto:CD134@treas.nj.gov). If the State Agency does not find any Chapter 51 Certification information in NJSTART and/or the Business Entity is not registered in NJSTART, then the State Agency should send an e-mail to [CD134@treas.nj.gov](mailto:CD134@treas.nj.gov) to verify the certification status of the Business Entity. If the response is that the Business Entity is NOT within an approved two-year period, then forms must be obtained from the Business Entity and forwarded for review. If the response is that the Business Entity 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 Form

#### "For State Use Only" box

This box/section should **only** be filled out by the contracting State agency.

The contracting State agency must check the box indicating whether this is a fair and open contract. Please note that if the answer is **YES**, the **Chapter 51 form is not required** and should not be submitted as per the Elections Transparency Act, P.L.2023, c.30, codified at N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 to 20.25 ("Chapter 51") and Executive Order No. 333 (2023).

**NOTE:** Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the form should be filled out the Business Entity.

#### Part 1: BUSINESS ENTITY INFORMATION

**Business Name** – Enter the full legal name of the Business Entity, including trade name if applicable.

**Address, City, State, Zip and Phone Number** – Enter the Business Entity's street address, city, state, zip code and telephone number.

**Vendor Email** – Enter the Business Entity's primary email address.

**Vendor FEIN** – Please enter the Business Entity's Federal Employment Identification Number.

**Business Type** – Check the appropriate box that represents the Business Entity's type of business formation.

**Listing of officers, shareholders, partners or members** – Based on the box checked for the business type, provide the corresponding information. (A complete list must be provided.)

#### Part 2: DISCLOSURE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Read the two (2) types of political contributions that require disclosure and, if applicable, provide the recipient's information.

**Name of Recipient** – Enter the full legal name of the recipient.

**Address of Recipient** – Enter the recipient's street address.

**Date of Contribution** – Indicate the date the contribution was given.

**Amount of Contribution** – Enter the dollar amount of the contribution.

**Type of Contribution** – Select the type of contribution from the examples given.

**Contributor's Name** – Enter the full name of the contributor.

**Relationship of the Contributor to the Vendor** – Indicate the relationship of the contributor to the Business Entity. (e.g., officer or shareholder of the company, partner, member, 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.

Check the box under the recipient information within Part 2 if no reportable contributions have been solicited or made by the Business Entity. **This box must be checked if there are no contributions to report.**

### **Part 3: CERTIFICATION**

Check Box A if the representative completing the Certification and Disclosure form is doing so on behalf of the Business Entity and all individuals and/or entities whose contributions are attributable to the Business Entity. No additional Certification and Disclosure forms are required if BOX A is checked.

Check Box B if the representative completing the Certification and Disclosure form is doing so on behalf of the Business Entity and all individuals and/or entities whose contributions are attributable to the Business Entity with the exception of those individuals and/or entities that submit their own separate form. For example, the representative is not signing on behalf of the vice president of a corporation, but all others. The vice president completes a separate Certification and Disclosure form. **Additional Certification and Disclosure forms are required from those individuals and/or entities that the representative is not signing on behalf of and are included with the business entity's submittal.**

Check Box C if the representative completing the Certification and Disclosure form is doing so on behalf of the Business Entity only. Additional Certification and Disclosure forms are required from all individuals and/or entities whose contributions are attributable to the Business Entity and must be included with the Business Entity submittal.

Check Box D when a sole proprietor is completing the Certification and Disclosure form or when an individual or entity whose contributions are attributable to the Business Entity is completing a separate Certification and Disclosure form.

### **Read the five statements of certification prior to signing.**

The representative authorized to complete the Certification and Disclosure form must sign and print her/his name, title or position and enter the date.

#### **State Agency Procedure for Submitting Form(s)**

The State Agency should submit the completed and signed Two-Year Vendor Certification and Disclosure forms either electronically to: [cd134@treas.nj.gov](mailto:cd134@treas.nj.gov) or regular mail at: Chapter 51 Review Unit, P.O. Box 230, 33 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625-0230. Original forms should remain with the State Agency and copies should be sent to the Chapter 51 Review Unit.

#### **Business Entity Procedure for Submitting Form(s)**

- The Business Entity should return this form to the contracting State Agency.
- The Business Entity should also submit the Certification and Disclosure form directly to the Chapter 51 review Unit only when:
- The Business Entity is approaching its two-year certification expiration date and is seeking certification renewal;
- The Business Entity had a change in its ownership structure; OR
- The Business Entity made any contributions during the period in which its last two-year certification was in effect, or during the term of a contract with a State Agency.

#### **Questions & Information**

Questions regarding Public Law 2005, Chapter 51 (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13) as amended by the Elections Transparency Act, P.L.2023, c.30, codified at N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 to 20.25 ("Chapter 51") and Executive Order No. 333 (2023) or may be submitted electronically through the Division of Purchase and Property website at: <https://www.state.nj.us/treas/purchase/eo333questions.shtml>.

Reference materials and forms are posted on the Political Contributions Compliance website at: <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/execorder333.shtml>.

Two-Year Chapter 51 /Executive Order 333 Vendor Certification and Disclosure of Political Contributions for Non-Fair and Open Contracts

**FOR STATE USE ONLY**

Solicitation, RFP, or Contract No. \_\_\_\_\_ Award Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Is the contract being awarded pursuant to a "fair and open process" pursuant to P.L.2023, c.30? Yes  No

Description of Services \_\_\_\_\_

State Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check if the Contract / Agreement is Being Funded Using FHWA Funds

**Please check if requesting  
recertification**

**Part 1: Business Entity Information**

Full Legal Business Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Including trade name if applicable)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Vendor Email \_\_\_\_\_ Vendor FEIN (SS# if sole proprietor/natural person) \_\_\_\_\_

**Check off the business type and list below the required information for the type of business selected.  
MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL**

- Corporation: LIST ALL OFFICERS and any 10% and greater shareholder (If the corporation only has one officer, please write "sole officer" after the officer's name.)
- Professional Corporation: LIST ALL OFFICERS and ALL SHAREHOLDERS
- Partnership: LIST ALL PARTNERS with any equity interest
- Limited Liability Company: LIST ALL MEMBERS with any equity interest
- Sole Proprietor

Note: "Officers" means 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.

Also Note: "N/A will not be accepted as a valid response. Where applicable, indicate "None."

**All Officers of a Corporation or PC**

**10% and greater shareholders of a corporation  
or all shareholders of a PC**

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**All Equity partners of a Partnership**

**All Equity members of a LLC**

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If you need additional space for listing of Officers, Shareholders, Partners or Members, please attach separate page.

**Part 2: Disclosure of Contributions by the Business Entity or any person or entity whose contributions are attributable to the Business Entity.**

**1. Report below all contributions solicited or made during the 4 years immediately preceding the commencement of negotiations or submission of a proposal to any:**

Political organization organized under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code and which also meets the definition of a continuing political committee as defined in N.J.S.A. 19:44A-3(n).

**2. Report below all contributions solicited or made during the 5 ½ years immediately preceding the commencement of negotiations or submission of a proposal to any:**

Candidate Committee for or Election Fund of any Gubernatorial candidate.

Full Legal Name of Recipient _____
Address of Recipient _____
Date of Contribution _____ Amount of Contribution _____
Type of Contribution (i.e. currency, check, loan, in-kind) _____
Contributor Name _____
Relationship of Contributor to the Vendor _____
<b>If this form is not being completed electronically, please attach additional contributions on separate page.</b>
<input type="button" value="Remove Contribution"/> <b>Click the "Add a Contribution" tab to enter additional contributions.</b>

  

Full Legal Name of Recipient _____
Address of Recipient _____
Date of Contribution _____ Amount of Contribution _____
Type of Contribution (i.e. currency, check, loan, in-kind) _____
Contributor Name _____
Relationship of Contributor to the Vendor _____
<b>If this form is not being completed electronically, please attach additional contributions on separate page.</b>
<input type="button" value="Remove Contribution"/> <b>Click the "Add a Contribution" tab to enter additional contributions.</b>
<input type="button" value="Add a Contribution"/>

**Check this box only if no political contributions have been solicited or made by the business entity or any person or entity whose contributions are attributable to the business entity.**

**Part 3: Certification** (Check one box only)

- (A)  I am certifying on behalf of the business entity and all individuals and/or entities whose contributions are attributable to the business entity as listed on Page 1 under **Part 1: Vendor Information**.
- (B)  I am certifying on behalf of the business entity and all individuals and/or entities whose contributions are attributable to the business entity as listed on Page 1 under **Part 1: Vendor Information**, except for the individuals and/or entities who are submitting separate Certification and Disclosure forms which are included with this submittal.
- (C)  I am certifying on behalf of the business entity only; any remaining persons or entities whose contributions are attributable to the business entity (as listed on Page 1) have completed separate Certification and Disclosure forms which are included with this submittal.
- (D)  I am certifying as an individual or entity whose contributions are attributable to the business entity.

I hereby certify as follows:

- 1. I have read the Information and Instructions accompanying this form prior to completing the certification on behalf of the business entity.**
- 2. All reportable contributions made by or attributable to the business entity have been listed above.**

**3. The business entity has not knowingly solicited or made any contribution of money, pledge of contribution, including in-kind contributions, that would bar the award of a contract to the business entity unless otherwise disclosed above:**

- a) Within the 18 months immediately preceding the commencement of negotiations or submission of a proposal for the contract or agreement to a candidate committee or election fund of any candidate for the public office of Governor or election fund of holder of public office of Governor.
- b) During the term of office of the current Governor to a candidate committee or election fund of a holder of the public office of Governor.
- c) Within the 18 months immediately preceding the last day of the sitting Governor's first term of office to a candidate committee or election fund of the incumbent Governor.

**4. During the term of the contract/agreement the business entity has a continuing responsibility to report, by submitting a new Certification and Disclosure form, any contribution it solicits or makes to any candidate committee or election fund of any candidate or holder of the public office of Governor.**

The business entity further acknowledges that contributions solicited or made during the term of the contract/agreement may be determined to be a material breach of the contract/agreement.

**5. During the two-year certification period the business entity will report any changes in its ownership structure (including the appointment of an officer within a corporation) by submitting a new Certification and Disclosure form indicating the new owner(s) and reporting said owner(s) contributions.**

I certify that the foregoing statements in Parts 1, 2 and 3 are true. I am aware that if any of the statements are willfully false, I may be subject to punishment.

Signed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Procedure for Submitting Form(s)**

**The contracting State Agency should submit this form to the Chapter 51 Review Unit** when it has been required as part of a contracting process. The contracting State Agency should submit a copy of the completed and signed form(s), to the Chapter 51 Unit and retain the original for their records.

**The Business Entity should return this form to the contracting State Agency.** The Business Entity can submit this form directly to the Chapter 51 Review Unit only when it:

- Is approaching its two-year certification expiration date and wishes to renew certification;
- Had a change in ownership structure; OR
- Made any contributions during the period in which its last two-year certification was in effect, or during the term of a contract with a State Agency.

**Forms should be submitted either electronically to: [cd134@treas.nj.gov](mailto:cd134@treas.nj.gov) , or regular mail at: Chapter 51 Review Unit, P.O. Box 230, 33 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625.**