

**Statement by the Philadelphia Board of Ethics on the
Importance of Electronic Campaign Finance Reports
and State Legislation to Rollback City's Ethics Law
July 5, 2007**

Philadelphia's progress toward creating greater transparency and accountability in City government is in jeopardy. On July 3, 2007, without a hearing or public input, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed House Bill 1130, which would prohibit Philadelphia from requiring that municipal candidates and political committees file a copy of their campaign finance reports with the Philadelphia Board of Ethics.

By eliminating the electronic filing of campaign reports with the Ethics Board, this bill would essentially gut the City's 2003 campaign finance law and reverse the progress Philadelphia has made toward greater transparency and accountability in City government and preventing large campaign contributions from corrupting city government.

Without electronic disclosure of campaign finance reports, it would be extremely difficult for the Ethics Board to enforce the City's campaign finance law's contribution limits and other provisions. The bill also would limit public access to the campaign reports because the Board could no longer post them on the Internet.

For these reasons, the Philadelphia Board of Ethics calls on all Members of the Pennsylvania Senate and the Governor to oppose House Bill 1130 and support Philadelphia's progress toward creating greater transparency and accountability in City government.

##