

## **STATE BOARD'S ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM A BIG HIT Heavy Internet Usage in State and Out**

ALBANY, NY--(10/14/99)--Kentucky Secretary of State John Y. Brown III wants to use the New York State Board of Elections' Electronic Filing System for campaign disclosure as a model for that state. In a letter to Board Chairman Neil W. Kelleher, Secretary Brown praised New York's system when compared to other states, as "...much easier to navigate, better organized and not bogged down with arcane technical requirements. My goal is for Kentucky to offer an Internet service with similar qualities."

"I hope that you will allow Kentucky to use the New York State Board of Elections campaign filing and disclosure program as a model for our state. It would be a much appreciated public service and further evidence of the success of your Board's in house efforts to improve voter access to critical campaign information," the Secretary said.

"We will make every effort to assist Kentucky and other states who are interested in adapting our system to their use and have instructed the staff to do so", Chairman Kelleher said. "I'm extremely proud of the entire Board staff and especially the Data Processing Unit for producing New York's state of the art system and I congratulate them on behalf all the commissioners. Not only did they complete the project on time and within budget, but they created a system like no other."

The Legislature passed and Governor George Pataki signed legislation in 1997 requiring the State Board of Elections develop an electronic filing system and that access be provided over the Internet. The Board developed it's own system using board personnel and resources to develop the most user friendly system in the country. New York's system, two years in development, went into effect with the July 1999 Periodic financial disclosure report that is required of all active candidate, political party and PAC committees.

The board's web site, already in use for several years, has been used at a rate three times the average daily use prior to electronic filing. "The page currently averages about 9000 hits per month now, with about 35,000 hits on the electronic filing page alone since July 15", reports Board spokesman, Lee Daghlian, "Seventy five percent of the activity on the page relates to electronic filing."

Access to the records of approximately 1000 filers is available 24 hours a day over the Internet or during business hours at the Board's offices using terminals in a public viewing area. The Board's Internet address is [www.elections.state.ny.us/](http://www.elections.state.ny.us/)

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## **Commissioner Kelleher Appointed a "Kentucky Colonel"**

In response to the New York State Board of Election's offer of assistance in developing Kentucky's electronic reporting system for campaign finance, Kentucky Governor Paul E. Patton appointed Board Chairman Neil Kelleher an official Kentucky Colonel.

In a letter to Chairman Kelleher, Kentucky Secretary of State John Y. Brown, III, informed the Chairman of his selection. "This is an honor Kentucky presents to individuals for extraordinary civic contributions to our Commonwealth, " said Brown. "It is also a way that I can express my deep appreciation for your support last week permitting Kentucky to use the New York State Board of Elections software program as a basis for creating our own electronic campaign finance reporting system".

The highest honor awarded by the State of Kentucky is the Kentucky Colonel. Commissions have been awarded in the past to distinguished individuals such as Lyndon B. Johnson, Winston Churchill and America's first man in space, John Glenn. Entertainers such as Bing Crosby and Red Skelton were also commissioned for their achievements.

" I'm humbled to be accorded such an honor and to be in such company", said Chairman Kelleher. "I am also very happy that this board is in a position to help Kentucky. We have had great success in developing our system and we want to share our expertise with other states. Our staff is already working with Kentucky."