

ALBANY, NY-- (12/08/99) -- New York State's electronic filing system for campaign finance has been awarded the prestigious Digital Sunlight Award, given to those states which were found to have the most advanced programs to provide electronic filing for candidates as well as the most comprehensive and user-friendly campaign disclosure web site.

The Digital Sunlight Awards are the first ever nationwide ranking of the 50 states' progress towards full financial disclosure of campaign finances on the Internet. The rankings and the awards were a result of a survey conducted by the California Voter Foundation, a non-profit, non-partisan organization which advances new technologies to improve democracy.

New York's system ranked second in the nation out of the seven states which received the highest accolades from the foundation. Illinois is the only state to rank higher than New York.

"It is an honor and a pleasure to receive this award and on behalf of the commissioners, I want to say again how proud I am of our staff for a job well done", said Board Chairman, Neil Kelleher.

New York's system, operational since July of this year, was created from the ground-up by in-house staff after the legislature passed, and Governor Pataki signed, legislation in 1997 mandating such a system be ready and on the Internet by this year. On time and within budget, New York's program has been sought after by other states, including Kentucky, as a model for electronic filing. The system was also demonstrated this week at the national convention of the Council On Governmental Ethics Laws by their invitation in Providence, Rhode Island.

More information is available about the New York's system on the board's web site at and about the awards and the California Voter Foundation at