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Commission

FEC Strategic Plan, FY 2014-2019, Now Available

The FEC's Strategic Plan, FY 2014-2019, is now published on the FEC website at <http://www.fec.gov/pages/budget/budget.shtml>. The strategic objectives and activities identified in this plan challenge the FEC to engage in new activities and to streamline and improve its operations. In creating a new Strategic Plan, the Commission focused on building long-term programs and practices capable of transforming agency operations for the better. This plan will help the FEC to focus its efforts in fulfilling the agency's mission to protect the integrity of the federal campaign finance process by providing transparency and fairly enforcing and administering federal campaign finance laws.

(Posted 3/7/2014; By Amy Kort)

Resources:

- *Record* article: [Draft Strategic Plan, FY 2014-2019, Now Available for Public Comment \(9/27/2013\)](#)

Regulations

Commission Approves Technical Corrections to CFR

The Commission has approved and published in the *Federal Register* a series of technical corrections to various provisions in Title 11 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). 79 *Fed. Reg.* 16661 (March 26, 2014). The changes, which took effect upon publication, consist of technical edits and corrections to typographical errors.

The Commission had made a [draft](#) of these corrections available for public comment, but received none.

(Posted 3/26/2014; By: Alex Knott)

Resources:

- [Federal Register notice](#) [PDF]
- [Commission consideration of final rules](#) 
- [Commission regulations](#) (Note: These amendments will be included in the 2015 edition)

Commission Seeks Comment on Technical Corrections to CFR

The Commission seeks public comment on draft final rules that make technical corrections to various provisions in Title 11 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The changes consist of technical edits and corrections to typographical errors.

The draft final rules are available on the FEC's website at: <http://www.fec.gov/law/policy/technicalcorrections/drafttechcorrections2014.pdf>. Comments should address only the technical corrections identified in the draft, and must be submitted by noon on March 17, 2014.

(Posted 3/13/2014; By: Alex Knott)

Resources:

- [Draft Final Rules and Explanation and Justification: Technical Corrections to Title II of the Code of Federal Regulations](#) [PDF]

Advisory Opinions

Advisory Opinion Request 2013-18 (Revolution Messaging, LLC)

On February 27, 2014, the Commission considered an advisory opinion request from Revolution Messaging, LLC, asking whether its proposed mobile phone banner ads were exempt from the Act's disclaimer requirements. The Commission was unable to render an opinion by the required four affirmative votes and concluded its consideration of the request.

(Posted 3/11/2014; By: Alex Knott)

Resources:

- [Request by Revolution Messaging, LLC](#) [PDF]
- [Supplemental Material](#) [PDF]
- [Agenda Document No. 13-50 \(Drafts A and B\)](#) [PDF]
- [Agenda Document No. 13-50-A](#) [PDF]
- [Agenda Document No. 13-50-B](#) [PDF]

Compliance

FEC Cites Committees for Failure to File 12-Day Pre-Primary Financial Reports for Texas Primary

On February 28, 2014, the Federal Election Commission cited four campaign committees for failing to file the 12-Day Pre-Primary Election Report required by the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the Act), for the Texas primary election that was held on March 4, 2014.

As of February 27, 2014, the required disclosure report had not been received from:

- Dr. Pam Barlow for Congress Committee
- Mark Greene for Congress Campaign Committee
- Larry Smith Veteran for Congress
- John Amdur for Congress

The report was due on February 20, 2014, and should have included financial activity for the period January 1, 2014, through February 12, 2014. If sent by certified or registered mail, the report should have been postmarked by February 17, 2014.

The Commission notified committees involved in the Texas primary election of their potential filing requirements on January 27, 2014. Those committees that did not file on the due date were sent notification on February 21, 2014 that their reports had not been received and that their names would be published if they did not respond within four business days.

Some individuals and their committees have no obligation to file reports under federal campaign finance law, even though their names may appear on state ballots. If an individual raises or spends \$5,000 or less, he or she is not considered a "candidate" subject to reporting under the Act.

Other political committees that support Senate and House candidates in elections, but are not authorized units of a candidate's campaign, are also required to file quarterly reports, unless they report monthly. Those committee names are not published by the FEC.

Further Commission action against non-filers and late filers is decided on a case-by-case basis. Federal law gives the FEC broad authority to initiate enforcement actions, and the FEC has implemented an Administrative Fine program with provisions for assessing monetary penalties.

(Posted 3/5/2014)

Resources:

- [FEC Non-Filer Press Release](#)
- [Compliance Map](#)
- [The Administrative Fine Program](#)
- [FEC Reporting Dates](#)
- [Late Filing and Other Enforcement Penalties](#) (Reports Analysis Division)

Reporting

New Jersey Special Election Reporting: 1st District



NEW JERSEY/01 SPECIAL
(Photo by NationalAtlas.gov)

New Jersey will hold Special Primary and General elections to fill the 1st Congressional District House seat vacated by Congressman Robert Andrews. The Special Primary will be held on June 3, 2014, and the Special General will be held on November 4, 2014.

Candidate committees involved in these elections must follow the reporting schedule posted at http://www.fec.gov/pages/report_notices/2014/nj01.shtml.

That schedule also applies to PACs and party committees that participate in the elections and file on a quarterly basis in 2014. PACs and party committees that file monthly should continue to file according to their regular filing schedule.

Filing Electronically

Reports filed electronically must be received and validated by the Commission by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the applicable filing deadline. Electronic filers who instead file on paper or submit an electronic report that does not pass the Commission's validation program by the filing deadline will be considered nonfilers and may be subject to enforcement actions, including administrative fines.

Timely Filing for Paper Filers

Registered and Certified Mail. Pre-election reports sent by registered or certified mail must be postmarked on or before the mailing deadline to be considered timely filed; other reports must be postmarked by the filing deadline. A committee sending its reports by certified mail should keep its certified mailing receipt with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) postmark as proof of filing because the USPS does not keep complete records of items sent by certified mail. A committee sending its report by registered mail should keep its proof of mailing. Note that a certificate of mailing from the USPS is not sufficient to prove that a report is timely filed using registered, certified or overnight mail. 2 U.S.C. §434(a)(5) and 11 CFR 100.19 and 104.5(e) and (i).

Overnight Mail. Reports filed via overnight mail ^[fn1] will be considered timely filed if the report is received by the delivery service on or before the mailing deadline. A committee sending its reports by Express or Priority Mail, or by an overnight delivery service, should keep its proof of mailing or other means of transmittal of its reports. 2 U.S.C. §434(a)(5) and 11 CFR 100.19 and 104.5(e).

Other Means of Filing. Reports sent by other means—including first class mail and courier—must be received by the FEC before the Commission's close of business on the last business day before the filing deadline. 11 CFR 100.19 and 104.5(e).

Forms are available for downloading and printing at the FEC's website (<http://www.fec.gov/info/forms.shtml>) and from FEC Faxline, the agency's automated fax system (202/501-3413).

48-Hour Contribution Notices

A participating candidate's principal campaign committee must file a 48-hour notice each time it receives a contribution of \$1,000 or more between May 15 and May 31 for the Special Primary and between October 16 and November 1, for the Special General.

24- and 48-Hour Reports of Independent Expenditures

Political committees and other persons must file 24-hour reports of independent expenditures that aggregate \$1,000 or more between May 15 and June 1 for the Special Primary and between October 16 and November 2 for the Special General. This requirement is in addition to that of filing 48-hour reports of independent expenditures that aggregate \$10,000 or more during the calendar year up to and including the 20th day before an election. The 48-hour reporting requirement applies to independent expenditures that aggregate at or above \$10,000 prior to May 15 for the Special Primary. For the Special General, the 48-hour reporting requirement applies to independent expenditures that aggregate at or above \$10,000 prior to October 16.

¹ "Overnight mail" includes Priority or Express Mail having a delivery confirmation, or an overnight service with which the report is scheduled for next business day delivery and is recorded in the service's on-line tracking system.

Electioneering Communications

The 30-day electioneering communications period in connection with the Special Primary runs from May 4 through June 3. The 60-day electioneering communications period in connection with the Special General runs from September 5 through November 4.

Disclosure of Lobbyist Bundling Activity

Campaign committees, party committees and leadership PACs that are otherwise required to file reports in connection with the special elections must simultaneously file FEC Form 3L if they receive two or more bundled contributions from any lobbyist/registrant or lobbyist/registrant PAC that aggregate in excess of \$17,300 during the special election reporting periods. 11 CFR 104.22(a)(5)(v) and (b). For more information on these requirements, see the [March 2009 Record](#).

(Posted 3/20/2014; By: Katherine Carothers)

Resources:

- [New Jersey 1st District Special Election Prior Notice](#)
- [New Jersey 1st District Special Election Compliance Page 2014](#)
- [Federal Register Notice](#) [PDF]
- [Reporting Dates](#)

Outreach

FEC to Host April 30 Seminar/Webinar for Corporations and their Political Action Committees



The Commission will hold a seminar for corporations and their political action committees (PACs) at its Washington, DC, headquarters on Wednesday, April 30, 2014. The seminar will also be offered as a webinar for those who cannot attend in person. Commissioners and staff will conduct a variety of technical workshops on the federal campaign finance laws affecting corporations and their PACs. Workshops are designed for those seeking an introduction to the basic provisions of the law as well as for those more experienced in campaign finance law. To view the agenda or to

register for the seminar, please visit the seminar website at <http://www.fec.gov/info/conferences/2014/corporateseminar.shtml>

Webinar Information. Seminar workshops will be simulcast for online attendees, who will see workshop slides, hear the presentations and be able to ask questions via live chat. Additional instructions and technical information will be provided to those who register for the webinar.

In-Person Attendees. The seminar will be held at the FEC's headquarters at 999 E Street, NW, Washington, DC. The building is within walking distance of several subway stations. Attendees are responsible for making their own arrangements for accommodations. The FEC recommends that individuals planning to travel to attend the seminar wait to finalize travel arrangements until their conference registration has been confirmed by Sylvester Management Corporation.

Workshop Materials. Webinar participants will receive electronic copies of workshop materials in advance, and those attending in-person may choose that option when they register. Alternatively, seminar attendees may elect to receive a binder with printed materials the morning of the event.

Registration Information. The registration fee is \$100 to attend in-person or \$75 to participate online. Registration fees include a \$25 nonrefundable transaction fee. A refund (minus the transaction fee) will be made for all cancellations received by Friday, April 25; no refund will be made for cancellations received after that date. Complete registration information is available online at <http://www.fec.gov/info/conferences/2014/corporateseminar.shtml>.

Registration Questions

Please direct all questions about seminar/webinar registration and fees to Sylvester Management Corporation (Phone: 1-800/246-7277; email: Rosalyn@sylvestermanagement.com). For other questions call the FEC's Information Division at 1-800/424-9530 (press 6), or send an email to Conferences@fec.gov.

(Posted 3/13/2014; By: Molly Niewenhous)

Resources:

- [FEC Educational Outreach Opportunities](#)

FEC to Host E-Filing Webinars in April



The Commission will offer two FECFile webinars on April 2, 2014, with a session for PACs and party committees at 1:00 p.m. (EDT) and a session for campaign committees at 2:45 p.m. (EDT). At both sessions, FEC staff will demonstrate the Commission's FECFile software and address questions FECFile users may have concerning the software.

Webinar Information. The sessions will be available online only. Additional instructions and technical information will be provided upon registration.

Registration Information. The registration fee is \$15 per workshop. A full refund will be made for all cancellations received by Friday, March 28; no refunds will be made for cancellations received after that date. Complete registration information is available on the FEC's website at <http://www.fec.gov/info/outreach.shtml#roundtables> and from Faxline, the FEC's automated fax system (202/501-3413, request document 590).

Registration Questions

Please direct all questions about the roundtable/webinar registration and fees to Sylvester Management at 1-800/246-7277 or email Rosalyn@sylvestermanagement.com. For other questions, call the FEC's Information Division at 800/424-9530 (press 6), or send an email to Conferences@fec.gov.

Roundtable Schedule:**FECFile Webinars****April 2, 2014**

Online Only

FECFile & E-Filing for PACs and Party Committees, 1:00 — 2:15 p.m. (EDT)

FECFile & E-Filing for Candidate Committees, 2:45 — 4:15 p.m. (EDT)

(Posted 2/28/2014; By: Molly Niewenhous)

Resources:

- [FEC Educational Outreach Page](#)
- [Filing Dates](#)