

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
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KEY TO CLEAN ELECTIONS

LAS VEGAS, NE., AUGUST 20 - "The key to clean federal elections is full reporting and public disclosure of all campaign contributions and expenditures", Federal Election Commission Vice-Chairman Neil O. Staebler, said today.

In a speech to the convention of the National Association of Secretaries of State, at Caesars' Palace Staebler said, "The federal campaign law requires that each State, as well as the Federal Election Commission, maintain complete public records of campaign financial reports filed by federal candidates. This dual reporting requirement is a healthy provision of law, because it insures full public accountability both in Washington, D. C. and in the candidate's home state of all election finances," Staebler said.

Staebler praised state efforts to coordinate with the FEC. The Federal Election Commission will be cooperating with the states in implementing the requirements for federal candidates to file financial reports with their respective Secretary of State. The Secretaries of State in each state play a key role in administering federal elections and in insuring that the beneficial requirements of total sunshine of federal campaign finances are met by all candidates," he said.

Staebler told the Secretaries of State that the FEC's "National Clearinghouse for Information on Administration of Elections" would be available "to assist all states in obtaining up-to-date information on ways to make the administration of elections more efficient, and to assist in improving communications between election officials at all levels."

He said, "The goal of the Federal Election Commission is to obtain voluntary compliance with the federal election campaign laws by all candidates and political committees. In proposing regulations, and in issuing advisory opinions to candidates and committees, the Commission will be working to provide sufficient advance information about federal campaign finance requirements to help everyone involved in the federal election process know ahead of time what is required of them," Staebler said.

The FEC wants to encourage greater participation in political campaigns and greater respect for our democratic electoral process by all citizens. We want to make campaign finance laws as easy to understand and comply with as possible to insure that the desirable benefits of full financial disclosure do not unwittingly discourage political participation by the general public, Staebler said.

The six-member Federal Election Commission was created by the "Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1974" to supervise and enforce new limits on contributions to federal campaigns ceilings on federal candidate and political committee spending, and public financing for Presidential primary and general elections.