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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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FEC REVISES PROPOSED  
OFFICE ACCOUNT REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON - NOVEMBER 21 - The Federal Election Commission yesterday approved a revised regulation on Congressional office accounts.

The proposed regulation will be transmitted to Congress for review. The law provides that the Commission may not promulgate any regulation disapproved by Congress within 30 legislative days after transmittal to Congress. Earlier this Fall, the Senate rejected a proposed FEC office account regulation.

Details of the proposed office account regulation approved by the FEC today follow:

OFFICE ACCOUNT: Expenditures from an "office account" of all federal or state officeholders, established "for the purpose of supporting the activities of a Federal or State officeholder, are considered campaign expenditures during the calendar year in which the officeholder is a candidate for Federal office."

-----Officeholder accounts made up only of publicly appropriated money, or accounts used by the officeholder for personal, non-office activities, are not subject to the regulation. Neither are accounts used exclusively for preparing and mailing material allowable by postal laws to be sent under the frank.

-----Contributions to an officeholder "for the purpose of supporting the officeholder's activities" are subject at all times to contribution limits (\$1,000 per person, \$5,000 per multi-candidate committee) applicable to that officeholder's next Federal election. An exception to this is a contribution designated in writing to be used exclusively for franking expenditures, which are specifically exempt from campaign contribution limits by the postal laws.

-----Federal officeholders must report office account contributions and expenditures to the FEC at the same time as campaign reports. If the officeholder has a principal campaign committee, the office account reports must be filed with that committee, which will then include the office accounts in its own reports. A State officeholder must commence filing office account reports upon becoming a "federal candidate" under the federal campaign finance laws.

Accounts for preparing and mailing frankable material, although not subject to campaign limits, must nevertheless be reported twice annually, by April 10 and October 10.

Excess campaign funds expended after a Federal election, but before the following January 3, will be considered expenditures with respect to that election. Following January 3, transfers of excess campaign funds to office and franking accounts will not be considered campaign expenditures.