

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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PRIMARY MATCHING STATUS REPORT

WASHINGTON - DECEMBER 11 - Three Presidential candidates, Lloyd Bentsen, President Ford, and Terry Sanford are close to certification by the Federal Election Commission for federal matching funds in the primaries, the FEC revealed today.

In a general status report on matching funds, complete as of December 9, the Commission revealed that of the six candidates who the Commission had determined have met an initial eligibility requirement (raising \$5,000 in 20 separate states from individuals' contributions of \$250 or less), only Bentsen, Ford, and Sanford have submitted all their initial contributions to the Commission that will be eligible for matching funds.

Three candidates, Jimmy Carter, Henry Jackson, and Ronald Reagan have been notified by the Commission that they have met the initial "threshold" 20-state requirement, but they have not submitted their full list of matchable contributions to the FEC for verification and certification.

Under FEC procedures, after candidates are determined by the FEC to have met the initial 20-state eligibility, they can then submit all matchable contributions from every state received from January 1 through October 31, 1975 which will make up the initial FEC certification and Treasury Department payment.

The Commission announced today that it will make its initial certification of eligibility at its Thursday, December 18 meeting. Under the law, within 10 days after establishing this candidate eligibility, the Commission must make its initial certification to the Treasury of the matching funds such eligible candidates are entitled to.

FEC Chairman Thomas B. Curtis said, "Although the Treasury Department can not make any matching payments until after January 1, 1976, we will certify the three candidates whose submissions are now complete, and hope the other eligible candidates will submit their contribution records to us for review in time to include them in our first submission to Treasury."

The Commission staff is still reviewing the contributions of six Presidential candidates who have not been determined by the FEC to have met the 20-state requirement. Those candidates, and the number of individual states in which the Commission has determined they have met the \$5,000 per-state requirement, (also as of December 9) are as follows:

Birch Bayh, (7); Fred Harris, (18); Milton Shapp, (3); Sargent Shriver, (13); Morris Udall, (19); and George Wallace, (7).

In addition to submitting matchable contributions, before candidates can be officially declared by the Commission as being eligible for matching funds and be certified, they must also submit a statement in writing to the FEC certifying that they will meet the requirements of the primary matching Act, such as record-keeping, submission to audits, and adherence to spending limits. Only Bentsen, Carter, Ford, Sanford, and Wallace have submitted this statement to the FEC.

After the initial FEC certification of eligible candidates, the Commission will ask the candidates for their November and December 1975 matchable contributions. The FEC will receive matching requests on a twice-monthly basis, on the first and third Mondays of each month, and will certify eligible contributions within fifteen days after their submission.