

NEWS FROM...

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FEC COMMENCES ROUTINE AUDITS OF RANDOMLY-SELECTED CONGRESSIONAL RACES

WASHINGTON - August 4 - The Federal Election Commission today announced it is conducting a schedule of routine audits of the campaign finance records and reports of candidates who ran in 48 randomly-selected Senate and House elections in 1976, (4 Senate races and 44 House races).

The specific States and Congressional Districts in which the routine FEC audits will take place were selected, on a random basis, by computer from a master list of all Senate and House seats involved in the 1976 elections.

In each randomly-selected State or District, the following candidates will be audited:

- all major party general election candidates, and all other general election candidates who received 5% or more of the vote, or raised or spent more than \$10,000;
- where the winning general election candidate received more than 75% of the vote in the general election, but less than that margin in his party's primary, then the Commission will also audit all the primary candidates of that same party who either received 5% or more of the vote, or raised or spent more than \$10,000.

Under FEC audit policy, adopted last November, ten percent of 1976 Senate and House elections are randomly-selected for audit. Applying this policy to the 1976 election, the FEC will examine the campaign finance statements of approximately 100 Senate and House candidates.

The audits are being conducted pursuant to a section of the campaign finance act which directs the FEC to "make from time to time audit and field investigations with respect to reports and statements" of candidates and committees. These audits will be made public when completed.

Under FEC policy the names of candidates and committees being audited are withheld until the audit report is completed and released publicly by the FEC.

All audits of the randomly-selected Congressional races are expected to be completed and publicly released by April, 1978.

To date, the FEC has concentrated its post-election auditing on candidates and political committees who received federal money in connection with the 1976 Presidential elections and nominating conventions. The campaign finance law requires the FEC "to give priority to auditing and field investigating" of the candidates and committees receiving public financing. These audits are being completed, and the individual audit reports will be publicly released by the FEC as they are approved by the Commission.

In addition to the public financing and Congressional auditing, the FEC audit policy also provides for audits of Presidential candidates who were on 10 or more State ballots in the general election, multi-candidate committees raising or spending more than \$100,000, a random selection of other multi-candidate committees, all the major party National and Congressional committees, major party state political committees, and certain other candidates or committees whose disclosure reports indicate technical reporting discrepancies or other problems which need clarification.