

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — Research assistance and new study aids have been developed by the Federal Election Commission for use of educators and students in studying Federal elections. An independent agency, the FEC has sole jurisdiction over campaign finance activities related to Federal elections.

By using the Commission's resources, high school teachers and college professors can do research or make assignments relevant to a particular Congressional district or state. Students can learn how to obtain election-related government documents, analyze campaign finance statistics, compare and contrast political campaigns, and draw conclusions based on data from different sources.

Classes can research elections in their own district or state through documents on file at the FEC's Public Records Office. Included are financial reports filed by Federal candidate committees, by committees representing political parties and by political action committees. Computerized indexes and statistics based on these reports are available. In addition to providing full disclosure of campaign finance activities, the Public Records Office makes available to the public all actions and decisions of the Commission.

Speakers for class-visits or seminars, publications explaining Federal election laws, answers to election-related questions, and a monthly newsletter are among the services provided by the Commission's Public Communications Office. A publication of special interest to educators is entitled "The FEC and the Federal Campaign Finance Law." Available in quantities, this brochure describes the Federal Election Commission and the election law, and tells how to obtain further information on topics related to Federal elections. Also, educators may borrow a newly-developed slide program describing methods and sources of candidate support.

The FEC Clearinghouse on Election Administration compiles and disseminates information on such general topics as the electoral college, ballot access, and registration and voting procedures. Recently, it published a guidebook, "Voter Education Programs" outlining suggested curriculum programs on the electoral process for various grade levels.

Educators interested in using any of these FEC services may contact Mr. Larry Boyle, a former educator now in the Public Communications Office, at 202/523-4068 or toll-free 800/424-9530.