

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON -- An expanded Federal Election Commission program to assist educators teaching Federal elections, and their students, is going into its second year. Part of the FEC's continuing "Outreach" efforts, this program was initiated prior to last year's observance of National Education Week. An independent agency, the Commission has sole jurisdiction over campaign finance activities related to Federal elections.

- Activities in this area by the Commission this year include:
- Regional seminars on election administration and campaign finance conducted in Charleston, S.C., Chicago, Albany, N.Y., Tulsa, and Los Angeles;
 - A workshop on teaching about federal campaigns for the Law Related Education Conference sponsored by the New York State Department of Education and the New York State Bar Association;
 - Lecture on election law for the Distinguished Visitors Program at the University of Connecticut School of Law;
 - Program on how to organize, operate and represent a political action committee for the Georgetown University Law Center;
 - Display of FEC materials at the Virginia Conference for Social Studies Educators;
 - Visits to the Commission by University groups from across the country;

Educational materials and assistance available from the Federal Election Commission include:

- o A series of brochures and campaign guides explaining the election law with charts, illustrations, definitions of campaign terminology and sample copies of campaign registration and reporting forms;
- o Speakers for class visits to the Commission and/or seminars to explain the election law and the Commission's research facilities;
- o A slide program with a narrative tape cassette describing methods and sources of candidate support;
- o A guidebook, Voter Information and Education Programs, outlining suggested curriculum programs on the electoral process for various grade levels.

By using FEC resources, high school teachers and college educators are able to do research or make assignments relevant to a particular Congressional district or state, or focus on a political action committee representing a specific interest group. Students may learn how to obtain election-related government documents, use computer-generated information, analyze campaign finance statistics, and compare and contrast political campaigns.

Educators interested in obtaining copies of these materials or using the FEC research facilities may contact its office of Public Communications at 202/523-4068 or call toll free 800/424-9530.