

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEC ELECTS McGARRY CHAIRMAN,  
AIKENS VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 1985

WASHINGTON--Commissioner John Warren McGarry of Massachusetts today was elected Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, succeeding Commissioner Lee Ann Elliott of Illinois.

Commissioner Joan D. Aikens of Pennsylvania was elected Vice-Chairman, succeeding Commissioner Thomas E. Harris of Arkansas.

By statute, the Commission elects a Chairman and Vice-Chairman from among its members for a one calendar year term. A member may serve as chairman only once during the six-year term to which he or she may be appointed, and the two officers shall not be members of the same political party.

Commissioner McGarry, a Democrat, has been a member of the FEC since 1978, and previously served as Chairman in 1981. He was first appointed by President Carter in 1978, and was reappointed by President Reagan to serve until April 30, 1989.

He graduated cum laude from Holy Cross College in Massachusetts in 1952, did graduate work at Boston University and earned a Juris Doctor degree in 1956 from Georgetown Law Center.

From 1959 through 1962, Commissioner McGarry served as Assistant Attorney General of Massachusetts, serving both as trial counsel and appellate advocate. Following his tenure in office, he combined private law practice with service as Chief Counsel for the U. S. House of Representatives' Special Committee to Investigate Campaign Expenditures, created temporarily by special resolution every two years through 1972 to oversee House elections. From 1973 until his appointment to the Commission, he served as Special Counsel on Elections to the Committee on House Administration of the U. S. Congress.

Commissioner Aikens is an original member of the Federal Election Commission, having been appointed on March 14, 1975, by President Pro-Tempore

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of the Senate James Eastland upon the recommendation of Minority Leader of the Senate Hugh Scott. She was re-nominated in May 1976, by President Ford, and in 1981, by President Reagan to complete a two-year term created by a resignation, and to a full term by President Reagan in June 1983. Her term runs through April 30, 1989.

She served as Chairman of the Commission from May 1978, to May 1979.

A native of Delaware County, Pa., Commissioner Aikens is a graduate of Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa. Prior to her appointment to the FEC, she was Vice President of Lew Hodges Communications, a public relations firm in Valley Forge, Pa. She served two terms as President of the Pennsylvania Council of Republican Women from 1972 to 1974; was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Republican Women; and served as Alternate Delegate At-Large to the 1972 Republican National Convention. A precinct committeewoman for 15 years, she was, at the time of her initial appointment, a member of the Pennsylvania Republican State Committee. She is listed in Who's Who in American Politics, Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World of Women. In November 1979, she received an honorary Doctor of Laws from Ursinus College.

Her civic activities included memberships on the Commonwealth Board of Directors of the Medical College of Pennsylvania and the Women's Board of Associated Auxiliaries of Riddle Memorial Hospital in Delaware County.

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