

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



Press Office
999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463
Phone: Local 376-3155 Toll Free 800-424-9530

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CONTACT: FRED EILAND
SHARON SNYDER
KAREN FINUCAN

FEC RECOMMENDS CHANGES IN ELECTION LAWS

WASHINGTON--As the 100th Congress begins to consider election-related legislation, the Federal Election Commission is proposing 24 changes to the current laws. The FEC is required to submit annual legislative recommendations to Congress and the President. These proposals would enhance the Agency's ability to administer election laws. The Commission traditionally defers to Congress on matters of policy.

This year's recommendations include four proposals which would affect Presidential elections. They are:

- *To eliminate state-by-state spending limits for publicly financed Presidential primary candidates. The Commission believes that the overall national limit will serve as a constraint on state spending.
- *To combine the overall spending limit for Presidential primary candidates with the spending limit for fundraising. This would simplify reporting requirements, reduce accounting burdens for committees and simplify the Commission's auditing procedures.
- *To require the Secretary of the Treasury to deposit all repayments of public monies by convention-related committees of national parties and general election candidates to the Presidential Election Campaign Fund. Currently, the Fund recaptures only repayments made by recipients of primary matching funds.
- *To reaffirm Congressional intent that draft committees are subject to the provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

Proposals aimed at enhancing public disclosure would:

- *Require House and Senate campaigns to report their financial activity for an entire campaign cycle. They currently report on a calendar year basis.
- *Give Congressional campaigns the option to file monthly reports.
- *Require monthly filers to report earlier in the month. These reports now are due on the 20th of each month.
- *Eliminate the requirement that political committees file copies of their reports with the Secretaries of State. The Commission proposes a system whereby the Secretaries of State would tie into the FEC's computerized disclosure data base.

Other recommendations would make the FEC the sole point of entry for all disclosure documents filed by Federal candidates and political committees and would establish a reimbursement account to enable the Commission to offset expenses incurred from reproducing documents and tapes purchased by requestors.

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