

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1988

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FLORIDA CAMPAIGN FAILS TO FILE PRE-PRIMARY REPORT

WASHINGTON — Florida will hold a primary election on September 6, 1988, to select candidates for U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act require that committees supporting candidates involved in the primary must file reports of their financial activity 12 days before the election.

As of 5 p.m., September 1, a report from the following committee had not been filed:

FL/16...DR. JOSEPH SMITH FOR CONGRESS...DR. JOSEPH SMITH...REP

The report was to include financial activity occurring from July 1 through August 17. If sent certified or registered mail, the report should have been postmarked by August 22. Otherwise, the due date was close-of-business August 25.

Some individuals and their committees have no obligation to file reports under federal election law, even though their names may appear on state ballots. If any individual and his or her campaign committee raise or spend less than \$5,000, the individual is not considered a "candidate" and neither the individual nor the committee has to register.

The Commission notified the committees of candidates involved in the convention of their potential filing requirements on August 1, 1988. Those committees which did not file on the due date were notified on August 26, that their reports had not been received and that their names would be published for failure to file if they did not respond within 4 business days.

The Commission publishes only the names of those committees which have been designated by candidates as their principal campaign committees. Under Amendments to the Federal Election Campaign Act, effective January 8, 1980, candidates no longer are required to file personal reports of receipts and expenditures. All such information is reported by authorized committees of the candidates.

Other political committees supporting Senate and House candidates in elections (those which are not authorized units of a candidate's campaign) also are required to file pre-convention reports unless they report monthly. Those committee names are not published by the FEC.

Further Commission action against non-filers and late filers will be decided on a case-by-case basis. The Federal Election Campaign Act gives the Commission broad authority to initiate enforcement actions, including civil court enforcement and the imposition of civil penalties (\$5,000 for "any violation" and \$10,000 for any "knowing and willful" violation) for infractions of the law, including failure to file required disclosure reports.

Should a runoff result the next report due for runoff candidates in Florida would be the Pre-runoff report, due September 22, covering activity between August 11 and September 14; otherwise, the next required report is the October Quarterly, due October 15, covering activity between August 26 and September 30.

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