

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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## FOURTEEN STATES PROVIDE FEC FINANCE DATA THROUGH DIRECT COMPUTER ACCESS

WASHINGTON--Direct computer access to federal election campaign finance data is available to the public in 14 State capitals, the Federal Election Commission said today.

FEC-State Access Program has been developed by the Commission to broaden public access to federal election finance information which is centralized in its Washington public disclosure facilities. Computer terminals in the offices of the Secretaries of State and Boards of Election in the participating states provide a wide variety of information relating to political campaigns throughout the country.

Among data available through the FEC-State Access Program are: indexes identifying all registered political committees, their sponsoring organization, frequency of filing reports and qualifying status for making contributions; indexes showing total receipts and disbursements of PACs and of candidate committees; listings of all contributions by PACs to federal candidates; an index listing individuals who contributed \$500 or more to candidates and political committees; a summary sheet on each candidate or PAC, showing total receipts and expenditures, cash-on-hand and debts owed through a two-year election cycle.

States presently participating in the FEC-State Access Program are: Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin. Connecticut will join the program on October 14.

While the individual states follow basic disclosure procedures established by the FEC, Secretaries of State offices set their own standards on public access to information, which includes data from the 1983-84 election cycle to the present for every federal candidate or committee located anywhere in the country.

The Federal Election Commission also provides a Direct Access Program (DAP) through which anyone may establish a direct tie with the FEC's computer for campaign finance figures related to federal elections.

This program offers access to the FEC's computer 24 hours a day, seven days a week at a cost of \$25 per hour. Under DAP, formatted indexes are available and unformatted data can be downloaded using most database software.

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