

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FEC RECOMMENDS CHANGES TO ELECTION LAW

WASHINGTON -- Thirty-five legislative recommendations for changes in federal election laws have been sent to the Congress by the Federal Election Commission. Eight of the proposals are new and 27 were submitted previously. Covering nine distinct areas, the proposals include public financing, contributions and expenditures, litigation, compliance, disclaimers, public disclosure, registration and reporting, and agency funding.

As in the past, the FEC's recommendations are based on its experiences in administering federal election laws. The Federal Election Campaign Act requires the Commission to submit legislative recommendations annually to the Congress.

Three of this year's eight new recommendations relate to public funding of Presidential campaigns. One reiterates a series of Commission advisories that the tax check-off fund may prove insufficient to fund presidential candidates in the 1992 elections. Any remedy would require Congressional action.

Another recommends that Congress reexamine the eligibility requirements for publicly funded Presidential candidates, including a need to raise the threshold amount required to qualify for primary matching funds, and to ensure that candidates who have previously violated laws related to the public funding process will not be eligible for future public funding.

In a forwarding letter, FEC Chairman Lee Ann Elliott said, "For each of the recommendations...the Commission has presented an explanation, believing that a primary value of the recommendations is to acquaint Congress and the public with difficulties that have been encountered in administering the law.

"In view of the wide interest concerning campaign financing, we trust that these proposals will be helpful to deliberations regarding the Federal Election Campaign Act and the activities of the Federal Election Commission."

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