

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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PREPARATIONS FOR 1992 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS UNDER WAY AT FEC

WASHINGTON -- Preparations for the 1992 presidential campaign are moving forward at the Federal Election Commission. As the first step in the process, the Commission is requesting written comments on proposed revisions to its regulations regarding the production of computerized information maintained or used by publicly-funded Presidential primary and general election campaign committees.

The Commission also is seeking comments on a proposed document that would set forth technical standards designed to ensure the compatibility of magnetic media provided for Commission use during the mandatory audits of those campaign committees. Copies of the "Computerized Magnetic Media Requirements for Title 26 Candidates/Committees Receiving Federal Funding" (CMMR) are available on request from the FEC's Public Records Office.

This proposed rulemaking is a fallout from the 1988 presidential election when the Commission encountered difficulty in obtaining computer tapes that were uniformly formatted, thereby necessitating considerable resources for reformatting. This has delayed the completion of certain audits and has entailed additional expense to the FEC.

The new rules would require committees to bear the cost of producing these records in a compatible format, but would permit them to treat this cost as a compliance expense. Because of this, the Commission is publishing the proposed new standards at this early date, enabling Presidential committees in the 1992 election cycle sufficient time to design their computer system with the new requirements in mind. Not only will this facilitate their production of computerized records, it will also reduce the cost of providing them to the FEC.

Written comments must be received by Monday, May 21, 1990. These should be addressed to: Ms. Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, FEC, 999 E St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463.

At a later date, the FEC will consider additional rulemakings to address other significant issues involving the presidential primary and general election campaigns and the nominating conventions.

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