

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

PR



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
SCOTT MOXLEY

FEC EXTENDS PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RULEMAKING GOVERNING CORPORATE-LABOR EXPENDITURES IN CONNECTION WITH FEDERAL ELECTIONS

WASHINGTON -- A four week extension has been set by the Federal Election Commission for public comments to help it determine what changes may be warranted in regulations governing corporate and labor organization expenditures in connection with federal elections.

Written comments must be received on or before Friday, November 30, 1990. The comment period was scheduled to end on November 2, which is four days before the general election. The Commission noted that commenters engaged in 1990 election activities may find it difficult to submit timely comments, consequently the extension was approved to allow those commenters sufficient time after the elections to prepare their comments and suggestions. A notice announcing the extension will be published in the Federal Register on October 31, 1990.

The rulemaking stems from the Supreme Court's 1986 decision in the Commission's case against Massachusetts Citizens for Life, Inc.

In that case, the Court found that requirements of federal election law impose additional regulations on small non-profit entities or groups lacking formal organization, creating a disincentive for them to engage in political speech. In its decision, it set out three essential criteria for determining which non-profit corporations would be exempt from the law's restrictions on corporate spending.

The FEC has already held one comment period and conducted a public hearing regarding corporate expenditures in connection with federal elections, but additional questions have been raised by a subsequent Supreme Court decision in the case of "Austin v. Michigan Chamber of Commerce", and by other recent judicial decisions affecting this section of the Federal Election Campaign Act. It is because of these new developments that the Commission has set the additional comment period.

Written comments should be addressed to Ms. Susan E. Proper, Assistant General Counsel, FEC, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463.

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