

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DECEMBER 18, 1990

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FEC ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN FOR 1991

WASHINGTON -- John Warren McGarry, a native of Massachusetts, has been elected Chairman and Joan D. Aikens of Pennsylvania Vice Chairman of the Federal Election Commission for 1991.

Mr. McGarry, a Democrat, replaces outgoing Chairman Lee Ann Elliott, who will resume her normal duties as a Commissioner.

Mr. McGarry, originally nominated by President Carter in 1978, renominated by President Reagan in 1983, and again in 1989 by President Bush, has extensive experience in the federal election process, including two previous terms as FEC Chairman in 1981 and 1985.

Prior to coming to the FEC, he served as Chief Counsel for the U.S. House of Representative's Special Committee to Investigate Campaign Expenditures, and as Special Counsel on Elections to the Committee on House Administration of the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. McGarry also has served as Assistant Attorney General of Massachusetts and has been in private practice in Boston.

Vice Chairman Joan D. Aikens, a Republican, is the only sitting Commissioner to have served on the original 1975 panel of the FEC. She began her fifth term in 1989. Prior to her first appointment, Mrs. Aikens was Vice President of a Pennsylvania public relations firm and has 15 years experience as a party precinct committeewoman. In addition, she has served two terms as President of the Pennsylvania Council of Republican Women; was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Republican Women; and has served as Alternate Delegate-At-Large to the 1972 Republican National Convention.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected from within the Commission to serve for a calendar year. A Commissioner may serve as Chairman only once during a term. Commissioners are nominated by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate for six-year terms. The FEC has six Commissioners who, in addition to Chairman McGarry and Vice Chairman Aikens, are Lee Ann Elliott, Danny Lee McDonald, Thomas Josefiak and Scott Thomas.

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