

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



Press Office
999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463
Phone: Local 219-4155 Toll Free 800-424-9530

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CONTACT: FRED EILAND
SHARON SNYDER
SCOTT MOXLEY

FEC ELECTS ORIGINAL MEMBER AS CHAIRMAN FOR 1992

WASHINGTON -- Joan D. Aikens, an original member of the Federal Election Commission, has been elected Chairman and Scott Thomas, a second-term Commissioner, Vice Chairman for 1992.

Mrs. Aikens, a Republican, replaces outgoing Chairman John Warren McGarry, who will resume his normal duties as a Commissioner.

As the only sitting Commissioner from the original 1975 panel of the FEC, Mrs. Aikens is serving her fifth term. She was Chairman of the agency from May 1978 to May 1979, and again in 1986.

Prior to her first appointment, 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 Director of the National Federation of Republican Women; and has served as Alternate Delegate-At-Large to the 1972 Republican National Convention.

Incoming Vice Chairman Scott Thomas, a Democrat and native of Wyoming, was nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate in 1991 to his second term as a Commissioner. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Thomas served as Executive Assistant to FEC Commissioner Thomas E. Harris. He previously worked as an attorney and later as an Assistant General Counsel for Enforcement in the FEC's Office of General Counsel.

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 Aikens and Vice Chairman Thomas, are Lee Ann Elliott, Danny Lee McDonald, John Warren McGarry and Trevor Potter. Potter, who has been confirmed by the Senate, is scheduled to be sworn-in in January 1992, and will assume the seat currently held by Thomas Josefiak.

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