

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



Press Office  
999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463  
Phone: Local 202-219-4155 Toll Free 800-424-9530

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1992

CONTACT: FRED EILAND  
SHARON SNYDER  
SCOTT MOXLEY

## TO FULFILL MISSION, FEC SEEKS \$23.9 MILLION FY 1994 BUDGET - Enhancement of Enforcement Program Planned-

WASHINGTON -- To meet its statutory mission in all areas including public disclosure and enforcement, the Federal Election Commission is seeking a \$23.9 million budget for FY 1994.

This budget request, which was sent today to the Congress and to the Office of Management and Budget, is based primarily on the desire to have the necessary staff level to support the public disclosure and information, as well as enforcement and presidential public funding programs entrusted to the Commission.

"There is recent evidence of increased public distrust of the political process in general. It would be tragic to add to this trend by failing to fund adequately the agency most responsible for public disclosure of the campaign finance portion of the political process," FEC Chairman Joan Aikens wrote in the budget request.

This FY 1994 budget request for \$23.9 million calls for a full time Commission staff of 319. Currently (in FY 1992), the Commission's budget is \$18.8 million with 266 full time employees. Still under consideration, the FY 1993 budget request in agreement with the President seeks \$21 million and a full time staff of 276.

Dramatic growth in workload has occurred throughout the FEC, due in part, to the unprecedented turnover in congressional membership, mounting complexity of enforcement cases and the continual growth of financial activity of campaigns. The FEC estimates it will monitor more than 7,000 political committees who have raised and spent approximately \$2 billion for federal elections in the 1992 cycle.

This budget request demonstrates the Commission's commitment to revitalizing its enforcement program. Specifically, the FEC plans to add 16 new staff to the Office of General Counsel (OGC), where currently just 17 staff attorneys, five supervisors and five paralegal assistants are handling more than 200 cases and 1,825 respondents. To improve further the timeliness in the resolution of enforcement investigations, OGC is developing new prioritization and case management systems to focus resources on the more serious and egregious cases.

The FEC is responsible for public disclosure of campaign finance activity; providing information to the public, press and campaigns on the law; encouraging voluntarily compliance by political committees; and enforcing the statute through audits, investigations and litigation. The FEC also administers the public funding programs of the Presidential elections.

###

23730600339