

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



Press Office
999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463
Phone: Local 202-219-4155 Toll Free 800-424-9630

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DECEMBER 15, 1992

CONTACT: FRED EILAND
SHARON SNYDER
SCOTT HOKLEY

THOMAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION FOR 1993
-Potter to serve as Vice Chairman-

WASHINGTON -- Members of the Federal Election Commission have elected Scott E. Thomas as Chairman and Trevor Potter as Vice Chairman of the agency for 1993.

Mr. Thomas, a Democrat, replaces outgoing Chairman Joan D. Aikens, who will resume her normal duties as a Commissioner.

"I expect the new year to be extremely active for the Commission with a primary emphasis on improving the enforcement process," Mr. Thomas said.

A native of Wyoming, Mr. Thomas began serving his second term following renomination by President Bush and confirmation by the U.S. Senate in 1991. Mr. Thomas was originally nominated by President Reagan and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 1986. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Thomas served as Executive Assistant to former FEC Commissioner Thomas E. Harris and as Assistant General Counsel for Enforcement in the Commission's Office of General Counsel.

Mr. Thomas, who lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife Elena King, graduated in 1974 from Stanford University and received his J.D. Degree from Georgetown Law Center in 1977.

Newly elected Vice Chairman Trevor Potter, a Republican, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on November 22, 1991 to serve as a Member of the FEC.

"With a new Congress considering major campaign finance reform, the threatened collapse of the current presidential public funding system, the Commission's completion of a number of internal changes, and special attention to finally getting funding for sufficient staff to do the job, 1993 will be a critical year at the FEC."

"The entire government in Washington has a lot of work to do if we are to convince the American people that the political process follows the rules and conducts the public's business fairly and openly. I believe the Federal Election Commission will do its part in regaining the public's confidence."

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Potter was a partner in a Washington, D.C. law firm where for six years he practiced in the fields of campaign and election law and federal ethics regulation. During his years in private law practice, he advised U.S. Presidential campaigns and other federal committees and candidates on election-related questions.

Mr. Potter's previous experience in government includes serving as an Assistant General Counsel at the Federal Communications Commission from 1984-1985, and as a Department of Justice official from 1982-1984. A graduate of Harvard College and of the University of Virginia School of Law, Mr. Potter is currently a Vice Chairman of the American Bar Association's Election Law Committee, Administrative Law Section.

Created in 1975, the Federal Election Commission is the first independent federal agency established to administer the public financing program for Presidential elections, enforce limitations and prohibitions on contributions, and require candidates and committees to make public disclosure of their financial activities.

23760600511