

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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## FEC ANNOUNCES EFFECTIVE DATE FOR 'BEST EFFORTS' REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON – The Federal Election Commission's latest revisions to its "best efforts" regulations became effective on July 2, 1997. The rules were published in the Federal Register (p.2335) on April 30, 1997.

Originally revised in April of 1994, these regulations set up procedures to ensure that political committees use their best efforts to obtain and report required contributor information. The revisions were necessary due to the Commission's concern that some committees' reports showed a significant percentage of incomplete contributor information.

One of the 1994 regulatory provisions required political committees to place the following statement conspicuously on solicitation materials: "Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year." On February 20, 1996, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia affirmed all but that part of the "best efforts" regulations. According to the court, the required notice needed to be revised because the law does not require committees to report full contributor information for each donor; rather that they undertake "best efforts" to obtain it.

While the revised regulations no longer provide a specific statement that must be included in solicitation requests, all fundraising material by political committees must include a statement to the effect that federal law requires them to use their best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. The rules include two suggested statements that would meet this requirement.

Also, under current regulations, committee treasurers must report all contributor information not provided by the contributor, but in the political committee's possession. The regulations were modified to clarify that separate segregated funds must report contributor information in the possession of their connected organization.

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