



COMMISSIONER ELLEN L. WEINTRAUB
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

Statement of Commissioner Ellen L. Weintraub
On the Restoration of the Federal Election Commission's Quorum

June 18, 2020

It's good to be back in business. I welcome Trey Trainor to the Federal Election Commission and congratulate him on his election as chair of the Commission.

As we saw this morning at our open meeting, Chair Trainor is ready to hit the ground running. And that's fortunate, because we have a lot of ground to cover. Two hundred and forty-eight staff reports sit on commissioners' desks right now awaiting decisions from us.

But 248 is not the number to focus on. That includes many straightforward and uncontroversial items. We should be able to dramatically decrease that overall number in short order.

The key numbers are **71** and **25**. In 71 of those 248 items, the FEC's Office of General Counsel has recommended we move forward. The clock has been ticking on all of these items during our nearly nine-month-long hiatus. But we're now under real time pressure on 25 of those 71, where our ability to enforce the law is endangered by the five-year statute of limitations.

The Commission absolutely should move to dismiss insignificant cases, issue administrative fines, and approve Alternative Dispute Resolutions. But we should resist the temptation to pick only the low-hanging fruit in our backlog.

The real mark of our progress will be not how many insignificant matters we dismiss, but how many significant matters we address. It will be how efficiently we proceed, particularly on matters imperiled by the statute of limitations.

To succeed in this, we will need to set an aggressive schedule of meetings with well-chosen agendas. I will be keeping the public posted on our progress.