



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

**Remarks of Chair Ann M. Ravel at the
40th Anniversary of the Federal Election Commission**

Good morning, everyone. Thank you for being here to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Federal Election Commission. First and foremost, I want to recognize all the Commission staff and former staff members who are here today. Without your dedication, hard work, and persistence, the Commission would not be able to do the important task it has been charged with by Congress – to protect democracy by disclosing who is behind political messages and enforcing the law.

I am also pleased to recognize the former commissioners who have joined us today. Thank you Bob Lenhard, Trevor Potter, Brad Smith, Scott Thomas, and Hans von Spakovsky for being here – and for your service to the Commission.

The FEC was created forty years ago to address a crisis in public trust in government. Today, we are faced with another such crisis. Trust in government is near an all time low – in fact, polls show that it is below where it was after the Watergate scandals which rocked the nation. The Commission is more important now than it ever was, and it is important that we continue to do the work that is expected and deserved by the American people.

The Information Division has created an excellent interactive timeline of the Commission's history for this Anniversary. I encourage you to take some time to read it. I appreciate all the effort that went into making a historical record for this event. I would like to especially thank Jim Jones, Pat Phongsvirajati, Greg Scott and Dorothy Yeager for creating the timeline.

Around the corner there is a commemoration of the day that Lincoln was shot. Our commemoration is a much happier one in the history of this country – the people spoke up and said that they wanted change – and the result was the FEC. Thank you so much for being here.

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