



John Marsh
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To <feashays3@fec.gov>

cc

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Subject Comments Regarding Changes to 11 CFR Part 100

To Whom it May Concern,

Attached you will find a letter of comment regarding changes in 11 CFR 100; the Definition of Federal Election Activity

Sincerely,



John Marsh FEC letter.doc

November 7, 2009

Ms. Amy L. Rothstein
Assistant General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20463

Dear Ms. Rothstein,

I am writing in response to the proposed rules being considered under 11 CFR Part 100, the Definition of Federal Election Activity. While I believe that the proposed rules are in line with the decision of the *Shays III Appeal*, I am concerned about other forms of communication that could be used for voter registration and GOTV activity.

During the 2008 election cycle, that cycle was noted for the significant voter turnout and the massive increase in specific constituency groups. An example would be the large amount of college students that voted, and how they have not been as active in previous elections. For younger voters in particular, they are adept to using multiple forms of electronic communications. The preliminary definitions proposed by the FEC focus on more traditional aspects of communication, such as telephone calls and mass mailings. I do not believe that using terms such as “any other means” is not inclusive enough to cover the multiple methods of electronic communication used today.

I would recommend that the FEC should specifically list the most common types of electronic communication that is currently being used by both the campaigns for those seeking federal office, but also used by national party committees. This would include Web sites, e-mail, blogs, and podcasts. The simple fact remains that the use of electronic media allows those seeking office to communicate with large voter populations more effectively than proven traditional means.

Although the scope of activities will continue to evolve, and new ways of communication will develop, I feel that it is important that the FEC add these electronic means of communication specifically to the list of activities defined under voter registration and get-out-the-vote activity.

Thank you for your attention and time.

Sincerely,

John Marsh
Student, Master of Public Administration Program
University of La Verne