



LWVCO@aol.com on 04/08/2004 04:30:52 PM

To: politicalcommitteeestatus@fec.gov
cc: lorieyoung@4dv.net, maryjhess@copper.net, gerry.cummins@prodigy.net

Subject: Comments Concerning Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued 3-01-04

Please accept the following letter for public record. I have attached a file and will also copy the letter to this email message. A hard copy will follow.

Thank you.

April 8, 2004

Ms. Mai T. Dinh, Acting Assistant General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999E. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Ms. Dinh,

The League of Women Voters of Colorado wishes to submit comments concerning the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued by the commission on March 11. Please accept these comments for the public record.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado strongly urges the Federal Election Commission to limit Section 527 organizations from receiving and expending "soft money," the unregulated electoral monies from corporations, unions and wealthy individuals.

Section 527 groups are self-declared political organizations under the Internal Revenue Code. We ask that the FEC act to ensure that they are regulated as political organizations as there is a clear record of these organizations having received and spent "soft money" to support and oppose federal candidates. To exempt the 527 organizations would be a mistake, as it would permit a loophole by which those organizations could bypass the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act.

We also ask that 501 © organizations not be included in the rule making process as they are not political organizations and they are not self-declared political committees. There is not a clear public record of actions by 501 © organizations to elect or defeat federal candidates that would justify regulation at this time.

In Colorado, the League of Women Voters has actively worked on campaign finance reform for several years both in the legislature and at the ballot box. In 2002, the voters of Colorado approved a statewide campaign finance reform law. We have also supported the federal Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002. The League believes that strong campaign finance reform is necessary to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado urges the FEC to act promptly to regulate Section 527 organizations in order to protect the public interest.

Sincerely,

Lorie Young, President
League of Women Voters of Colorado

submitted by:
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- FEC Rulemaking Request letter.doc



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