

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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FEC SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS

WASHINGTON - OCTOBER 1 : The Federal Election Commission today asked for public comment on how to apply Federal candidate spending limits to various travel and fundraising activities of the President, other candidates, and political parties.

The Commission published numerous questions today in the Federal Register concerning expenditure allocation. Following a ten-day public comment period, the Commission will formulate and promulgate proposed regulations, which will in turn be published in the Federal Register for additional comment prior to being sent to Congress.

FEC Vice-Chairman Neil Staebler said, "Because of the new contribution and expenditure limits under the election law, problems arise as to when and to what extent various activities of a candidate or political committee must be attributed to an individual candidate's spending limit. There are also questions concerning how activities which benefit two or more candidates or groups should be apportioned. The law does not specify when or how these kinds of allocations should be made, and the Commission would like public comments and suggestions before preparing regulations and policy statements in this area," he said. Staebler is Chairman of a special FEC Task Force that has been considering expenditure allocation problems and which drew up the list of questions.

Other questions published today deal with how to allocate the following:

- 1) travel expenses of an incumbent Congressman above his government-funded limit. Are all trips above this allotment in a campaign year a "political expenditure"?
- 2) goods and services, such as a car bought for personal use, but which are also used for campaign purposes.
- 3) travel expenses for candidates campaigning on behalf of other candidates. Should such costs be charged to the appropriate limits of candidates, a portion to each candidate, or to neither candidate?
- 4) the costs of paid workers, headquarters and other goods and services provided by political parties to all candidates on the Party ticket.
- 5) consulting, polling, photographic, and recording services provided on a pooled basis by multicandidate and political party committees to two or more Federal candidates.
- 6) travel expenses of nationally prominent figures who campaign on behalf of candidates. Are such outlays contributions "in-kind"?
- 7) contributions to and expenditures from a candidate between primary and general elections.