

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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FEC ESTABLISHES PRIMARY MATCHING ELIGIBILITY FOR THREE CANDIDATES

WASHINGTON - DECEMBER 18 - The Federal Election Commission today officially established eligibility of three Presidential candidates for federal matching funds for the Presidential primaries.

The candidates are Lloyd Bentsen, President Ford, and Terry Sanford.

These are the candidates that have completed the three major steps in FEC interim procedures for certification: (1) meeting the "20-state requirement" of raising \$5,000 from individuals in 20 separate states in contributions of no more than \$250 per individual; (2) submitting in writing to the Commission that they will meet the requirements of the primary matching Act, such as record-keeping, submission to audits, and adherence to the spending limits; and (3) submitting to the FEC all matchable contributions received from January 1 to October 31, 1975, which will make up their first full-entitlement of matching money.

Next Tuesday, December 23, the Commission will certify to the Treasury Department the amounts of matching funds these candidates are entitled to.

Also on Tuesday, the Commission may officially establish eligibility of additional candidates for matching funds, and at the same time certify matching fund entitlements of these candidates to Treasury as well.

Under the law, the Commission must certify matching payments to the Treasury Department within 10 days after eligibility is established for the candidates.

The Commission staff has reported to the Commission that nine Presidential candidates have met the "20-state requirement". In addition to Bentsen, Ford, and Sanford, these candidates include: Jimmy Carter, Fred Harris, Henry Jackson, Ronald Reagan, Morris Udall, and George Wallace.

Three candidates under review by the Commission have not yet been determined by the Commission auditors to have met this initial 20-state "threshold" requirement: Birch Bash, Milton Shapp, and Sargent Shriver.