

NEWS FROM...

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FEC RULES ON MINOR PARTY LIMITATIONS AND REPORT REQUIREMENTS

WASHINGTON - JANUARY 15 - The petition effort of a minor political party to get its candidate on a ballot is equivalent to the primary and nominating convention process of major political parties, the Federal Election Commission said today.

In issuing Advisory Opinion (AO) # 1975-44, requested by the Socialist Workers Party National Campaign Committee, the Commission outlined the following guidelines to apply the contribution limits and reporting requirements of Federal campaign finance laws to minor parties:

primary contribution limits: the \$1,000 contribution limit to a candidate per election applies separately to a minor party ballot petition effort, just as it applies separately to a major party primary election. The petition process for a minor party candidate is considered to end as of the day when the last major party candidate is nominated for the election.

general election contribution limits: a separate \$1,000 per candidate contribution limit applies for the general election for minor party candidates, after the primary period.

pre-election reports: no separate pre-election reports are due by a minor party candidate seeking petitions to be listed on a ballot. Such a candidate must file a pre-election report before the general election, and is also subject to the same monthly report filing requirements that apply to other presidential candidates.

AO # 81 - Freedom of Choice, Inc: In another ballot access opinion, the Commission ruled that Freedom of Choice, Inc. must register and report as a political committee if it will spend or receive more than \$1,000 "for the purpose of assuring that an independent conservative alternative slate of electors will appear on the ballot in the 1976 Presidential election in every state in the United States." (Requested by Freedom of Choice, Inc.)

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