

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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TENNESSEE HOUSE CAMPAIGN FAILS TO FILE PRE-PRIMARY REPORT

WASHINGTON -- The Albert Gore, Jr. For Congress Committee in Tennessee has failed to meet the July 26th deadline for filing pre-primary campaign disclosure reports.

Provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act require that committees supporting candidates seeking U.S. House seats in the August 7 Tennessee primary election file reports 12 days before the election.

As of 5 p.m. August 1, the report from the Gore committee had not been filed.

The report was to include financial activity occurring from July 1 through July 18. If sent certified or registered mail, the report should have been postmarked by July 23. Otherwise, the due date was July 26.

Some individuals and their committees have no obligation to file reports under federal election law, even though their names may appear on state primary ballots. If an individual and his or her campaign committee raise or spend less than \$5,000, the individual is not considered a "candidate" and neither the individual nor the committee has to register.

The Commission notified the committees of all candidates participating in the primary of their potential filing requirements on July 2. Those committees which did not file on the due date were notified that their reports had not been received and that their names would be published for failure to file if they did not respond within 4 business days.

The Commission publishes only the names of those committees which have been designated by candidates as their principal campaign committees. Under Amendments to the Federal Election Campaign Act, effective January 8, 1980, candidates no longer are required to file personal reports of receipts and expenditures. All such information is reported by authorized committees of the candidates.

Other political committees supporting House candidates in primary elections (those which are not authorized units of a candidate's campaign) also are required to file pre-primary reports unless they report monthly. Those committee names are not published by the FEC.

Further Commission action against non-filers and late filers will be decided on a case-by-case basis, depending on the amount of financial activity involved, the percent of vote received and/or the lateness of the report. The election law gives the Commission broad authority to initiate enforcement actions, including civil court enforcement and the imposition of civil penalties (\$5,000 for "any violation" and \$10,000 for any "knowing and willfull" violation) for infractions of the law, including failure to file required disclosure reports.

The next report due for Tennessee candidate committees will be the third quarter report - on October 15. The report will cover activity from July 19 through September 30, 1980.