

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE CAMPAIGNS FAIL TO FILE PRE-PRIMARY REPORTS

WASHINGTON -- Two congressional campaigns have failed to meet the September 4 deadline for filing 12-day pre-primary reports of receipts and expenditures.

Provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act require that committees supporting candidates seeking U.S. House and Senate seats in the September 16 primary election in Massachusetts file a report of all financial activity 12 days prior to the election.

As of 5 p.m. September 11, reports from the following committees had not been filed:

Markey for Congress Committee.....Edward J. Markey/Democrat
Shaffer for Congress Committee.....Robert Blair Shaffer/Democrat

The report was to include financial activity occurring from July 17 through August 6. If sent certified or registered mail, the report should have been postmarked by September 1. Otherwise, the due date was September 4.

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 election of their potential filing requirements on August 11. 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 and Senate candidates in elections (those which are not authorized units of a candidate's campaign) also are required to file pre-primary and pre-runoff 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 Massachusetts candidates will be the third quarter report -- on October 15. The report will cover activity from August 28 through September 30, 1980.