

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 25, 1985

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## FEC SELECTS RHODE ISLAND FOR DATA ACCESS PROGRAM

WASHINGTON—Secretary of State Susan Farmer has been advised that Rhode Island has been selected by the Federal Election Commission as one of seven states to participate in a national program to test the sharing of its automated campaign finance disclosure data base with state elections offices. The Commission's efforts are to broaden public access to federal election finance information which is centralized in its Washington public disclosure facilities.

Mrs. Farmer has designated her Capitol office as site of the test. Computer terminal equipment has been installed and staff instruction is under way with the start-up date to be early May.

Test states follow basic disclosure procedures established by the FEC, but the Secretary of State's Office will set its own standards on public access to information.

Other states participating are California, Massachusetts, Colorado, Georgia, Washington, Illinois and Alabama.

Only the Federal Election Commission provides public access to all reports filed by Congressional and presidential candidates, political party committees, political action committees, those making independent expenditures and the communication costs of corporation and labor unions. Much of this information is captured by the Commission on a computerized data base.

Among computer data available to the pilot test offices will be: 1) An index which provides a cross reference to all records including receipts and disbursements relating to individual candidates; 2) An index which includes the name of each political committee, its FEC identification number, a list of each document filed, total gross receipts and disbursements; 3) An index which includes for each political committee its connected organization, a notation if it is "qualified" as a multicandidate committee, and all Federal candidates supported, together with aggregate contributions to or expenditures on behalf of or against each candidate.

Additional information through computer printouts and published reports will be made available to each of the test offices by the FEC.

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