

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

COMMISSION



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AIKENS ELECTED TO SERVE FEC AS CHAIRMAN FOR 1986

WASHINGTON--Pennsylvania native Joan D. Aikens today was elected Chairman of the Federal Election Commission for 1986, succeeding John Warren McGarry of Massachusetts.

Commissioner McGarry was named Vice-Chairman.

By statute, the Commission elects a Chairman and Vice-Chairman from its six members. Terms of office are for a calendar year. A member may serve as Chairman only once during his or her appointed, six-year term. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman may not be members of the same political party.

Mrs. Aikens, a Republican, is one of the original Commissioners and previously served as Chairman in 1978-79. Prior to her appointment in 1975, Commissioner Aikens was Vice-President of Lew Hodges Communications in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. She served as President of the Pennsylvania Council of Republican Women from 1972 to 1974 and also was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Republican Women. On June 15, 1983, President Reagan re-appointed Mrs. Aikens to her current term which expires in 1989.

A graduate of Ursinus College, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws from her Alma Mater in 1979.

Vice-Chairman-elect McGarry, a Democrat, is in his second term as Commissioner, having been re-appointed by President Reagan in 1983. He served as Commission Chairman in 1981 and 1985. Mr. McGarry is the former Special Counsel on Elections to the Committee on House Administration of the U.S. House of Representatives. From 1962 to 1972, he served as Chief Counsel of the Special House Committee to Investigate Campaign Expenditures. He also served as Assistant Attorney General in Massachusetts. A graduate of Holy Cross College and Georgetown University Law Center, Commissioner McGarry's term expires in 1989.