

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FEC NAMES AUSTIN TO ADVISORY PANEL

WASHINGTON--Michigan's Secretary of State, Richard H. Austin, has been appointed to the 16-member Advisory Panel of the Federal Election Commission's National Clearinghouse on Election Administration.

FEC Chairman Joan D. Aikens of Pennsylvania said, "As a member of our Advisory Panel, Secretary Austin will counsel the Commission on the best ways to use its resources to help improve the administration of elections throughout the Nation."

Members of the Advisory Panel are selected by the Commission from among local and state elections administrators and public officials throughout the United States. The Panel advises the Clearinghouse on Election Administration. The Clearinghouse is a statutory designed to assist state and local jurisdictions in improving the integrity and efficiency of the conduct of elections for federal offices. It sponsors research and provides information to election officials on a variety of problem areas including absentee voting procedures, voting equipment, voter registration procedures, ballot access and the computerization of elections.

Secretary Austin will participate in a two-day meeting of the Advisory Panel set for September 21-23 in Washington, D.C.

Prior to his election in 1971 as Michigan's Secretary of State, Mr. Austin was a partner in the accounting firm of Austin, Washington & Davenport. In 1941, he became Michigan's first black Certified Public Accountant.

With Mr. Austin's assistance, Michigan became the first state to combine driver licensing and voter registration. His other accomplishments include driver license renewal and license plate purchase by mail, driver improvement programs, and early identification and referral treatment for alcohol and drug abusers.

As Chairman of the Michigan State Safety Commission, the Secretary led the fight to retain the state's motorcycle helmet law and successfully headed a 14-year effort to enact safety belt legislation.

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