

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FEC TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF FY 1993 BUDGET

WASHINGTON -- Federal Election Commission Vice Chairman Scott E. Thomas today urged support of the agency's fiscal year 1993 budget during testimony before the House Committee On Appropriations' Sub-Committee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government. He said the request, which was included in the President's 1993 Fiscal Year Appropriation Request, will enable the FEC to meet its continuing obligations and to complete 1992 election cycle peak workloads.

Providing testimony in addition to Commissioner Thomas, who is chairman of the FEC's Budget Committee, were the Agency's Chairman Joan D. Aikens, Commissioner Trevor Potter, who is a member of the Budget Committee, Staff Director John C. Surina and General Counsel Lawrence M. Noble.

In his testimony, Commissioner Thomas said the \$21,031,000 budget request included the equivalent of 276 full time positions on an annual basis, \$345,000 to replace the Agency's outmoded microfilm processing and retrieval equipment and \$500,000 to purchase enhanced ADP technology and hardware for the Audit and Reports Analysis Divisions.

Thomas said the FEC's request "focuses on effective and timely prosecution of Commission enforcement actions in the face of ever more complex and controversial violations of the election laws; the added burden placed on the Commission's reports review, disclosure and informational services due to the implementation of new regulations and reporting requirements and increasing amounts of money and activity in federal elections; and timely audits of presidential campaigns that use public funds."

Making reference to recent studies showing a general sense of public misgiving about the political process, Commissioner Thomas said, "If citizen participation is a key factor in a successful democracy, then an informed citizenry is essential.

"The Commission is the agency charged with enforcing the fundamental rules of the campaign finance system and with disclosing the financial backing of candidates for federal office. Therefore it is imperative for the Federal Election Commission to receive adequate funding to meet these responsibilities, which should in turn help to increase public confidence in the political system."

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