

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS SOUGHT ON PERSONAL USE ISSUE

WASHINGTON -- The Federal Election Commission is seeking additional public comment on proposed new rules clarifying the prohibition on personal use of campaign funds by federal candidates.

The proposals would insert language into the present regulations to further define the parameters of personal use. For example, the new language would:

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*indicate that, generally, personal use would be any use of funds that confers a benefit on a candidate or a member of the candidate's family that is not related to the campaign or the ordinary and necessary duties of a holder of federal office, such as mortgage, rent and utility payments, certain vehicle expenses, household food items, clothing, tuition, and funeral expenses;

*indicate that the Commission will use the general definition to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether other uses of campaign funds are personal use, including those uses that would be "political" or "officially connected" expenses under House and Senate rules;

*indicate that certain travel and office costs would be considered ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the duties of a federal officeholder.

Comments are due in 45 days, on or before October 3. Comments must be in writing and should be addressed to: Ms. Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, 999 E St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463.

On May 19, the Commission considered draft final rules on this matter, but decided to reopen the issue for additional comment.

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MEDIA ADVISORY: The text of the notice seeking public comment on this matter, with supplementary information, can be found in the August 17 Federal Register.