

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



Press Office
999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463
Phone: 202-219-4155 Toll Free 800-424-9530

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Contact: Ron Harris
Sharon Snyder
Ian Stirton
Kelly Huff

FEC SEEKS COMMENTS, SETS HEARING ON PROPOSED RULE CONCERNING PARTIES' COORDINATED & INDEPENDENT SPENDING

WASHINGTON -- The Federal Election Commission has set May 30 as a public comment deadline and June 18 for a hearing on a proposed rulemaking regarding coordinated and independent expenditures on behalf of federal candidates by national, state, and local party committees.

The Commission is considering possible changes to regulations relating to the definition of "coordination," which would apply to party committees as well as other committees, corporations, labor organizations, and individuals.

The FEC proposal is intended to implement the Supreme Court's plurality opinion in *Colorado Republican Federal Campaign Committee v. Federal Election Commission* (1996). That decision concluded that political parties are capable of making independent expenditures on behalf of their candidates for federal office, and that it would violate the First Amendment to subject such independent expenditures to the limitations currently embodied in the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

Comments are sought by the Commission on alternatives and amendments to various areas of the present regulations, such as definitions of coordinated and independent expenditures and their application to federal candidates, including Presidential; the effects of this rulemaking on the role of public funding in Presidential elections; reporting requirements; and disclaimers.

Comments are due by May 30 and should be directed to Susan Propper, Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, 999 E St. NW, Washington, DC, 20463. The June 18 hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. at FEC headquarters. Details of the proposal were published May 5 in the Federal Register, pps 24367 - 24374.

Copies of the Federal Register notice are available from the FEC Press Office, and can be found at web site http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html. This news release and other FEC information are located at <http://www.fec.gov>.

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