



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D C 20463

SENSITIVE

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of

Zimmer 2000, et. al.

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MUR 5026

**STATEMENT OF REASONS
COMMISSIONER ELLEN L. WEINTRAUB**

The Commission does not often reach a finding of probable cause to believe that the law was violated. Most respondents conciliate before the Commission reaches that decision point. That we reached it here is an indication of the seriousness of the charges at issue. An organization, at the behest of individuals closely allied with a campaign, circulated spurious allegations that an opposing candidate had some connection to or sympathy with the KKK. This was dirty politics, pure and simple, and the Commission's investigation uncovered no mitigating facts. I believe this conduct was particularly egregious and ought to have been vigorously pursued. I advocated that we do so and regret that the agency was not able to accomplish that goal. That the Commission did not take this case further should not be construed as any form of exoneration for the respondents.

Ellen L. Weintraub
Commissioner Ellen L. Weintraub
November 2, 2005

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