



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

OFFICE OF THE CHAIR

### **Invitation to Attend a Public Forum on Women in Politics**

You are cordially invited by Ann M. Ravel, Federal Election Commission Chair, to a public forum on the challenges women face in the political arena. The purpose of the forum is to begin an open discussion with scholars, social scientists, political practitioners and the public to consider why, despite record-breaking numbers of women in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, women remain significantly under-represented in politics at all levels of government. To ensure a productive and wide-ranging discussion, we ask that all forum participants be ready to share their thoughts on this topic at the forum.

#### **Public Forum Schedule**

**Session 1, Defining the Problem: 9:00 am – 10:30 am:** Why are women under-represented in elected political office? What barriers do women face in political fundraising? How has the federal campaign finance system helped or hurt women seeking political office?

**Session 2, Crafting Solutions: 10:45 am – 12:15 pm:** How can we encourage women to seek elected political office? Are women-focused fundraising PACs the solution? How have other countries successfully fostered women's participation in the political process? What lessons can the United State learn from such programs?

The forum will be open to the public and press. The forum will be held in the FEC's ninth-floor hearing room, located at 999 E Street, NW, Washington D.C., on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 from 9:00 A.M. until 12:15 P.M. Those wishing to participate may do so either in person or online.

If you would like to attend the forum in person, or if you are unable to attend but would like to submit written comments, please email us at [CommissionerRavel@fec.gov](mailto:CommissionerRavel@fec.gov). If you would like to participate online, live audio and video will be available. Links to both feeds will be available at FEC.gov. The Forum's website is at <http://www.fec.gov/pages/forums/WomenInPoliticsForum.shtml> and will provide event updates, details about how to follow the event live through audio or video webinar, and how to submit questions and comments during the sessions. All are encouraged to submit comments and questions via Twitter, using the hashtag #FECWIP, or in the video webinar via chat box.

Please note that this meeting will focus solely on understanding the challenges facing women in politics. If the discussion raises issues that suggest the need to consider revisions to or adoption of Commission regulations or procedures, the Commission will address such issues through its standard, formal procedures.

Sincerely,

Ann M. Ravel, Chair, Federal Election Commission