



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
1050 FIRST STREET, N.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ALLEN J. DICKERSON REGARDING THE
COMMISSION'S 2024 LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Today, I join my colleagues in unanimously approving legislative recommendations to the Congress.

I write separately regarding one of those recommendations: that commissioners, the staff director, and the general counsel receive higher compensation. I agree with the principle behind that recommendation. The salaries for individuals compensated under the Executive Schedule have been frozen for a decade. Recent years of high inflation have badly eroded the compensation levels originally set by Congress. As a result, it has become markedly harder for the President to recruit commissioners and for the Commission to hire senior leadership.

Last year, I supported a recommendation that “Congress set the compensation level for FEC Commissioners at an amount that delinks it from the Executive Schedule Level.”¹ I believe that approach, which allows Congress to exercise its judgment concerning the Commission’s unique mission,² is superior to permanently linking Commissioner pay to Executive Schedule Level II. I cannot agree that FEC commissioners perform duties at the level of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Deputy Attorney General, secretaries of the military departments, or governors of the Federal Reserve System.³ Nevertheless, because I share my colleagues’ underlying concern, I join them in unanimously raising the issue for Congressional consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Allen J. Dickerson", written over a horizontal line.

Allen J. Dickerson
Commissioner

December 12, 2024

Date

¹ Fed. Election Comm’n at 4, “Legislative Recommendations 2023,” Dec. 14, 2023.

² See *Am. Fed’n of Labor and Cong. of Indus. Organizations v. Fed. Election Comm’n*, 333 F.3d 168, 170 (D.C. Cir. 2003) (“Unique among federal administrative agencies, the Federal Election Commission has as its sole purpose the regulation of core constitutionally protected activity—the behavior of individuals and groups only insofar as they act, speak, and associate for political purposes”) (punctuation altered for clarity, internal citation and quotation marks omitted).

³ 5 U.S.C. § 5313 (listing “positions” that “Level II of the Executive Schedule applies to”).