



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

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2018 DEC 13 AM 9:38

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

FROM: Caroline C. Hunter *CC Hunter*
Chair

DATE: December 13, 2018

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Amendment Request

AGENDA DOCUMENT NO. 18-56-A
AGENDA ITEM
For meeting of 12-13-18
SUBMITTED LATE

I have placed this item on the Open Session agenda for December 13, 2018, to discuss amending the Commission's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget request in light of the new requirements for Senate filers to file campaign finance disclosure reports with the Commission, rather than with the Secretary of the Senate, making Senate reports subject to the same electronic filing requirements as other committees.

As the Commission explained in its legislative recommendation in support of this change, data from electronically filed reports is received, processed and disseminated more easily and efficiently, resulting in better use of resources. The Commission estimates its savings from personnel and contract costs resulting from this change would be \$602,000 and the attached letter notifies OMB of these significant savings.

Attachment



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Washington, DC 20463

December 13, 2018

The Honorable John Michael Mulvaney
Director, Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

By this letter, the Federal Election Commission requests that the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) reduce the amount it plans to include for the Federal Election Commission in the President’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 by \$602,000. The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2019, was signed by the President on September 21, 2018. That Act amended the Federal Election Campaign Act and in doing so accomplished a long sought legislative objective of the FEC. The FEC is now the point of entry for all filings under the FECA, which for the first time makes committees supporting Senatorial candidates subject to mandatory electronic filing requirements.

The Commission issued legislative recommendations seeking electronic filing for Senate reports from 2002 through 2017. In the 2017 Legislative Recommendation, the Commission estimated its savings from this change would be \$898,000, which included two full time equivalents in staff expenses and additional funds for contractor support. Following the 2017 Legislative Recommendation, two positions affected by Senate electronic filing became vacant due to attrition. The Commission did not seek to fill those vacancies, so FY 2020 funds were not requested for those positions. In this way, the personnel savings were already reflected in the FEC’s FY 2020 funding request. The FEC used an average FTE cost of \$148,000 for FY 2020, and the remaining estimated savings related to reduced contractor support is \$602,000.

The Honorable John Michael Mulvaney

December 13, 2018

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The FEC is bringing this to your attention because the agency would like OMB to reduce the amount provided for the FEC in the President's Budget for FY 2020 by \$602,000, which is the current estimated savings to the FEC following enactment of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2019. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

On behalf of the Commission,

Caroline C. Hunter
Chair

cc: The Honorable James Lankford
Chairman, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Christopher A. Coons
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate

The Honorable J. Thomas Graves, Jr.
Chairman, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Michael B. Quigley
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives