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

AGENDA DOCUMENT NO. 24-50-A
AGENDA ITEM
For meeting of December 12, 2024

TO: The Commission
The Office of the Commission Secretary

FROM: Allen J. Dickerson *AD*
Commissioner

James E. "Trey" Trainor, III *TT*
Commissioner

DATE: December 4, 2024

RE: Proposed Revisions to Directives 10 (Rules of Procedure of the Federal Election Commission Pursuant to 2 USC 437c(e)) and 17 (Circulation Authority; Agenda Deadline Procedures).

The proposed revision to Directive 10 clarifies that at a meeting of the Commission, absent unanimous consent, any motion to postpone consideration of a matter to a date certain shall require a majority vote of at least three members of the Commission. The proposed revision to Directive 17 clarifies that any Commissioner may place any matter directly on an Executive Session agenda and sets forth the procedures for doing so.

We ask that this matter be placed on the Commission's agenda for the Open Meeting of December 12, 2024, and recommend that the Commission approve the revisions as set forth in the attachments to this memorandum.

Attachment A: Proposed Revision to Directive 10

Attachment B: Proposed Revision to Directive 17

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION		
MANUAL OF DIRECTIVES	COMMISSION DIRECTIVE	
	REVOKES:	NO. IO
	EFFECTIVE DATE: June 8, 1978 Amended December 20, 2007	
RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION PURSUANT TO 2 U.S.C. 437c(e)		

A. Meetings

The Commission shall meet at least once every month and also at the call of any Member, pursuant to U.S.C. 437c(d).

- I. For the purpose of these rules, the word Member means a Commissioner appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437c(a)(1).
2. For the purpose of these rules, the word meeting means the collegiate deliberation of at least four Members of the Commission pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437c(d).

B. Quorum

Four Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the consideration and resolution of matters that involve the exercise of its duties and powers under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 as amended and Chapters 95 and 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (the Act). If less than four Members of the Commission are present at any time during a Commission meeting, the Chairman shall declare a temporary recess until a quorum is again present at which time the meeting may resume.

C. Presiding Officer

1. The Chairman of the Commission shall be the presiding officer over meetings of the Commission.
2. He or she shall call meetings to order.

3. The Vice-Chairman shall act as presiding officer in the absence or disability of the Chairman or in the event of a vacancy in the office of Chairman. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Members of the Commission present shall select a presiding officer, to act during the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

D. Introduction of Business

1. Meetings of the Commission shall be called to order by the Chairman.
2. The Chairman shall ascertain the presence of a quorum before proceeding with the business of any meeting.
3. All business before the Commission shall be brought by the presiding officer.

E. Motions

1. Any motion shall be reduced to writing at the request of any Member of the Commission.
2. Any motion may be withdrawn or modified by the movant at any time before it is amended or voted upon.
3. Any principal or secondary motion that exercises a duty or power of the Commission under the Act shall require four votes for approval.
4. Any motion to adjourn or recess shall require a majority vote of at least three Members of the Commission for approval.
5. Any principal or secondary motion regarding a procedural matter shall require a majority vote of at least three Members of the Commission for approval.
6. For the purpose of these rules, a procedural motion is any matter not exercising the powers of the Commission under the Federal Election Campaign Act, as amended or Chapter 95 or 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, including but not limited to any motion to delay a vote on a matter to any subsequent meeting; or any motion requesting a status report; or directing further studies, information and reports from the

General Counsel, the Staff Director or any division thereof; or any motion to waive the timely submission requirement for circulation of material for the agenda of the Commission.

7. Motions to Consider

The introduction of a principal motion puts a matter before the Commission for deliberation. When any such matter is under debate the Chairman shall entertain no motion except:

- (a) A motion to adjourn.
- (b) A motion to recess.
- (c) A motion to call for the order of the day.
- (d) Motion to Reconsider. The effect of the adoption of a motion to reconsider is to place before the Commission again the question on which the vote to reconsider was taken in the exact position in which it was before the original vote. Four votes are necessary to adopt a motion to reconsider. It is in order for any such motion to be offered by a member who was on the prevailing side of the question when it was initially adopted.
- (e) A motion to lay a matter over. Any such motion shall require a majority vote of at least three members of the Commission; at least three votes will be required for any subsequent motion to take any such matter from the table. Any such motion shall be undebatable. Any such matter which is laid on the table pursuant to these rules shall be taken from the table pursuant to these rules at the next subsequent meeting or the matter dies. In order to table any agenda item which was placed on the agenda for a particular meeting by a Member of the Commission who is absent at that meeting a vote of a majority of at least three members of the Commission is required for approval. A motion to lay a matter over takes precedence over any motion to move the previous question.

- (f) A motion to postpone consideration of a matter to a date certain. Absent unanimous consent, any such motion shall require a majority vote of at least three members of the Commission.
- (g) A motion to move the previous question.
- (h) A motion in the nature of a substitute.
- (i) A motion to amend. Any motion to amend takes precedence over the motion that it proposes to amend but is subordinate to all other motions. The effect of the foregoing is that the adoption of any such motion to amend does not result in the adoption of the motion to be amended; instead, that motion remains pending in its modified form. Rejection of a motion to amend leaves the pending motion as it was before the amendment was offered.

F. Personal Privilege

Any Commissioner may as a matter of personal privilege obtain recognition to speak upon any subject matter which in his or her judgment may affect the Commission or the Commissioner.

G. General Consent

In cases where there appear to be no opposition, the Chairman may state that in the absence of objection, action shall be considered taken on a matter.

H. Members Subsequently Recorded as Voting

Whenever any Member of the Commission who was absent when a vote was taken subsequently requests consent to be recorded as having voted on the matter, he or she shall place the reason for his or her absence on the record. Any such request shall be in order only on the same day on which the vote was taken.

I. Points of Order

Points of order shall be debatable at the discretion of the chair. Any Member of the Commission may appeal any decision of the chair but for any such appeal to prevail it must receive a majority vote of at least three Members of the Commission.

J. Proxies

No vote by any Member of the Commission with respect to any matter may be cast by proxy; 2 U.S.C. 437c(c).

K. Miscellany

Any parliamentary situation or circumstance not addressed in these Rules shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised or if not covered therein by a decision of the Chairman. Any Member of the Commission may appeal any such decision of the Chair but for any such appeal to prevail it must receive a majority vote of at least three Members of the Commission.

L. Special Rules to apply only when the Commission has fewer than four Members

When the Commission has fewer than four Members, all of the foregoing provisions of this directive shall apply, except as follows:

- I. Notwithstanding section A.2 of this directive, the word "meeting" shall mean the collegiate deliberation of two or more Members.
2. Notwithstanding section B of this directive, all Members of the Commission must be present to constitute a quorum for the consideration or resolution of any matter. If any Member of the Commission is absent at any time during a Commission meeting, the Chairman shall automatically declare a temporary recess (notwithstanding the absence of a call for a quorum) until a quorum is again present at which time the meeting may resume.
3. When these special rules are in effect, the Commission may discuss any matter otherwise in order for discussion pursuant to the other provisions of this Directive. However, the Commission may not act on any matter except for the following:

Attachment A

- (a) Documents such as *Campaign Guides* and any other brochures or public education materials that may customarily be voted on by the Commission;
- (b) Notices of filing dates, including filing dates for special elections;
- (c) Any action otherwise requiring Commission approval with respect to FEC Conferences or invitations for public appearances;
- (d) Election of which Members shall serve as chairman and vice chairman solely for the period during which the Commission has fewer than four Members, provided that in each instance that there is a Member eligible to hold the position pursuant to the eligibility requirements of 2 U.S.C. § 437c(a)(5);
- (e) Appointment of an acting general counsel, an acting staff director, an acting chief financial officer or an acting inspector general, approval of temporary personnel actions at the GS-15 level and above, and approval of other personnel actions;
- (f) Budget estimates or requests for concurrent submission to the President and Congress, and other budget related matters requiring Commission approval;
- (g) Minutes of previous meetings;
- (h) Non-filer notices issued pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 438(a)(7);
- (i) Debt settlement plans pursuant to 11 C.F.R. Part 116;
- (j) Administrative terminations pursuant to 11 C.F.R. § 102.4 and Commission Directive 45;
- (k) Systems of Records Notices pursuant to the Privacy Act;
- (l) Policies, procedures and directives pursuant to the Privacy Act or Section 522 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005;
- (m) Agency head review of labor-management agreements;
- (n) Any other action where a statute imposes a duty of "agency head review" on the Commission;
- (o) Appeals under the Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts;
- (p) Sunshine Act recommendations for items on an agenda;

Attachment A

- (q) Contracts;
 - (r) The FEC Management Plan, pursuant to OMB Circular A-123 and the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act;
 - (s) Corrective action plans prepared in response to audits both financial and non-financial pursuant to FEC Directive 50 and/or the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act; or,
 - (t) EEO-related Federal Register notices.
4. Notwithstanding any provision of sections E, I or K of this directive, approval of any motion or appeal properly before the Commission under this section L shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the Members of the Commission. However, if such majority comprises exclusively the affirmative votes of Members affiliated with the same political party (or Members whose positions are aligned for the purpose of nomination by the President), then the motion or appeal shall be deemed not approved.
5. Section H of this directive shall not be operative during any period in which these special rules are in effect.

This Directive was adopted on _____
_____ (DATE)

~~The Commission adopted this Directive on _____~~

~~PATRINA M. CLARK
STAFF DIRECTOR~~

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION		
MANUAL OF DIRECTIVES	COMMISSION DIRECTIVE	
	REVOKES: Revision dated September 11, 2008	NO. 17 (Revised)
		EFFECTIVE DATE: May 6, 2021
Circulation Authority; Agenda Deadline Procedures		

The purpose of this Directive is to delegate authority to certain officers for circulating documents to the Commission, and to set out procedures to be followed when submitting material for Open and Closed Commission Meetings.

I. Authority to submit documents for circulation to the Commission

Subject to the authority of the Chairman to control the agenda of the Commission (see Directive 10), only documents routed through the Staff Director, the General Counsel, and/or the Chief Financial Officer, or their respective designees, will be circulated to the Commission. The Staff Director, the General Counsel and the Chief Financial Officer shall each have authority to submit directly to the Commission documents originating from their respective offices in the exercise of their respective authority, duties, and responsibilities, or in response to a request from the Commission, or a Commissioner.

The provisions of this Directive shall not apply to the Office of Inspector General.

1. Recommendations for personnel actions that **do not** have budget implications shall be routed through the Staff Director for approval and signature.
2. Recommendations for personnel actions that **do have** budget implications shall be routed through the Staff Director **and** the Chief Financial Officer for approval and signature.
3. Recommendations for budget actions shall be routed through the Chief Financial Officer for approval and signature.

4. Recommendations that concern the Commission's legal authority or liability shall be routed through the General Counsel for approval and signature.
5. Recommendations that may result in a policy change affecting agency operations shall be routed through the Staff Director, the General Counsel **and** the Chief Financial Officer for approval and signature.

II. Open Sessions

A. Documents Placed Directly On An Agenda

In order to be placed directly on the agenda for an Open Session, a document must be received in the Commission Secretary's Office by 4:00 p.m. one week in advance of the Open Session. Matters submitted after the close of the Open Session agenda deadline will be placed on the next Open Session agenda. However, any document that fails to reach the Commission Secretary by the appropriate deadline and requires the immediate action of the Commission may be submitted late by the originating office. The Commission shall vote as to whether to accept the late submission of documents. In lieu of placement on an Open Session agenda, such a late submission may be circulated by the originating office on a tally or no-objection basis.

If the Commission directs that an item be redrafted for the next open session, the redraft will be due in the Commission Secretary's office by 4:00 p.m. three business days before the meeting for which it is scheduled, unless the Commission extends the deadline.

An item will be placed directly on an open meeting agenda for discussion at the request of any Commissioner to the Chairman. The document should be submitted to the Commission Secretary by 4:00 p.m. Thursday of the week before the open meeting to be assigned an agenda document number and for circulation. If the document is submitted late, the Commission shall vote whether to accept the late submission.

B. Circulation of Open Session Documents

All Open Session documents (except for the agenda itself) will be circulated to the Commissioners' Offices by 4:00 p.m. the day after the Open Session agenda deadline.

All agenda documents for Open Sessions will be accessible from the website immediately after circulation to the Commissioners. The agenda for an Open Session will be circulated to the Commissioners' Offices by Noon, two business days before the Open Session.

C. Tally Vote Items

1. Certifications for public fund recommendations will be placed on an Open Session agenda if a Commissioner's objection is filed with the Commission Secretary prior to 4:00 p.m. the day before the Open Session. The lack of 4 approvals will also place such a matter on the Open Session agenda, subject to Part V.
2. A non-sensitive item that has been circulated to the Commission for a vote will be placed on the Open Session agenda if the Commission Secretary receives an objection by the close of business the day after the Open Session agenda deadline or there is an absence of 4 approvals, subject to Part V.

D. Comments on Open Session Documents

Should the Staff Director, the General Counsel or the Chief Financial Officer believe the proposed agenda is particularly lengthy or that preliminary staff comment would aid in a Commission discussion, then he or she shall so notify the Commission in writing with respect to a proposed agenda date at the time the request is circulated to the Commission.

III. Executive Sessions (Closed Sessions)

A. Documents Placed Directly On An Agenda

In order to be placed directly on the agenda for an Executive Session, a document must be received in the Commission Secretary's Office by 4:00 p.m. one full week in advance of the Executive Session. Matters submitted after the close of the Executive Session agenda deadline will be placed on the next Executive Session agenda. However, any document that fails to reach the Commission Secretary by the appropriate deadline and requires the immediate action of the Commission may be submitted late by the originating office. The Commission shall vote as to whether to accept the late submission of documents. In lieu of placement on an Executive Session agenda, such a late submission may be circulated by the originating office on

a tally or no-objection basis.

B. Circulation of Items Placed Directly On An Agenda

An item will be placed directly on an Executive Session agenda for discussion at the request of any Commissioner to the Chairman. The document should be submitted to the Commission Secretary by 4:00 p.m. one full week before the Executive Session (for example, the document should be submitted to the Commission Secretary by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday before a meeting that begins on the following Tuesday) to be assigned an agenda document number and for circulation. If the document is submitted late, the Commission shall vote whether to accept the late submission.

Documents submitted for direct placement on an Executive Session agenda shall be delivered to Commissioners' offices by 4:00 p.m. the day after the Executive Session agenda deadline.

C. Tally Vote Items

If a Commissioner objects in a "sensitive" matter that has been circulated to the Commission for a vote, that matter will be placed on the agenda for the next scheduled Executive Session after the voting deadline for that matter. Any sensitive matter that has been circulated to the Commission for a vote will also automatically be placed on the next Executive Session agenda in the absence of 4 approvals upon the voting deadline for that matter, subject to Part V.

D. Notification of Agenda Details; Circulation of Draft and Final Agendas

By 10:00 a.m. two business days before the Executive Session, the General Counsel, the Staff Director and the Chief Financial Officer shall notify the Commission Secretary electronically or in writing of the order in which matters originating in their respective offices should be considered on the agenda as well as the names of the staff members who will represent their respective offices on each matter. The Executive Session draft agenda will be circulated to the Commissioners' offices electronically by noon two business days before the Executive Session. The Executive Session final agenda will be circulated by 4:00 p.m. the day before the Executive Session.

IV. Withdrawal of Agenda Documents – Open and Executive Sessions

An agenda document may be withdrawn from the agenda at any time by written request by the originating office, upon the concurrence of the Chairman. All Commissioners, the Staff Director, the General Counsel, the Chief Financial Officer and the Commission Secretary will be quickly notified when a document is

Attachment B

withdrawn.

- V. If a tally vote matter receives fewer than four approvals and every Commissioner who does not cast an approval casts an “objection for the record” or recuses, the

Attachment B

Commission Secretary shall certify the tally vote pursuant to Directive 52 in lieu of placing the matter on a meeting agenda.

VI. Interpretation

Any interpretations of this policy that cannot be resolved between the Staff Director, the General Counsel and the Chief Financial Officer will be brought to the attention of the Chairman for resolution.

This Directive was adopted on ~~May 6, 2021.~~ _____

(DATE)

Signature:

David Palmer Digitally signed by David Palmer
Date: 2021.05.06 14:39:52 -0400

~~Alec Palmer~~
~~Staff Director~~