



SGcatalyst@aol.com on 04/07/2004 10:17:40 AM

To: politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov  
cc:

Subject: Please Submit to FEC Record as Punk Voter's Letter of Concern

Punkvoter.com

1313 Vermont Ave., NW Unit 8 Washington, DC 20005

April 5, 2004

Via e-mail: politicalcommitteestatus@fec.gov

Mai T. Dinh, Esq.

Acting Assistant General Counsel

Federal Election Commission

999 E Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20463

Re: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Political Committee Status

Dear Ms. Dinh:

These comments are submitted on behalf of Punkvoter.com in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

Punk Voter (punkvoter.com) is a coalition of punk bands, musicians and record labels, organized to educate and mobilize progressive voters. It is a nonprofit corporation, exempt from tax as a political organization under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code. Punk Voter aims to educate and energize the nation's youth about the political process, and inspire them to become involved in that process to change this society and shape the future of our nation.

Punk Voter has organized a series of "Rock Against Bush" concerts featuring top punk bands, including music critical of the policies of the Bush Administration. To date, 48 concerts have been scheduled in more than two dozen different cities, featuring nine different bands. Punk Voter also runs a web site, punkvoter.com, in which information about issues and events is made available to our members and to the public. The site also offers information for where young people can register to vote and encourages them to do so!

We see that the Republicans have joined a handful of so-called "reform" groups to try to change the rules—right in the middle of this election cycle—to shut down our organization and many, many others like it. Our "major purpose" is not electoral but neither is it neutral: we absolutely oppose the policies of the Bush Administration and we want to organize the youth to help challenge and change those policies.

At the same time, our work is carried out completely independently of any political party or candidate.

All of our contributions and spending are fully disclosed in detail to the IRS, under the rules applicable to section 527 organizations. There is no "secret" money being used by our organization.

It cannot be that the federal campaign finance laws are intended to regulate groups like ours. Yet, under the proposed rules, it is clear that, by "criticizing" a federal candidate, i.e., President Bush, we would somehow become, instantly, a federal "PAC" limited to accepting contributions of \$5,000/year from individuals. We would also be brought under all the regulations of your agency, which number hundreds of pages of the Code of Federal Regulations, all about restricting and choking free political expression.

It is not surprising at all that the Republicans are pushing these new rules, hand in hand with a small elite group of phony so-called "reformers." We all know what this exercise is about. It is not about campaign finance "reform." It has nothing to do with getting big money out of politics. It is about using the awesome power of the government to silence criticism...of the government.

This effort goes right along with all the efforts of the Bush Administration to silence their critics through harassment and intimidation....whether it is sliming Richard Clarke with lies, or threatening to refer to the Justice Department groups running ads critical of Bush.

This is not what America is supposed to be about. In energizing our youth to fight against the repressive policies of the Bush Administration, we will also take on and fight against the raw, cynical repression of your federal campaign "reform" laws and all of you at the Federal Election Commission that seek to snuff out dissent.

If you have any sense of principle, any sense of commitment to the U.S. Constitution that you are sworn to uphold, you will stop this absurd process of making rules to silence all forms of political expression and speech, right here, right now.

Thank you for your time and attention to our views.

Sincerely yours,

## Fat Mike (Burkett), Punk Voter



. PV Notice pg1.pdf



. PV Notice pg2.pdf



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Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fat Mike', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fat Mike (Burkett),  
Punk Voter