

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FEBRUARY 18, 1983

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## FEC ADVISORY PANEL SCHEDULED TO MEET MARCH 28 AND 29 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON — Problems associated with the administration of Federal elections will be discussed March 28 and 29 at a meeting in Washington of the Federal Election Commission's National Clearinghouse on Election Administration.

Comprised of state and local elections officials, the 17-member Advisory Panel defines problem areas and information needs with respect to the administration of Federal elections, and helps identify ways the Federal Election Commission can assist state and local elections officials in administering Federal elections. This year's meeting will be held at the Hotel Washington starting at 9 a.m., March 28.

FEC Chairman Danny Lee McDonald of Oklahoma said the two-day session will focus on three major areas: 1) a Voting System Standards Project mandated by Congress. Preliminary results of this study by the FEC points to a need to establish voluntary engineering, hardware, software, management and training standards and guidelines for all paper, lever, punchcard, optical-scan and electronic vote counting and recording systems now in use in the United States; 2) a discussion of a new cooperative working arrangement between the National Association of Secretaries of State and the Council on State Governments; and 3) two research projects approved recently by the FEC for updating a published compilation of state campaign finance laws, and preparation of an annotated bibliography of computer application of various election functions, such as polling place location, voter registration, ballot design and format, and vote-counting.

Also, the Advisory Panel will discuss the FEC's next series of regional conferences on campaign finance activities and election administration to start later this year.

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The March meeting will be the ninth since the Advisory Panel was created in 1975 to advise the FEC on the best ways to utilize its resources to help improve the administration of elections throughout the nation. The FEC is the only agency specifically charged by Congress with conducting research in the administration of elections.

All of the Advisory Panel's sessions will be open and the public is invited to participate both in the panel meetings and in the discussions that accompany them.

Members of the 17-member Advisory Panel are: Joaquin Avila, Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund, San Antonio, Texas; Allen J. Beermann, Nebraska Secretary of State; John Countryman, Illinois Election Board; Pat Crawford, Executive Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Gerald J. Ferwerda, Executive Secretary, Wisconsin State Elections Board; Joan Grove, Minnesota Secretary of State; Jean Marc Hamel, Chief Election Officer of Canada; William Huish, Provo County Clerk, Utah; Charles Kaniss, Supervisor of Elections, Pinellas County, Florida; Carolyn Kenton, Kentucky House of Representatives; Stanley T. Kusper, Jr., Cook County Clerk, Illinois; Leonard Panish, Registrar-Recorder, Los Angeles County, California; Ray Phelps, Director of Elections, Office of Oregon Secretary of State; Paul Riviere, Secretary of State, Arkansas; Lyall Schwarzkopf, City Clerk, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Jeffrey Teitz, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rhode Island General Assembly; Thomas Wallace, Director, New York State Board of Elections.