

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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MASSACHUSETTS CAMPAIGNS FAIL TO FILE PRE-PRIMARY REPORTS

WASHINGTON -- Massachusetts and Washington will be holding their primary elections next Tuesday, September 18, to select candidates for U.S. Senate and House seats.

Provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act require that committees supporting candidates in those races must file reports of their financial activity 12 days before the primaries.

As of 5 p.m. September 13, reports from the following committees had not been filed:

MASSACHUSETTS

House-07....Barrett Committee.....Michael J. Barrett.....Democrat
House-08....Committee to Elect Bob Cappucci....Robert M. Cappucci.....Democrat

The reports were to include financial activity occurring from July 1 through August 29. If sent certified or registered mail, the reports should have been postmarked by September 3. Otherwise, the due date was close-of-business September 6.

Some individuals and their committees have no obligation to file reports under federal election law, even though their names may appear on state primary ballots. If an individual and his or her campaign committee raise or spend less than \$5,000, the individual is not considered a "candidate" and neither the individual nor the committee has to register.

The Commission notified the committees of all candidates participating in the primary elections of their potential filing requirements on August 13. Those committees which did not file on the due date were notified on September 7 that their reports had not been received and that their names would be published for failure to file if they did not respond within 4 business days.

The Commission publishes only the names of those committees which have been designated by candidates as their principal campaign committees. Under Amendments to the Federal Election Campaign Act, effective January 8, 1980, candidates no longer are required to file personal reports of receipts and expenditures. All such information is reported by authorized committees of the candidates.

Other political committees supporting U.S. House and Senate candidates in elections (those which are not authorized units of a candidate's campaign) also are required to file pre-primary and pre-runoff reports unless they report monthly. Those committee names are not published by the FEC.

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Further Commission action against non-filers and late filers will be decided on a case-by-case basis. The Federal Election Campaign Act gives the Commission broad authority to initiate enforcement actions, including civil court enforcement and the imposition of civil penalties (\$5,000 for "any violation" and \$10,000 for any "knowing and willful" violation) for infractions of the law, including failure to file required disclosure reports.

The next report due for candidates from Massachusetts and Washington will be the October quarterly report, due October 15, covering activity from August 30 through September 30.