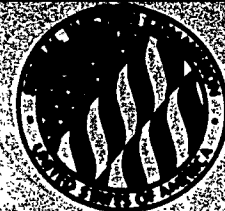


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HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARS FEC TESTIMONY ON FY 92 BUDGET REQUEST

WASHINGTON -- Federal Election Commission Vice Chairman Joan D. Aikens and Commissioner Scott Thomas testified today before the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government to request an \$18.8 million budget for FY 92.

The FEC and OMB have agreed on the request and Aikens stressed that the amount "represents the minimal level of funding necessary to enable the FEC to properly address the upcoming workload related to the 1992 congressional and presidential elections."

Vice Chairman Aikens cited four major areas of Commission concern as the focal points for the agency's budget:

- 1) the Commission's continued high performance in its certification and audit programs for 1992 presidential candidates and the national nominating conventions;
- 2) the increased demand on the Commission's disclosure operations, involving the processing of reports filed, in conjunction with projected increases in the levels and amounts of financial activity;
- 3) the additional workload to be faced by the Commission's public records, press and informational services because of new regulations and reporting requirements, and the projected increase in financial activity;
- 4) the need to continue effective and timely enforcement of the election laws in the face of high workloads and more complex cases.

Aikens cited the agency's goal to continue its successful administration of the presidential public funding programs and the fact that presidential election cycles require more Commission oversight as the basis for the FEC request. In addition, she noted the agency's desire to continue its very successful disclosure and information programs, including the computerized disclosure data base which is in great demand by the public, media, academia, and political community. The FEC also has asked for funds to begin replacing its outdated and failing processing and microfilm equipment.