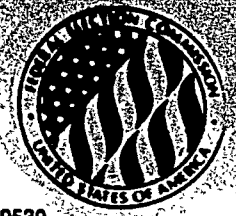


FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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FEC ASKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED CHANGES IN RULES DEFINING "MEMBER" AND "BEST EFFORTS"

WASHINGTON -- Public comments have been requested by the Federal Election Commission on two proposed rulemakings it has under consideration.

November 20 is the deadline for written comments on a FEC proposal to amend the definition of "member" of an association. A public hearing will be held December 9 in the Commission's hearing room.

Written comments also are being solicited on proposed changes in regulations requiring treasurers to make "best efforts" to obtain name, address, occupation and name of employer for those who contribute more than \$200 to federal political committees. These comments are due by close of business December 18.

Current regulations defining "member" were adopted in 1977. Since then the rule has been interpreted a number of times through FEC advisory opinions and by the U.S. Supreme Court. The proposed rulemaking is an effort to incorporate these interpretations of the Commission's regulations.

While the proposed new rule would retain portions of the present definition of "member", it proposes adding other requirements, including an individual's personal financial interest in an organization, or the right to vote for its officers or directors coupled with a required payment of dues on a regular basis.

As for the "best efforts" rulemaking, treasurers currently may satisfy disclosure requirements if the original solicitation includes a request for the required contributor information and notifies the contributor that the committee is required by law to report those details.

Among other proposals, the rule would require treasurers to make additional efforts to obtain this information, if not originally provided, and to report the information if known by the treasurer but not provided by the contributor.

Written comments on these rulemakings, and a request to appear at the public hearing on the "members" question, should be addressed to Ms. Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, 999 E Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463.

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