

# FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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## MCGARRY ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION -Aikens to serve as Vice Chairman-

WASHINGTON -- Members of the Federal Election Commission have elected John Warren McGarry as Chairman and Joan Aikens as Vice Chairman for 1997.

In December of each year, commissioners elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman to serve for the upcoming calendar year. The Federal Election Campaign Act requires that the Chairman and Vice Chairman be of different political parties, and states that a member may serve as Chairman only once during a six-year term of office.

Commissioner McGarry, a Democrat, has extensive experience in the federal election process. He succeeds outgoing Chairman Lee Ann Elliott, who will resume her duties as a Commissioner.

Chairman McGarry served as Chief Counsel for the United States House of Representatives' Special Committee to Investigate Campaign Expenditures, and as Special Counsel on Elections to the Committee on House Administration of the U.S. House of Representatives. Before his work with Congress, McGarry was in private law practice and later served as Assistant Attorney General of the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Commissioner McGarry graduated cum laude from Holy Cross College in Massachusetts. Following graduate work at Boston University, he earned a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown Law School in Washington, D.C.

Vice Chairman Aikens, a Republican, is the only sitting Commissioner to have served on the original panel of the FEC. Prior to her first appointment, Aikens was vice president of a Pennsylvania public relations firm. In addition, she served two terms as president of the Pennsylvania Council of Republican Women from 1972 to 1974; was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Republican Women;

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and served as alternate Delegate-At-Large to the 1972 Republican national convention. A precinct committeewoman for 15 years, Aikens was, at the time of her original appointment, a member of the Pennsylvania Republican State Committee.

Created in 1975, the Federal Election Commission is the first independent federal agency established to enforce limitations and prohibitions on contributions, require candidates and committees to make public disclosure of their financial activities, and to administer the public financing program for Presidential elections.

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