



Contents

- 1 Commission
- 2 Litigation
- 3 Regulations
- 3 Statistics
- 4 Outreach

Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Commissioners:
Ann M. Ravel, Chair
Matthew S. Petersen, Vice
Chairman
Lee E. Goodman
Caroline C. Hunter
Steven T. Walther
Ellen L. Weintraub

Staff Director:
Alec Palmer

General Counsel:
Vacant

The FEC Record is produced
by the Information Division,
Office of Communications.

Toll free 800-424-9530
Local 202-694-1100
Email info@fec.gov

Greg Scott, Director
Alex Knott, Sr. Writer/Editor
Dorothy Yeager, Production
Manager

Commission

[New Interactive Timeline Chronicles 40 Years of Commission History](#)



To mark the agency's 40th anniversary, the Commission has released [an interactive timeline](#) that highlights some of the landmark events in the agency's history. From the first Commissioners' oaths on April 14, 1975 to the latest major court decisions, the timeline offers brief descriptions of key events, supplemented by photos, videos and links to additional information, all in a simple, scrollable format. In addition to scrolling through the years, users may sort entries by topic, including: the Commission, disclosure, enforcement, legislation, litigation, outreach, public funding and regulations.

The agency unveiled the timeline at its recent 40th Anniversary Open House, held to recognize the service of current and former Commissioners and staff.

(Posted 04/24/2015; By: Alex Knott)

Litigation

Holmes v. FEC (District Court)

Plaintiffs Laura Holmes and Paul Jost claimed that the per-election limits on individual contributions to candidates violated their First and Fifth Amendment rights and asked the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to certify constitutional questions to the *en banc* Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. On April 20, 2015, the district court denied the plaintiffs' motion and awarded judgment to the Commission.

Background

The Federal Election Campaign Act (the Act) allows individuals to contribute "to any [federal] candidate and his authorized political committees with respect to any election for Federal office," with the individual contribution limits applying on a per-candidate, per-election basis. "Election" is defined to include, among other things, a general or primary election. See 52 U.S.C. §§ 30116(a)(1)(A) and 30101(1).

The plaintiffs, who are married, did not want to make contributions to their preferred candidates' primary election campaigns, but each wanted to combine their primary and general election contribution limits to make contributions of \$5,200 to their preferred candidates' general election campaigns. (At the time of the complaint, the per-candidate, per-election limit was \$2,600.)

Analysis and Court Decision

In their complaint, the plaintiffs claimed that the Act's per-election contribution limit violates the First and Fifth Amendments, as applied to them, by limiting the amounts they can contribute to the general election campaigns of their preferred candidates. According to the plaintiffs, "artificially bifurcating" a \$5,200 election cycle limit with separate limits for primary and general elections unconstitutionally burdens their First Amendment right of association and furthers no compelling anti-corruption governmental interest.

The court rejected these arguments citing, in part, the Supreme Court's decision in *Buckley v. Valeo* that upheld the limits on financial contributions to candidates. The court first rejected as a "false construct" the plaintiffs' description of the per-election structure as "bifurcated." "The FECA does not dictate a maximum contribution limit of \$5,200 that may be split between the primary and general elections, [rather, it] sets a per-election base limit of \$2,600: an individual may contribute \$2,600 to one candidate for each "election," as defined, in which [the candidate] participates." The court rejected the plaintiff's First Amendment claim, concluding that it raised a settled legal question and was a veiled attack on the contribution limits set by Congress and upheld by the Supreme Court. "By seeking to combine the permissible contribution amounts [and apply them to one election]... Plaintiffs are effectively challenging Congress's decision to set a base dollar limit for individual per-election contributions to federal candidates — a decision that is contemplated and approved by *Buckley*."

The plaintiffs also alleged that the per-election contribution limits unconstitutionally deprive them of their Fifth Amendment right to equal protection of the law by artificially favoring contributors to incumbent candidates who do not face substantial primary opposition. However, the court found the fact that candidates unopposed in the primaries

may be able to utilize more of their primary contributions for the general election results from the transfer rules under 11 CFR 110.3(c)(3) (which was not challenged by the plaintiffs) and was not a result of the Act.

The court declined to certify any constitutional questions to the *en banc* Court of Appeals and granted the FEC's Motion for Summary Judgment. The plaintiffs filed a Notice of Appeal on April 24, 2015.

(Posted 04/28/2015; By: Zainab Smith)

Resources:

- [Holmes v. FEC Opinion](#) [PDF; 44 pages]
- [Holmes v. FEC Litigation Page](#)

Regulations

[2015 Edition of 11 CFR Now Available](#)

Printed copies of the 2015 edition of Title 11 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) are now available. Contact the Commission's Information Division at (202) 694-1100 or (800) 424-9530 (press 6, when prompted) to order printed copies of the CFR at no charge. You may also email the Information Division to place an order at info@fec.gov.



Title 11 of the CFR is also available on the Commission's website at <http://www.fec.gov/law/cfr/cfr.shtml>.

(Posted 04/29/2015; By: Alex Knott)

Resources:

- [FEC Regulations](#)

Statistics

[FEC Summarizes 24-Month Campaign Activity of the 2013-2014 Election Cycle](#)

House and Senate candidates running in the 2013-2014 election cycle raised \$1.7 billion and spent \$1.6 billion between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2014.

The 1,445 candidates running for the House of Representatives in 2014 – including those running in the 11 special elections held during the 24-month period – reported combined total receipts of \$1 billion, disbursements of \$960.8 million, debts of \$71.9 million and cash-on-hand of \$210.2 million.

Meanwhile, 233 candidates running for Senate in 2014 – and in 2013-14 special elections – reported total receipts of \$635.4 million, disbursements of \$654.2 million, debts of \$23.3 million and cash-on-hand of \$33.1 million.

During the two-year cycle, national, state and local political party committees reported disbursements of \$1.2 billion and combined total receipts of \$1.2 billion in federal funds, debts of \$64 million, and cash-on-hand of \$38 million as of December 31, 2014. The 7,548 federal PACs registered with the FEC during 2013-14 reported total receipts of \$2.4 billion, disbursements of \$2.3 billion, debts of \$26.7 million, and combined cash-on-hand of \$477.8 million. Contributions by PACs to congressional candidates seeking office in the 2013-2014 election cycle totaled \$435.9 million as of December 31, 2014. Additionally, independent expenditures reported to the Commission in connection with congressional elections in the 2013-2014 election cycle totaled \$787.8 million.

Independent Expenditure-Only Political Committees accounted for \$339.4 million of all independent expenditures disclosed to the Commission. Committees with Non-Contribution Accounts reported \$2.6 million, and other PACs reported \$48.8 million. Independent expenditures made by persons other than political committees totaled \$168 million, and party committees reported independent expenditures totaling \$229 million.

Electioneering communication filings totaling \$7.3 million were reported to the Commission in connection with activity in the 2013-2014 election cycle.

Data summary tables for reports submitted to the Commission through December 31, 2014 are listed below for:

- [Congressional candidate committees](#);
- [Political party committees](#);
- [PACs](#); and
- [Independent expenditures and electioneering communications](#).

(Posted 04/09/2015; By: Alex Knott)

Resources:

- [FEC Press Release](#)
- [Campaign Finance Disclosure Portal](#)

Outreach

[2015 Combined Federal/State Disclosure and Election Directory Now Available](#)

The 2015 edition of the *Combined Federal/State Disclosure and Election Directory* is available on the Commission's website (www.fec.gov). This directory identifies the federal and state agencies responsible for the disclosure of campaign finances, lobbying, personal finances, public financing, candidates on the ballot, election results, spending on state initiatives and other financial filings.



The *Directory* is available at <http://www.fec.gov/pubrec/cfsdd/cfsded2015.pdf>. To order a printed copy, please contact the FEC's Public Disclosure Division at 800/424-9530 or 202/694-1120.

(Posted 04/06/2015; By: Dorothy Yeager)

Resources:

- [FEC Public Disclosure Division](#)

FEC to Host May 13 Webinar for Party Committees

The Commission will hold a one-day online seminar for political party committees on Wednesday, May 13, 2015. Commission staff will conduct several technical workshops on the federal campaign finance laws affecting party committees. Workshops are designed for those seeking an introduction to the basic provisions of the law as well as for those more experienced in campaign finance law.



Attendees can choose one of two options for the morning session, Basics and Best Practices or Recent Developments in the Law. The afternoon will feature a two-part workshop on Party Committee operations. Participants will be able to download electronic copies of the workshop materials in advance, and will receive additional instructions and technical information shortly before the event. For more information, and a detailed agenda, please visit: <http://www.fec.gov/info/conferences/2015/partyseminar.shtml>.

The cost to participate is \$80. Refunds (minus a \$20 registration fee) will be made for all cancellations received by Friday, May 8; no refund will be made for cancellations received after that date. Register online at: <http://www.cvent.com/d/crq1y6>. Please direct all questions about registration and fees to Sylvester Management Corporation (Phone: 1-800/246-7277; email: Rosalyn@sylvestermanagement.com). For other questions call the FEC's Information Division at 1-800/424-9530 (press 6), or send an email to Conferences@fec.gov.

Webinar Schedule:

May 13, 2015

Morning Sessions

- Option 1: Basics and Best Practices, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM EDT
- Option 2: Recent Developments in the Law, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM EDT

Afternoon Sessions

- Party Committee Operations Part 1, 1:15 - 2:45 PM EDT
- Party Committee Operations Part 2, 3:00 - 4:30 PM EDT

(Posted 04/08/2015; By Isaac Baker)

Resources:

- [FEC Educational Outreach Opportunities](#)

[FEC to Host June 3 Webinar for Candidate Committees](#)

The Commission will hold a one-day online seminar for federal candidates and their campaign committees on Wednesday, June 3, 2015. Commission staff will conduct several technical workshops on the federal campaign finance laws affecting candidate committees. Workshops are designed for those seeking an introduction to the basic provisions of the law as well as for those more experienced in campaign finance law.



Attendees can choose one of two options for the morning session, Basics and Best Practices or Recent Developments in the Law. The afternoon will feature a two-part workshop on Campaign Committee Operations. Participants will be able to download electronic copies of the workshop materials in advance, and will receive additional instructions and technical information shortly before the event. For more information, and a detailed agenda, please visit the Candidate Webinar web page: <http://www.fec.gov/info/conferences/2015/candidatewebinar.shtml>.

The cost to participate is \$80. Refunds (minus a \$20 registration fee) will be made for all cancellations received by Friday, May 29; no refund will be made for cancellations received after that date. Register online at: <http://www.cvent.com/d/6rqqqn>. Please direct all questions about registration and fees to Sylvester Management Corporation (Phone: 1-800/246-7277; email: Rosalyn@sylvestermanagement.com). For other questions call the FEC's Information Division at 1-800/424-9530 (press 6), or send an email to Conferences@fec.gov.

Webinar Schedule:

June 3, 2015

Morning Sessions

- Option 1: Basics and Best Practices, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM EDT
- Option 2: Recent Developments in the Law, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM EDT

Afternoon Sessions

- Candidate Committee Operations Part 1, 1:15 - 2:45 PM EDT
- Candidate Committee Operations Part 2, 3:00 - 4:30 PM EDT

(Posted 04/23//2015; By Isaac Baker)

Resources:

- [FEC Educational Outreach Opportunities](#)