

**AGENDA DOCUMENT NO. 16-42-A**



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

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**AGENDA ITEM**

For Meeting of 9-15-16

**SUBMITTED LATE**

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Commission  
FROM: Commissioner Caroline C. Hunter *CCH*  
SUBJECT: Promoting Voluntary Compliance  
DATE: September 14, 2016

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, provides the Federal Election Commission with the authority to encourage voluntary compliance with federal campaign finance law. 52 U.S.C. § 30107(a)(9). Attached for discussion is a brief list of basic compliance tips the agency should consider distributing through social media and other media outlets to complement our existing outreach efforts. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and I look forward to your input.

Thinking about supporting a federal candidate? The First Amendment protects political speech and spending, but you still need to know a few basic rules to avoid inadvertently violating the law:

- **Protect Our Elections From Foreign Influence.** Political spending by foreign nationals in U.S. elections — at any level of government — is against the law. Only U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, and green card holders may make contributions or spend money in connection with a federal, state, or local election.
- **Stay Within the Dollar Limits.** The most that an individual may contribute to a federal candidate's general election campaign is \$2,700, even if the individual is the candidate's fiancée, spouse, mother, or other family member.
- **Don't Give in the Name of Another.** Don't give money to someone else to make a contribution to your favored candidate.
- **Keep Your Political Ads Independent.** You may spend an unlimited amount on ads that support or oppose federal candidates if you do not coordinate on the ads with the candidates or campaigns that will benefit. But your ads might have to include certain information about who paid for them and be reported to the federal government.

Political committees must register and report with the Federal Election Commission. You can find information about the committees and other helpful tips on our website. Please contact us if you have any questions.

[www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov) | [info@fec.gov](mailto:info@fec.gov) | 1-800-424-9530