

MAKING AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

HIS REQUESTS FOR A FY 1997 SUPPLEMENTAL AND A FY 1998
BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION (FEC), PURSUANT TO 31 U.S.C. 1107



APRIL 8, 1997.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered
to be printed

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, DC, April 7, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed requests for a FY 1997 supplemental and a FY 1997 budget amendment for the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

The FEC is charged with guarding the integrity of our election process. I have sought to strengthen this important agency; its budget has increased from \$21 million per year in 1993 to \$28 million per year today. But the agency plainly lacks the resources it needs to keep pace with the rapidly rising volume of campaign spending and electoral activities. In fact, over the past 2 years, the Congress has appropriated for the FEC substantially less than I requested.

Today, commissioners of both parties have testified that the FEC is overworked, underfunded, and unable to address the many issues raised in recent elections. Campaign spending by candidates, soft money expenditures by parties, independent expenditures, and issue advocacy expenditures have exploded. As part of a bipartisan effort to restore the public trust in the way we finance elections to the Congress and the Presidency, I urge you to provide these additional funds for the FEC.

In addition, I urge the Congress to enact legislation that would strengthen the FEC as part of comprehensive campaign finance reform. The bipartisan campaign finance reform legislation introduced by Representatives Chris Shays and Marty Meehan and Senators John McCain and Russell Feingold includes several critical steps to strengthen the FEC, strengthening the agency's ability to stop improper practices and allowing random audits of campaigns.

The details of my budget requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

Estimate No. 6
105th Congress, 1st Session



THE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

April 7, 1997

The President

The White House

Submitted for your consideration are requests for an FY 1997 supplemental appropriation and an FY 1998 budget amendment for the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

I have carefully reviewed these proposals, which total \$6,625,000, and am satisfied that they are necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission in recommending that these proposals be transmitted to the Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. D. Raines".

Franklin D. Raines
Director

Enclosures

FY 1997 Supplemental Request

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Salaries and Expenses

For an additional amount to carry out the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, \$1,709,000.

This proposal would provide \$1,709,000 to the Federal Election Commission for start-up costs associated with investigations and audits pursuant to the Federal Election Campaign Act. This proposal would increase FY 1997 outlays by \$1,564,000.

Agency:	FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Heading:	Salaries and Expenses
FY 1998 Budget Appendix Page:	1046
FY 1998 Pending Request:	\$29,300,000
Proposed Amendment:	\$4,916,000
Revised Request:	\$34,216,000

This amendment would increase the pending appropriations request for the Federal Election Commission by \$4,916,000. The additional resources are necessary to perform investigations and audits pursuant to the Federal Election Campaign Act. This proposal would increase FY 1998 outlays by \$4,643,000.