

Recent Activity

Update on North American Election Bodies

www.fec.gov



UNITED STATES FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION (FEC)

■ Election Administration Improvement

The Commission called a meeting of its Advisory Panel (20 State-and-local election officials) to explore further action the FEC might take to improve election administration in the U.S. Participants included voting-rights authorities, members of six national election-reform task forces (representing election officials, legislators, and others), and voting-technology experts. The group discussed problems that occurred in the 2000 election involving access to the polls, election equipment, voter registration, absentee balloting, and contested elections and recounts.

■ Legislative Recommendations

The FEC submitted to Congress and the President two priority legislative recommendations; one to clarify the Commission's election-administration responsibilities and another to extend the period for the Commission's Administrative Fine Program for reporting violations, which is scheduled to end December 2001. The Commission also submitted an FY2001 supplemental budget-request to enhance the programs of its Office of Election Administration. Shortly thereafter, the Commission offered 32 other recommendations addressing a variety of issues relating to the administration and enforcement of federal campaign-finance laws. Full text of the legislative recommendations can be found at www.fec.gov by clicking on Campaign Finance Law Resources and then on Legal Documents.

www.iimc.com



THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS (IIMC)

IIMC is engaging the U.S. election issues on three fronts. First, IIMC's annual, educational conference from May 21 - 25 in Kansas City, Missouri, will feature a panel discussion on U.S. elections. Dan L. McDonald, Chairman of the U.S. Federal Election Commission, and election expert Richard G. Smolka will participate on this panel. In addition, the Conference will have discussions on democratic development and municipal

operations and will hold an International Forum where members from various organizations will discuss trends in municipalities worldwide.

Secondly, IIMC President, Susan Lamblack, and other IIMC members have participated on various task forces of the U.S. Congress and of various associations recommending new election procedures and resources to local governments. In addition, several IIMC members from other countries have participated in providing technical assistance on issues relating to emerging democracies in elections and records management.

Finally, in mid-June, IIMC will have available a guide to Election Management, including a two-page flow-chart about how to conduct elections, pros and cons of alternative election technologies, and performance indicators for managers involved in administering elections.

For further information about IIMC's Conference or the forthcoming guide to Elections you may e-mail your request to Dr. Maurice Bisheff at mb@iimc.com or fax to (909) 592-1555.

www.ife.org.mx



MEXICAN FEDERAL ELECTION INSTITUTE (IFE)

■ Technical Assistance to Peruvian Electoral Authorities

In April, IFE participated in a Technical Assistance Mission to Peru, in preparation for the country's General Elections on April 8. The United Nations coordinated this mission. Election experts from Mexico worked on electoral-management issues, whereas representatives from other countries provided support in coordinating electronic communication on Election Day. IFE has been assisting Peru in its election process from December 2000.

■ Trilateral Meeting: IFES, Elections Canada, and IFE

On February 1, IFE hosted the "Trilateral Meeting to Coordinate International Actions" with IFES and Elections Canada. The three partners charted potential follow-up activities based on a common agenda discussed during the meeting.

■ Technical Diagnostic Mission to Nicaragua

In preparation for Nicaragua's General Election on November 4, an officer from IFE joined the Technical Diagnostic to the Supreme Electoral Council to work on electoral management in Nicaragua. This task is coordinated by the Center for Electoral Assistance and Promotion of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH/CAPEL).

■ Presentation of Handbook on Electoral-System Design

On April 5, the Electoral Tribunal of the Federation's Judiciary Branch (TEPJF), The Institute for Development of Educational Activities, Inc. (IDEA) and IFE presented the Spanish version of "The International IDEA handbook of Electoral System Design."