

REPORTS

UPDATE ON NORTH AMERICAN ELECTION BODIES

ELECTIONS CANADA (EC)

On June 5, 2001, the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, Jean-Pierre Kingsley, presented testimony at a public hearing sponsored by the U.S. National Commission on Federal Election Reform in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He spoke about election administration in Canada, including ballot design, absentee ballots, voter registration, and the counting of ballots. The Chief Electoral Officer is independent, answers directly to Parliament, and actually runs federal elections and referendums centrally. The full transcript of his appearance is available at www.reformelections.org.

In early June, the Chief Electoral Officer and other Elections Canada officials participated in the International Seminar on Money and Politics in Mexico City, June 2001. For the full transcript of his speech, please visit the "What's New" section at www.elections.ca.

Elections Canada is now preparing to assist independent electoral boundaries commissions with the next redistricting of federal electoral district boundaries. Background information on this process is available in the "General Information" section at www.election.ca.

UNITED STATES FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION (FEC)



- **Voting Systems Standards:** The FEC is seeking comment on the revised performance standards for voting systems. The FEC established the first standards in 1990 to help states identify computer-based systems that count votes accurately and securely. Independent test authorities use the standards to evaluate voting equipment under the direction of the National Association of State Election Directors. States and local jurisdictions may voluntarily use the resulting test reports when procuring voting systems. The performance and test standards are being revised to address changing technology in the voting process, systems development, security, and testing. The FEC has requested funds to develop associated management guidelines for election officials.
- **Voter Registration:** The FEC reported to Congress that voter registration in states covered by the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) rose slightly in 2000 to 73.8% of the Voting Age Population. More than half of the states, however, reported problems during 1999-2000 with agencies that are required to offer voter registration and forward completed applications to election authorities. The FEC report included seven recommendations to address this and other reported challenges in the administration of voter registration and voting.
www.fec.gov



52 political organizations hope to become official political parties that could participate in the 2003 Federal Legislative Election. According to the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures, any group interested in registering as a political party must have informed IFE of its intent by July 31, 2001.

By January 2002, applicants must perform the following activities to meet the conditions of registration as a political party:

- Hold at least 100 assemblies in electoral districts (each one with a minimum participation of 300 people affiliated to the organization), or of 10 assemblies in states of the Mexican Republic (with a minimum participation of 3,000 people affiliated to the organization).
- Participate in the Constituent National Assembly with certification from IFE (for elected delegates in the districts or state assemblies).
- Approve in the Constituent National Assembly the three basic documents of the organization: declaration of principles, program of action, and statutes.
- Amass a minimum of 77,460 potential party members who are enrolled in the electoral register (13% of electoral roll).

From February to June 2002, a commission of the Institute's General Council and the Executive Direction of Prerogatives and Political Parties will review each name affiliated with the various organizations. This process will certify that the potential political parties have properly identified party members who are listed in the electoral register.

www.ife.org.mx



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS (IIMC)

IIMC will be attending the August 2001 Election Summit sponsored by the U.S. Secretaries of State in Little Rock, Arkansas. The one and a half day summit brings together election administrators and non-governmental organizations interested in providing better access to all in the voting process. Although election and advocacy groups have been meeting separately regarding election reform, this elections summit is designed to come up with a written resolution on this issue. The report will be sent to the United States Congress.

IIMC is also in the planning stages of its next annual educational conference for Municipal Clerks and Administrators to be held May 19-23, 2002 in San Antonio, Texas. The theme is "Partners in Democracy." A global track is being planned concurrently. For more information, contact our Headquarters at hq@iimc.com or (909) 592-4462.

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