

Recent Activity

Update on North American Election Bodies

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UNITED STATES FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION (FEC)

■ Website Activity

The FEC recently added new website capability providing summary statistical information on federal campaigns. Political committees were able to submit last-minute contribution information on-line via the FEC website from October 19 to November 5. The agency promulgated new rules for mandatory electronic reporting, starting January 2001, that will post 96-98 percent of financial activity to the website almost immediately.

■ New Law

Numerous tax-exempt organizations that had never disclosed their political activity were required to begin reporting contributions and expenditures to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. The FEC's August *Record* summarized these new requirements.

■ New Enforcement Option

The FEC began a voluntary Alternative Dispute Resolution program to resolve some cases of federal campaign finance law violations more expeditiously. Negotiations are oriented toward reaching a resolution that satisfies both the respondents and the FEC. The case proceeds to formal mediation if negotiations fail.

■ Internet Voting

FEC staff met with State Election Directors, voting system vendors, and technical consultants to consider approaches to developing national technical standards and test criteria for Internet voting systems. FEC personnel also participated in a national workshop on Internet voting that explored related technical, administrative, and legal issues.

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■ Electoral Observation

IFE staff members have observed several elections in recent months, including: Venezuela on July 29; Paraguay on August 13; Colombia on October 29; Puerto Rico on November 5; and the U.S. on November 7.

■ Technical Assistance

At the invitation of International IDEA, IFE participated in a technical assistance mission to the Guatemalan Congress' Electoral Commission from August 17-19.

■ International Forums

IFE representatives attended the IFES' International Advisory Council meeting on September 11-12. On October 11-13, an IFE delegation attended "*Encounter for the Creation of CIVITAS of the Americas*" in Panama.

■ International Cooperation

The ACE Project partners met from October 9-12 to examine the initiatives and budget for 2001. IFE reported on the progress of the Spanish translation of the project. From October 16-23 IFE's President Councilor will travel to the Russian Federation at the invitation of the Central Electoral Commission.