

Money in Federal Elections in the United States



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Chairman

Federal Election Commission

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Federal Election Commission

- Federal Election Commission regulates money raised and spent by Federal candidates, political parties, and political committees
 - Oversaw \$4 billion in spending and \$4.1 billion in receipts
 - 8,000 political committees
 - Processed over 95,000 reports in 2005-06 cycle
 - Staff of 370 and annual budget of \$54.5 million
- States regulate state level activity



Three Essential Functions

- Disclosure
- Civil Enforcement
- Interpretation of the Law



Disclosure

- Speed - Reports available on-line within 24 hours
- Accuracy – Computer and human review
- Ease of Use – Searchable database
- Open Access – Download & Press



Enforcement

- Reporting Violations
 - Late Filing, Failure to File, Incorrect Reporting
- Enforcement of core violations
 - Prohibited and excessive contributions
 - Knowing and willful violations