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07/21/2009 03:29 PM

To <improvefecinternet@fec.gov>

cc

Subject FEC web site comments

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for soliciting comments on your web site. We appreciate the continual efforts of the Commission and its staff to make information easily available to the interested public.

We do not have comprehensive comments on the site, but have noted a few small points during recent experience that we submit for your consideration.

- When searching for all reports filed by a committee using the "view images of all financial reports" section, the results display in reverse chronological order by year, but chronologically within years. In other words, if you run your eye down the page, a report covering the beginning of Jan. 2007 will be listed immediately after one covering December 2008. This presentation makes it difficult to scan a listing and determine if all reports have been filed, whether they have been filed on time, and if there have been problems with timely filing whether the trend is towards improvement or not.

- Links from the home page organize materials on a relatively intuitive basis. However, if one is searching for information on reports filed by a committee, the first three links under "Campaign Finance Reports and Data" are not easy to distinguish. My use is generally to try to pull up an actual report in its entirety. The first link that allows me to search the database sounds helpful, but it only allows extraction of specific information from that database. Re-naming these links, and maybe providing more explanation with each about what they provide, would be helpful.

- The AO search function is not very satisfactory. Most people I talk to just use google to search the site when trying to find AOs. Further improving the on-site search should be a priority. For instance, add a feature where one can search by the section of the statute or regulations addressed by an AO.

- Many of the publications are available in both PDF and HTML format, except for the Campaign Guides. Because things change quickly, the Campaign Guides must always be read in conjunction with the supplements, which are also PDFs. It would be helpful if the Campaign Guides could be offered in HTML format with revisions made directly to the affected sections as changes occur. This would

eliminate the need to have to check two sources every time a guide is used and potentially lead to improved compliance.

- As a simple navigational aid, repeating the key links on the toolbar to the left that is on the home page would make it easier to get around the site without having to return home before finding a different section.

- An improved FAQ would also be helpful. Include FAQs about the site. To take a random example, the answer to "How can I find out who contributed to my Representative or Senator?" tells the use to look on the web site of call the Public Records Office. If someone is already on the site, it would be better to direct them to the various search functions available and explain that they can run a search on database information to identify specific donors, or pull up entire reports filed by a campaign.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide comments, and for undertaking this process.

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