

November 24, 2003

The Honorable Joshua B. Bolten
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Bolten:

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) herewith transmits its FY 2005 Budget Request of \$52,742,000 and 391 FTE. Pursuant to provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA), this budget request is submitted concurrently to the OMB and Congress.

This FEC FY 2005 Budget Request represents a continuation of the FY 2004 funding levels, as adjusted for inflation and salary and benefit increases, and contains neither new initiatives nor any programmatic increases. It is a current services level request that represents a 4.56% increase over our expected FY 2004 appropriation of \$50,440,000 for 391 FTE.

Virtually all of this increase is to cover the costs of the 391 FTE based on projected government-wide pay increases and increases in benefits costs. Non-personnel costs in the FY 2005 request increase .02% from FY 2004.

The FEC request provides sufficient resources to support FEC programs and implementation of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA). BCRA represented the first major amendments to the FECA since 1980. As our budget justification notes, the FEC met the challenge of very strict deadlines in FY 2002 and 2003 to complete rulemaking required by the BCRA and to prepare legal briefs to respond to BCRA court challenges.

Regardless of the Supreme Court decision, the Commission anticipates significant work will be required to complete further rulemakings resulting from the decision. The FY 2005 request provides the staff and support resources necessary to make the final adjustments to FEC programs necessitated by the BCRA and related legal rulings.

The Commission also transmits its revised FY 2004-2008 Information Technology Strategic Plan and an Enforcement Profile of the FEC compliance programs, as of September 30, 2003.

The Commission strongly urges the full support of our FY 2005 budget request. This modest current services level request will permit the FEC to continue its efforts to successfully implement and enforce the FECA and continue to make improvements to our disclosure and compliance programs.

Sincerely,

Ellen L. Weintraub
Chair

Enclosure