

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of the United States, I request the opportunity to testify at the upcoming Federal Election Commission (FEC) hearing on this rulemaking and the steps the agency should take to address corruption in the political process.?

Comments provided by :
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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE UNITED STATES

January 15, 2015

President
Elisabeth MacNamara
Atlanta, Georgia

Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Vice President
Toni Larson
Denver, Colorado

REG 2014-01

Secretary
Karen Nicholson
Midland Texas

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of the United States, I request the opportunity to testify at the upcoming Federal Election Commission (FEC) hearing on this rulemaking and the steps the agency should take “to address corruption in the political process.”

Treasurer
Patricia Donath

Directors

Peggy Appler
Charleston, South Carolina

The 2014 election was the most expensive mid-term election in our history. Super PACs raised and spent more than \$600 million dollars in 2014 to elect candidates who will do their bidding and defeat those who might resist. They were able to do so because they are supposedly "independent" from the candidates, but in reality, there are many ways to coordinate that are not blocked by the FEC's weak regulations. In addition, millions of dollars of secret money from dark money groups poured into the political system seeking to buy our elected officials and distort our elections.

Chris Carson
Burbank, California

Connie Ferguson
Kalamazoo, Michigan

The League of Women Voters urges you to shine a light on secret money and stop coordinated expenditures by outside groups. As the federal agency in charge of our nation’s campaign finance laws, the FEC has the authority, under existing law, to set disclosure rules and rigorously define “coordination,” but thus far the agency has refused to do so. We urge you to do your duty and enforce the law.

Rosalee Keech
Montville, New Jersey

Anita Loch
Whitewater, Wisconsin

The American voter has a right to know who is funding political campaigns. And the American public has a right to have the law against unlimited coordinated expenditures strictly enforced.

Anne B. Schink
South Portland, Maine

Fair and clean elections, determined by the votes of American citizens, should be at the center of our democracy – not big money from secret sources. As long as dark money groups hide their funders and outside special interest groups can spend unlimited amounts behind the mask of “independent” spending, our democratic principles are at risk.

Linda P. Wassenich
Dallas, Texas

Barbara Zia
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

Executive Director
Nancy E. Tate

Submitted by,

Elisabeth MacNamara
President
League of Women Voters of the United States