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How Decision Affects Federal Election Law

Washington

Following are the provisions of the federal election law, as it stood before and as it now stands after the Supreme Court decision yesterday:

BEFORE

AFTER

Contributions

Individuals limited to \$1000 per election per candidate and \$25,000 total in all elections per year. Political committees and organizations limited to \$5000 per candidate per election.

No change.

Campaign Expenditures

Presidential primaries, \$10.9 million per candidate. Presidential general election, \$21.8 million. Population-based limitations for Senate races. House races, \$76,000.

No limit on spending where private contributions are used. Presidential candidates accepting federal money are still bound to limits of \$10.9 million in primary and \$21.8 million in general election.

Independent Expenditures

Individuals limited to \$1000 per year for political campaign expenditures made independently of candidate's committee without consultation.

No limit on individual spending in political campaign if expenditures are made independently of candidate's committee without consultation. Such expenditures made in collusion or consultation with campaign committee are subject to being redefined as contributions and subject to limitations listed under contributions.

Federal Money

Funds provided for presidential primary candidates up to \$5.45 million per candidate, based on dollar-for-dollar match of private contributions of \$250 or less. \$21.8 million provided for major party presidential candidates provided no private contributions are spent in campaign. Up to \$2.18 million provided to each major party for its national convention.

No change, including limitations on expenditures where federal money is accepted.

Disclosure

Candidates required to report periodically campaign contributions and expenditures in detail.

No change.

Enforcement

Vested in Federal Election Commission, whose six voting members are appointed, two each by Speaker of House, president pro tem of Senate and President, all subject to confirmation by U.S. Senate and House. Commission has civil enforcement powers, can issue regulations, certify candidates for federal funds.

Federal Election Commission found to be appointed unconstitutionally and thus not empowered to perform many of its functions, including enforcement and issuing of advisory opinions. Past actions of commission held valid as an accomplished fact. Order declaring commission unconstitutionally appointed stayed for 30 days, meaning commission can continue to act as in past. If appointment process is not changed by Congress in 30 days, commission will continue in existence but with substantially reduced powers, principally recording, disclosure and investigation.

Associated Press