



Bill Roth  
<bill.roth@gmail.com>  
12/18/2008 07:30 AM

To agencypro2008@fec.gov  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Re: Federal Election Commission Seeks Comment on its  
Activities and Procedures

To Whom It May Concern:

There are 4 things the FEC could to improve transparency:

1. Improve the tools for filing. The current tools for filing are hard to use, and antiquated. Make it easy to file reports, with a Web 2.0-like web based filing system that could import Excel or a standard XML format files.
2. Make the filing appear on-line faster. One suggestion is to make the initial filings available on-line immediately, with appropriate legal language that states that the data has not been reviewed.
3. Provide open-source public APIs (application Programming Interfaces) so that other on-line web sites can download the data. Make sure these are in the most popular programming languages, like PHP, Java, C#.
4. Make the search page more searchable by Search Engines like Google and Yahoo so that the data is available via natural search.

I would be happy to testify and/or provide more information,

Sincerely

William G. Roth  
Treasurer, Catholic Democrats Political Action Committee  
Phone: 408-876-0111

Federal Election Commission wrote:



Federal Election Commission  
[www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov) / 800-424-9530 / [info@fec.gov](mailto:info@fec.gov)

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The Federal Election Commission will hold a broad ranging public hearing on January 14, 2009, to obtain public comment on how the Commission might improve

transparency, fairness and efficiency in the way it applies and enforces the campaign finance laws over which it has jurisdiction and the regulations it has adopted. The scope of the public hearing will encompass an evaluation of the Commission's compliance and enforcement process, including audits, matters under review, reports analysis, administrative fines and alternative dispute resolution, as well as other policies, practices and procedures, such as policy statements, advisory opinions and the Commission's education and information programs.

The Commission invites you to provide written comment and to participate during the public hearing. A copy of the announcement published in the Federal Register on December 8, 2008 is attached. The Commission is not seeking suggestions on improvements or amendments to the substantive provisions of the laws over which it has jurisdiction; it seeks comment only on the manner in which the Commission may improve on its enforcement and administration of them, which may include, however, suggestions for revisions to or adoption of regulations or procedures to meet those objectives.

A similar hearing, narrower in scope, was held in 2003 by the Commission. That hearing was very instructive, and several of the recommendations made arising out of that process have been implemented. In view of the many changes that have taken place since the adoption of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002, the changes made in the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, as well as recent campaign events and experiences, the Commission plans to review again, with greater breadth than before, its processes.

The Commission welcomes and invites your participation. Written comments must be received on or before January 5, 2009, and may be submitted by e-mail to [agencypro2008@fec.gov](mailto:agencypro2008@fec.gov). Persons seeking to testify at the hearing must file written comments by the due date and must include in their written comments a request to testify. Detailed instructions for submitting comments are provided in the attached Federal Register announcement and on the Commission's [website](#).