



CHAIR ELLEN L. WEINTRAUB
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

STATEMENT OF CHAIR ELLEN L. WEINTRAUB

August 26, 2019

Vice Chairman Matt Petersen has announced that he is leaving the Federal Election Commission at the end of this week. I will miss him. For 11 years, Matt has been a gracious and steady colleague on the Commission. I have especially enjoyed working together with him this year as the FEC's Chair and Vice Chairman. I wish Matt every success in the next chapter of his story.

His departure leaves the Commission with only three members, one shy of the four-vote quorum we need to decide enforcement and audit matters, pass rules, issue advisory opinions, and litigate most matters. But the United States' election cop is still on the 2020 campaign beat, despite the Vice Chairman's resignation.

Yes, the Commission's ability to make decisions regarding past infractions will be delayed until a quorum is restored. But some of the FEC's most important duties will continue unimpeded. Make no mistake: The FEC will still be able to shine a strong spotlight on the finances of the 2020 campaign. Political committees still must report their contributions and spending. Hundreds of dedicated public servants at the FEC will continue to make millions of pages of campaign-finance information available to the public and the press quickly and accurately. The FEC continues to stand ready to assist political committees, the press, and the public with any campaign-finance questions they may have. Our information technology staff will continue to keep our website up and running and our data secure.

The FEC's enforcement machinery will continue to operate. If a complainant believes a new infraction has been committed, the FEC will still take that complaint. We will still ask the respondent to respond. And our Office of General Counsel will still work up the matter and make its recommendation on whether the Commission should vote to find reason to believe the law may have been violated. Only the Commission's vote on that recommendation will be delayed. Previously authorized investigations will continue.

I will continue to remain vigilant to all threats to the integrity of our elections – and Americans' faith in them.

But we do need to have a functioning quorum on this Commission. We have been on the razor's edge since Republican Commissioner Lee Goodman departed in February 2018. No one has been nominated to fill the seat vacated by Democratic Commissioner Ann Ravel more than two years ago in April 2017.

Vice Chairman Petersen's resignation makes it imperative that the President speedily nominate new Commissioners and that the Senate move expeditiously to confirm them.