

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
112TH CONGRESS
COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 112-__
MARCH 9, 2011

Resolution to Approve Committee Views and Estimates

Resolved, pursuant to § 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and House Rule X, clause 4(f), the Committee adopts the following views and estimates for Fiscal Year 2012:

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
VIEWS AND ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Federal Election Commission

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) is an independent, bipartisan commission which facilitates transparency in the Federal election process through public disclosure of campaign finance data, and encourages compliance with the Federal Election Campaign Act by providing information and policy guidance. The FEC administers and interprets the Federal Election Campaign Act, the Presidential Election Campaign Fund, and the Presidential Primary Matching Payment Account Act. The FEC also enforces these Acts through audits, investigations, and civil litigation.

The FY 2012 Presidential Budget Request totals \$67,014,000, which includes an unobligated balance brought forward. Otherwise, the FEC's level of appropriation (\$67,000,000) has remained the same from FY 2010 to the FY 2012 budgets. The FEC's budget reflects the resources necessary to carry out its mission in the upcoming fiscal year. The Committee will conduct vigorous oversight to identify and realize future potential savings.

Election Assistance Commission

The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is an independent, bipartisan commission which develops guidance to meet Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requirements, adopts voluntary voting system guidelines, and serves as a national clearinghouse of information on election administration. The EAC also certifies voting systems, accredits test laboratories, and audits the use of HAVA funds.

The FY 2012 Presidential Budget Request and the current continuing resolution both eliminate election reform grants previously administered by the EAC and funded at \$75 million in FY 2010. The Presidential Budget Request for the EAC totals \$13,715, 655, which includes a transfer of \$3.25 million to the Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology. EAC is left with a net operating budget of \$10,465,665. This is a reduction from its FY 2010 and FY 2011 continuing resolution net operating budget of \$14,459,000. The Inspector General of the EAC testified before the Appropriations Committee on March 2, 2011, that 51.7% of the FY 2012 budget request goes to “management”. The IG also testified that the agency was overly bureaucratic and had an excessive number of staff. According to his testimony, the EAC’s overhead is very high as illustrated by the fact that the Commission uses \$5,406,718 to manage programs totaling \$3,486,601. Based on the Inspector General’s comments, the Committee would support dramatic reductions to the budget for the EAC. Four Committee members have introduced a bill to terminate the agency.