

## FAIR ELECTION PRACTICES COMMITTEE - HEARING PROCEDURES - 2007

### HEARINGS:

1. The FEPC will meet to hear complaints within approximately 1 week of receiving a complaint, during the period preceding an election. **No hearings will be held on or after Election Day.** The Committee will judge complaints regarding the context of the Fair Campaign Pledge only. No other criteria will be used. Supporting evidence is appreciated.
2. Both the complainant and the candidate complained against will have an opportunity to be heard by the Committee. Candidates are strongly encouraged to appear before the Committee but may ask representatives to speak on their behalf. Presentations by each side will be limited: twenty minutes for presentation of issues and five minutes for clarification and rebuttal. The media will not be invited.
3. All properly filed complaints accepted by the Committee will be heard notwithstanding the failure of either side to appear.
4. Six copies of any material to be presented must be provided by the complainant for distribution at the hearing – one for each member of the FEPC and one for to the other candidate or their representative.
5. At its discretion, the FEPC may choose to render a decision on a complaint without a hearing if the facts are clear and time is critical. The FEPC will work from August 6, 2007 through until the day before Election Day (November 5, 2007) generally during regular business hours.
6. The FEPC may request a respondent to suspend specific campaign practices until a decision is rendered.
7. There will be no “appeal” process. All decisions of the FEPC are final.

### DECISIONS:

1. Actions of the Committee will be by majority vote. Decisions will be expressed in written form. The Committee will decide the outcome of any complaint based on a vote of 3 members (i.e., 3 out of 5, 3 out of 4 or 3 out of 3).
2. All decisions will be released by the Committee chair to the candidates and the news media as soon as possible after the votes are taken. The Committee will not delay public release of its decision even if unable to make direct contact with the candidates.

***The Fair Election Practices Committee members are in alphabetical order: Alan Bernstein, Rome Celli, John G. Curran, Thomas Frey, and Channing Philbrick. Alternates shall be Margaret Freeman and Kay Wallace. Alternates will serve in the event one of the primary committee members cannot attend a particular hearing.***