



Campaign Finance Reform Blast #11

March 2016

A Move to Replace the FEC

[U.S. Senator Tom Udall](#) introduced legislation on March 1 to abolish the broken Federal Election Commission (FEC) and replace it with a new agency empowered to crack down on campaign finance violations. The new Federal Election Administration would be established to avoid the partisan gridlock that currently prevents the FEC from doing its job and enforcing election laws.

Udall's Federal Election Administration Act would abolish the FEC and create a new agency composed of five members appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. A chair would lead the agency, and the remaining members would equally represent both political parties. The bill is modeled after a bipartisan proposal previously introduced by Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) and former Senator Russ Feingold (D-Wis.).

You can consult a [summary of the Federal Election Administration Act](#), and a side-by-side comparison of the FEC to the proposed new watchdog agency is available [here](#).

A Commission at an Impasse

The commission was created after the Watergate scandal to ensure that money given and spent in federal elections is disclosed so voters know who is trying to influence the outcome. [Ann Ravel](#), Vice Chair of the FEC, has described in detail the deadlock of the current commission. Republicans and Democrats each nominate three commissioners, but four votes are needed to adopt new rules, start investigations and impose penalties.

Keep Your Eye on Senate Bill S2611

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- Title:** A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to replace the Federal Election Commission with the Federal Election Administration, and for other purposes.
- Introduced:** 1 March 2016
- Actions:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

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