

STATE ELECTION DIRECTOR TO ASSIST FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

ALBANY, NY -(5/15/01)- The Commissioners of the New York State Board of Elections have approved the intergovernmental transfer of Thomas R. Wilkey, the Board's Executive Director, to the FEC for a period of four or five days a month for the purpose of coordinating various tasks pertaining to the update of the Voting Systems Standards (VSS) issued by the FEC.

The Voting Systems Standards were initially developed at the request of Congress in the late 1980's to establish guidelines to assist state and local governments in the testing of voting systems to ensure the quality of design and performance essential to election management. standards were published in 1990. Through his leadership in the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED), Mr. Wilkey established the Independent Test Authority (ITA) process, which led to the adoption of the standards by 36 states.. Mr. Wilkey's role as Chair of NASED's ITA Voting Systems Board, and its work, led to the Commission's decision to update the original standards. Updating is needed for several reasons, including adjustments for new technologies and to facilitate recent efforts by state and local governments in upgrading their voting systems.

To achieve their objectives, "the active participation of Mr. Wilkey and the NASED Board, are critical," said FEC Staff Director, James A. Pehrkon in a letter to the State Board. The Commission, by a unanimous vote of 6-0, instructed Mr. Pehrkon, to formalize an agreement with the State Board for Mr. Wilkey's services and to reimburse travel expenses and salary. "I am confident that Mr. Wilkey's expertise, coupled with his role as ITA Chair, will ensure the successful completion of this project," said Pehrkon. The project is slated for completion by the end of September 2001.