

November 2, 2000
Attention Michael Marinelli, Federal Election Commision Office of the General Counsel 999 E Street N.W.
Washington, D.C 20463
Dear Mr. Marinelli,



2000-39

In an email you sent to me October 18, you outlined several questions (reprinted below). I will try to answer these questions to help the FEC render a decision as to our party's application to be designated a state political party committee.

1. You state that besides Mr. Nader, the Party is supporting Mr. Tre Arrow for the 3rd Congressional district. Regarding Mr Tre Arrow's candidacy, publicly available information confirms that he will represent the Green Party in Oregon. However, please produce some evidence that Mr. Tre Arrow has or shortly will expend or receive more than $\$ 5,000$. This will indicate whether: He qualifies as a candidate under the Act. The documentation or evidence could be in the form of a report either you or the candidate is planning to file with the Commission or other Federal agency/instrumentality

Response: Mr. Arrow does not plan to collect nor spend more than \$5,000 in his campaign.
2. If any candidate supported by the Party in the past reached the $\mathbf{\$ 5 , 0 0 0}$ mark (and thus qualified as a candidate for purposes of the Act). Please idenfity that candidate.

Response: To date, with the exception of Ralph Nader's campaign this year, none of our federal candidates has ever exceeded the $\$ 5000$ threshold.
3. for any candidate that qualified as a candidate under the Act we also need a statement from that candidate that they support the advisory opinion request of the party or recognize the authority of the State Party.

Response: The only candidate that qualifies is Ralph Nader who is not a member of the Pacific Greén Pąrty:
4. Finally please provide a copy of the bylaws or governing doctiment of the Party.

Response: This document is attached. You can also view all organizational documents on our web site.

We believe we fall under the definition of a state political party committee because we run the day-to-day affairs of our party in the State of Oregon. The PGP is a member of the Association of State Green Parties (ASGP) and we have delegates on this organization's Steering Committee.

We hope soon to begin fielding candidates for federal offices who will meet and surpass the $\$ 5000$ threshold. However, as a grassroots political party not funded by corporate special interests, we have placed a greater emphasis on low-budget campaigns that are augmented by massive volunteer involvement.

Respectfully,
TRey, Sinth
Trey Smith
State Treasurer
Pacific Green Party of Oregon

# Structure of the PACIFIC GREEN PARTY of OREGON <br> (Note: Name change approved at the March 1999 convention) Party Constitution located below. 

## Bylaws

## Bylaws Article I - Preamble, Purpose and Methods.

The Pacific Green Party is designed to be a true grass roots decentralized organization. One of the most significant elements in the American culture we are striving to overcome is the value placed upon domination of other people, other species, and the Earth.

We encourage our members to participate in community projects, non-violent direct action and electoral campaigns.

## Bylaws Article II - Statement of Principles

The Pacific Green Party recognizes that our society and government are plagued by inequality, militarism, poverty, and pollution We envision and strive to create a local-based grassroots democracy that will over come these societal ills.
"We declare that all [men] People, when they form a social compact are equal in right that all power is inherent in the:People, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their: peace, safety and happiness; and they have at all times a right to alter, reform, or abolish the government. in such a manner as they may think proper." [Modified as indicated] - Article 1, Section 1, Oregon Constitution.

The Pacific Green Party strives for cultural diversity and gender balance and believes in a limited govermment whose legitimate functions include:

- ensuring equal rights for all regardless of race, sex, ideology, philosophy/religion, sexual orientation, age or physical abilities;
- ensuring that basic human needs, food, shelter, health care and education, are met;
- promoting an economic structure that creates opportunities for meaningful work;
- maintaining and restoring the natural environment for its own sake as well as for future generations;
- promoting energy conservation and the immediate development of renewable and non-polluting energy sources:
- addressing the struggle of Native Peoples, African Americans, and other ethnic communities who have suffered as a result of government policy in the U.S.;
- ensuring the right to privacy, including, but not limited to, the right to reproductive choice;
- promoting an open, accessible, and truly democratic electoral process.

Achieving peace, justice and a sustainable environment will require that people work within present institutions while simultaneously creating new ones. The Pacific Green Party respects the diversity of approaches necessary to attain these goals.

The Pacific Green Party has been created because of the inability or unwillingness of existing parties to address the fundamental problems of our region and the legitimate needs and aspirations of its people. We accept the challenge of infusing the present system with accountability, future focus, and ecological wisdom.

## Bylaws Article III - Membership

A. The party constitution lists an annual contribution as à prerequisite for supporting membership. The coordinating committee shall specify at least two acceptable contributions, one monetary and one non-monetary, from which members may individually.choose.
B. People who are not supporting members may attend meetings, but can not vote.
C. A supporting member may begin to vote at the second meeting they attend.
D. Notwithstanding the above, any member may attend party conventions and may vote in the nomination of candidates for public office.

## Bylaws Article IV - Rules of Order

A. The Pacific Green Party strives for consensus, encouraging input from all members regarding important matters; but will operate by majority vote. Unless otherwise specified in this document, all decisions by the Party will be made by each supporting member in good standing present casting one vote with a majority of affirmative votes required for passage. A majority is defined as more than half the total votes cast.
B. Amendments to the Missioti Statement, the Statement of Principles, constitution and bylaws will require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the supporting members eligible to vote and voting at aconvention or meeting. There shall be no voting by mail or proxy. All proposed changes must be received by the coordinating committee 30 days before the convention or meeting. Individuals proposing a change shall providé sufficient copies for each member of the coordinating committee and for the party officers. The coordinating committee shall try to disseminate the proposed changes as widely as possible.

## C. Major elections

1. An election or appointment shall be considered major" if concerns one of the following positions:
a. Coordinating committee member;
b. Nominee for public office; or
c. Endorsee for public office.
2. Ballots cast in person for a major election shall be fully secret. Supporting members have the right to :: observe all processing and tabulation of such ballots:
3. An effort shall be made to provide secrecy for ballots cast over a distance for a major election: Supporting members have the right to observe the processing and tabulation of such ballots, to the en extent that secrecy is not compromised.
4. An individual's right to observe ballot counting may be suspended for cause or for reasonable concetrn of interference.
5. For each major election, the coordinating committee shall appoint an administrator, who shall be ultimately responsible for processing and tabulating the ballots; and retaining them for one year following the election. The administrator shiall not be a candidate for the election. The coordinating committee is encouraged to appoint the party secretary as administrator.

## Bylaws Article $V^{-}$-Officers

Officers can be members of the coordinating committee, however no one may hold more than one office. Duties of the officers are as set out in the bylaws or as directed by the coordinating committee.
A. Duties:

1. The co-chairs preside at all meetings, and have other duties established by the coordiniting
committee.
2. The secretary shall be the party recording officer and the corresponding officer with the State of Oregon.
3. The treasurer shall maintain all party financial records and comply with the State of. Oregon campaign finance laws.

## Bylaws Article VI - Executive Committee

The executive committee shall be composed of the officers and the coordinating committee.
A. Duties

1. All officers shall participate in coordinating committee meetings.
2. Set the agenda for state meetings. The agenda must be approved by majority vote at the appropriate state meetings.

## Bylaws Article VII-Meeting Strueture

A. It is highly recommended that all meetings and gatherings of the Pacific Green Party begin with a reading of our Mission Statement and Statement of Principles.
B. During open discussions all attendees are encouraged to participate in a respectful and supportive manner. People will be discouraged from speaking too long, so that all may speak. The group may appoint a facilitator, process observer and/or a timekeeper. The goal of a discussion is an open exchange of ideas without personal biases and criticism.
C. Consensus shall be employed with Robert's Rules of Order as a guideline if necessary.

Bylaws Article VIII - Membership Meetings
A. Conventions

1. The following activities shall take place only at convention:
a. Nominating or endorsing any candidates for partisan public offices or statemidemon-partisan public offices, Chapters shall repor any endorsements they have made of non-partisan local candidates to the: coordinating committee withinten working days and to the statewide membership at the next convention. The coordinating committee shall disseminate news of the endorsement(s) within ten. working days of receipt.
b. Electing coordinating committee members; and
c. Amending the constitution or bylaws.
2. Every convention shall be publicized as required in ORS 248.009 (3) for nominating conventions.

Additionally, the coordinating committee shall attempt to give notice to every supporting member in the applicable region (generally the entire state) at least 10 days prior to the convention 60 days' notice is preferred but not required.
3. Convention rules shall be adopted and/or amended at any duly constituted state convention by a simple majority vpte of the supporting members attending.
B. Minimum meeting requirements

1. The coordinating committee shall convene at least two statewide membership meetings each calendar year, including at least one convention scheduled between February 1 and July 1 , and in even-numbered. years including at least one convention that meets the legal timing requirements for nominating candidates to statewide office.

## Bylaws Article IX - Emergency Meetings

If the coordinating committee fails to hold any regularly scheduled meeting 15 supporting members in good standing can call for that meeting with 30 days written notice to all supporting members.

## Bylaws Article X - Nominations

A. Qualifications for Nominations

Any supporting member in good standing is eligible to be nominated as a candidate for public office. Nominations for candidacy for president and vice-president of the United States are exempt from this requirement.
B. Nominations in Convention

Selections of candidates for public office shall be made by members in party conventions, subject to other provisions of the constitution and bylaws. Nominations for candidacy shall be from the floor. Nomination in convention shall be by a simple majority of members present, and conducted in accordance with party convention rules.
C. Nomination by Mail Ballot

If no nomination for candidacy for a political office was made in convention, nomination of a candidate for that office may be made by mail ballot, at the discretion of the coordinating committee. Candidates in mail ballots may not have been nominated for that office in conivention. Nomination by mail ballot shall be by two-thirds vote of ballots received in the allotted time.
D. None of the Above

In all votess for nomination of candidates for public office, "None of the Above" shall be counted as a valid vote cast:

## Bylaws Article XI - Endorsements

The party may endorse candidatés for public office that are not supporting members, either at party conventions, or by mail ballot issued by the coordinating committee. Endorsement shall be by a two-thirds vote of the supporting members at a convention or two-thirds vote of the ballots received in: : the allotted time.

## Bylaws Article XII - Platform

The party may adopt in convention a'platforn consistent with the Mission Statement and Statement of . Principles. The platform shall cónsist of a numbér off.planks which shall state the party position on specific issues. The platform shall be considered plank by plank; and each plank must pass a two-thirds: vote of the supporting members present in order to be adopted into the platform.

## Bylaws Article XIII - Legislative Committee

Once a supporting miember is elected to public office, a Legislative Committee shall be formed consisting of the:office holder(s) and suippoiting members. The Legislative Committee shall be at the level at which the office is held, e:g., 'if it's a local office the committee is at a local level. This is'to ensure communication and accountability to the Party's Purpose, Platform and Principles.

Bylaws Article XIV - Expulsion of Chapters, Individuals or Coordinating Committee Personnel A. The party has the right to expel an individual who demonstrably violates the paity principles It shall require a unanimous-vote of the coordinating committee or a two-thirds vote of the supporting members present at à convention.
B. Coordinating Committee Personnel can be expelled for" "cause" by a two-thirds vote of supporting members qualified to vote at any statewide meeting.

## Bylaws Article XV - Finances

A. All contributions and funds raised shall be handed through the party Political Action Cominittee (PAC).
B. Decisions regarding finances are the responsibility of the coordinating committee, in consultation
with the officers:
C. Party candidates shall form their own PACs.
D. Any party money; statewide or chapter, that is to be spent on salaries must be approvediby the coordinating committee.
E. Recognized chapters may raise funds as the Pacific Green Paity and are to send all funds to the party treasurer to account for and deposit such funds.
F. Expenditures of funds raised by a chapter will be decided in the following manner: The chapter will ? decide:how to spend $80 \%$ of the funds they have raised. The coordinating committee shall decide how to spend the remaining $\mathbf{2 0 \%}$ of the funds raised by chapters. A primary principle of the Pacific Green Party is to work for decentralized decision making:

## Bylaws Article XVI - State Outreach

A. Any supporting member can present the Principles of the Pairty:
B. An action or event may be called in the name of the Party only with the approval of the coordinating. committee or the supporting membership at a regularly scheduled meeting.
C. Anything carrying the party name must be cleared by the coordinating'committee before being distributed Chapters must use the party name and symbol with their chapter designation, e.g. Eugene Chiapter of the Pacific Green Party of Oregon.
D. Only:designated spokespeople may:speak for the state party: Statewide designation shall be by the supporting membership at a regularly scheduled statewide meeting, or by the coordinating committee:

## Bylaws Article XVII - Chapters

A. Chapters are the primary grassroots organizations of the party. As such, they are the primary catalysts for grassroots political change. The state party shall supply chapters with information and expertise upon request.
B. Any 5 supporting members may apply:to formea party chapter, by sending the following information to the party secretary:

1. The names of those 5 supporting members;
2. The proposed chapter's name;
3. The proposed chapter's geographic boundaries' if any;:
4. The name of a designated liaison to the coordinating committee; and
5. Either the name of a designated treasurer, or a statement that the chapter won't deal with money.

C: The coordinating committee shall either accepty or reject the chapter applieation A'rejection shall be for written cause; and if the rejection is not ratified at the next state convention; the chapter application:is appróved.
D. The coordinating committee may revoke an existing chapter for written cause. The revocation is effective immediately, but must be ratified at the next,state convention or the chapter becomes reinstated.
E. The coordinating committee may require chapters that deal with money to form PACs prior to: fundraising or receiving contributions.
F. Chapters shall notify the party secretary of any changes to the information listed in!Section B of this article, within 2 weeks of the change.
G. There is no prohibition on people joining multiple chapters.
H. A person may choose not to be a member of any chapter:
I. A chapter may set its own membership requirements:
J. Each chapter shall submit a roster of its members to the party secretary every siximionths::
L. Chapter activities may be restricted only by the party supporting membership per se, e.g.by changing the bylaws at a convention. Therefore the coordinating committee may not'directly prohibit specific
chapter activities, although it retains total discretion in such potentially-related areas as allocating state funds and interpreting the bylaws.
M. In all state party documents except the constitution; references to non-state-level matters such as chapters shall be either explicit or immediately clear from context. All other references are understood: to apply exclusively to state level party operations.

## Bylaws Article XVIII-County Central:Committees

A. An organization may be both a chapter and a county central committee, so long asit satisfies the :-..on criteria for each such classification.
B. County central committees that are not chapters may engage only in activities that are permitted to. them by the state party.

## Bylaws Article XIX - External organizations

A. Association of State Green Parties

1. The Pacific Green Party is a.member of the Association of State Green Parties and is entitled to two representatives to the ASGP coordinating committee. The members of the PGP shallelect their ASGP representatives at convention There shall be one male and one female representative. Terms are for two: years and will be staggered to ensure continuity. (Except that the first election, held in November; 1999, shall be for one two year term and one one year term.) Representatives may serve an unlimited number of terms, but it is recommended that they not serve more than two consecutively.
2. Representatives shall report at least monthly to the PGP coordinating committee and shall consult with the PGP coordinating committee prior to casting votes on major decisions.

## Bylaws Article XX -Membership issues for Socialist:Party members

A. SPO members must reregister PG by June 30 This article applies only to members in good standing. of the Socialist Party of Oregon who are currently registered with the State of Oregon as Pacific Green Party members. Furthermore, after June 30, 1999, this article shall apply only to people who have been continuously registered with the State of Oregon as Pacific Green Party members sinoe June 30, 1999.
B. SPO dues count as PG dues

Any member in good standing of the Socialist Party of Oregon shall be treated as having paid dues or: made an annual contribution to the Pacific Green Party of Oregon.
C. SPO activities count as PG activities

1. Article III; Section C of these bylaws state that the right to participate in party decision-making begins:
"at the second meeting they attend".For the purpose of qualifying for this right, any member in good standing of the Socialist Party of Oregon who has engaged in a Socialist Party of Oregon activity shali be treated as if that activity had been a Pacific Green Party of Oregon activity:
2. Any other relevant considerations, such as whether or not the person was a memberin good standing : of the Socialist Party of Oregon at the time of the activity in question, shall be similarly translated.
3. This article does not specify what constitutes attendance at a meeting:
D. Expelled and suspended SPO members receive no benefits

This article does not:apply to any person who has ever been expelled or suspended from the Socialist Party of Oregon.
E. SPO leadership may need to provide information

The determination of whether this article applies to specific individuals, groups, and activities:may require information to be provided by the Socialist Party of Oregon leadership. In the absence of such information, applicability may:be denied.
F. Sunset clause

This article shall be deleted on:March 31, 2000..

## Constitution

$\because \therefore$ An As amended at the January 29,2000 statewide convention in Portland
Article I-Name w : $\therefore$ :
The legal name of this organization is the Pacific Green Party of Oregon, hereinafter also referred to as "the party".


## Article II-Purpose:

The Pacific Green Party is established to provide anew voice in the political system, to decentralize political and economic power, and to work for peace, justice, basic human equality, self determination, and an ecologically sustainable society. To achieve our mission, the Pacific Green Party is organized to operate within the State of Oregon election laws as:a political party:?

## Article III - Membership

Membership categories are defined as follows:
A. Member - As defined in ORS 248:002(4); ani individual whe is registered as being affiliatedi with the party.
B. Supporting Member - A member of the party who subscribes to the Statement of Principles and has made an annual contribution as defined in the bylaws.
C. Auxiliary Member - An individual who is not eligible to register to vote with the State of Oregon but' has met all the other qualifications for supporting membership.

## Article IV - Organization

The party shall strive for diversity at all levels of organization. The party is established as a direct, participatory democracy. One person, one vote - all members are encouraged to participate at all state and local meetings in accordance with the bylaws.
A. Chapters may be established in accordance with the bylaws.
B. County central committees may be established in accordance with the bylaws and state election laws. In the absence of a county-level process for electing members to the county central committee, individuals may be appointed by the coordinating committee.
C. Coordinating committee

1. The coordinating committee shall be comprised of 7 seats to be filled by supporting members who have been supporting members for at least three months prior to election to the coordinating committee. Coordinating committee members will serve one-year term. Elections for coordinating committee seats shall occur at convention. Supporting members may make nominations before and at the convention at which the election occurs. The process used to elect coordinating committee members shall be a form of proportional representation that strives to ensure equal representation to all voting supporting members.
2. A Coordinating Committee with fewer than 7 members shall continue to operate and function using a quorum system. A quorum for this purpose shall be a majority of the current members of the coordinating committee.
3. The responsibilities of the Coordinating Committee include:
a. Managing state-level finances.
b. Maintaining compliance with state election law requirements.
c. Scheduling and conducting state conventions.
d. Representing statewide party interests.

## e. Making binding interpretations of state organizational documents. <br> f. Appointing standing and ad hoc committees.

g. Any other duties that may arise requiring statewide coordination and administration efforts.
D. Officers

The party officers shall be two state co-chairs, a treasurer, and a secretary. Officers shall be appointed by the coordinating committee and shall serve at its pleasure. The co-chairs shall be members of the Coordinating Committee. When possible, one co-chair shall be female and one shall be male:

## Article V-Conventions

Statewide conventions shall be held at least three times a year. Preferred dates shall be January/February, May/June, and September/October. The next year's schedule and locations to:be. decided at the September/October meeting so that preparations can be made in advance.

## Article:VI-Annual Gathering

 6The party may hold an annual gathering, in conjunction; or not withia convention for the:purpose of community building, networking, education, debate, celebration and fun.

Article VII - Amendments
This Constitution may be: amended by two-thirds: active approval cäst by supporting members at a convention.

Pacific Party Structure (Constitution and Bylaws): 10/18/95

CO-chanas
Anire Goake Gwem Paty yof forxadernis Iom Sovigry Gumer canyor cervectact Stephen Herrick Combifiniyur Muthons secretary

Greg Geritt Fixem Patyou itromistwor TREASURER Robbie Franklin Fum Fwayen fexay

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Michael Marinelli
Federal Election Commission, Office of General Counsel 999 E St NW
Washington, D.C. 20463
Dear Mr. Marinelli,
The Pacific Green Party of Oregon has informed me that they have applied to the Federal Election Committee for designation as a State Political Party Committee. The Pacific Green Party of Oregon is a member of the Association of State Green Parties, and is recognized as the Green Party in Oregon. We hope that you will recognize the Pacific Green Party as a State Political Party Committee, and that when other members of the ASGP apply in the future that you will accept their applications too. If you have further questions on the ASGP, or I can assist you in any way, please contact me.

Sincerely,


Greg Gerritt
Secretary, Association of State Green Parties
401-331-0529
gerritt@edgenet.net

Michael Marinelli<br>11/09/2000 11:25 AM<br>-..........................................<br>To: Merita Johnsa/FEC/US@FEC<br>ce:<br>Subject: State Committee request by Trey Smith at FEC

Michael Marinelli
10/18/2000 02:44 PM
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To: vote4pgp@wvi.com
cc:
Subject: State Committee request by Trey Smith at FEC
Greetings
I am a Staff attorney from the Federal Election Commission that has been assigned to the respond to an October 11, letter placed with the Commission by Mr. Trey Smith Treasurer of Pacfic Green Party of Oregon I hope that the address information I received is correct and that you can foward this communication to Mr. Smith.

The request asks the Commission to grant the Oregon Green Party-State Committee status. Under 2 U.S.C. $\$ 431(15)$, the term "state committee" is defined as the organization which, by virtue of the bylaws of a political party, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of such political party at the state level, as determined by the Commission. Political party is defined under 2 U.S.C. §431(16) as an association, committee, or organization which nominates a candidate for election to any Federal office whose name appears on the election ballot as the candidate of such association, committee, or organization. The Commission has required that any party's Federal candidate whose name appears on the election ballot should also be a candidate that meets the definition of "candidate" under the act at 2 U.S.C. $\S 431$ (2) for that candidate's status to be relevant to a request for state committee status. To qualify as a candidate under the Act- the indvidual must either make expenditures in excess of $\$ 5,000$ or receive contributions in excess of $\$ 5,000$. You may wish to visit the Commission's web site (address at http://www. fec. gov) which has in the legal documents section-(at the advisory opinions area) two opinions you may down load that discuss the Commission's approach to granting state committee status. These opinions are Advisory Opinion 2000-21 (State committee status for the New York Conservative Party) and Advisory Opinion 2000-14 (State comittee status for the New York working families party)

Therefore before we can treat your letter as an advisory opinion we need further information regarding some points that are raised in the request that we have used in these prior opinions.

[^0]or evidence could be in the form of a report either you or the candidate is planning to file with the Commission or other Federal agency/istrumentality
3. If any candidate supported by the Party in the past reached the $\$ 5,000$ mark (and thus qualified as a candidate for purposes of the Act). Please idenfity that candidate.
4. for any canidate that qualified as a candidate under the Act we also need a statement from that candidate that they support the advisory opinion request of the party or recognize the authority of the State Party.
5. Finally please provide a copy of the bylaws or governing document of the Party. all materials and documentation you wish to send us regarding your request should be sent to Attention Michael Marinelli, FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, Office of the General Counsel, 999 E Street N.W. Washington, D.C 20463

If you have any questions regarding I can be reached by email or at 202-694-1574. I can also be reached by the Commission's 800 number (800-424-9530) but you will have to take various steps that take you to the Office of General counsel and then ask for me. Thank you.

Sincerely
Michael Marinelli
Staff Attorney Federal Election Commission


# Oregon's Sustainability Party 

October 11, 2000
Federal Elections Commission Office of General Counsel
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

## Dear General Counsel,

The Pacific Green Party of Oregon (Federal ID\# C00361832) submitted a Statement of Organization as a State Political Party Committee on 9/15/00. We were subsequently informed that we must petition your office to issue an advisory opinion regarding our status as a state political party.

The Pacific Green Party (PGP) is a ballot-qualified political party under Oregon Revised Statutes. Our state ID\# is 000765 . Besides fielding candidates for statewide, district and local races, we have nominated two candidates for federal office this year: Ralph Nader-President and Ire Arrow- $3^{\text {rd }}$ Congressional District.

As of $8 / 30 / 00$, our party had 2,849 registered members and we are governed by a State Coordinating Committee that is democratically elected by said members. I serve as both a member of this committee and as the party's State Treasurer. I hope this information proves sufficient.
Respectfully,
TRey Smith
Trey Smith
State Treasurer
Pacific Green Party of Oregon


[^0]:    1. You state that besides Mr. Nader, the Party is supporting Mr. Tre Arrow for the 3rd Congressional district. Regarding Mr Tre Arrow's candidacy, publicly available information confirms that he will represent the Green Party in Oregon. However, please produce some evidence that Mr. Tre Arrow has or shortly will expend or receive more than $\$ 5,000$. This will indicate whether he qualifies as a candidate under the Act. The documentation
