

Ohio Elections Commission

- Total recommended budget of \$1,345,598 for FYs 2008-2009
- The Elections Commission receives 62% of its funding from the General Revenue Fund; the majority of which is for personal services

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OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The Ohio Elections Commission (ELC) oversees political party spending, campaign finance, and corporate political contributions to ensure compliance with the Ohio Elections Law set forth in Chapter 3517. of the Revised Code. The Commission issues advisory opinions on campaign finance questions, responds to questions about campaign activities, and acts as an enforcement body and customer service center for the policing of campaign activities.

The Commission is comprised of seven members including three Republicans, three Democrats, and one Independent. The Commission employs a staff of three people, including an executive director and two administrative assistants.

The enacted funding levels for ELC are \$666,623 in FY 2008, a 4.7% increase over projected FY 2007 spending of \$636,623, and \$678,975 in FY 2009, a 1.8% increase over FY 2008 appropriations.

Agency in Brief

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2008	2009	2008	2009	
10	\$666,623	\$678,975	\$411,623	\$423,975	Am. Sub. H.B. 119

*Employee count obtained from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) payroll reports as of June 2007.

ANALYSIS OF THE BUDGET

Single Program Series

Regulation

Purpose: This program series ensures and enforces compliance with Ohio's elections law by candidates for public office. The Commission hears, considers, and makes determinations regarding complaints filed by individuals or organizations and employees at the state and local levels of government. The program series consists of one program, Compliance, Investigation, and Enforcement.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Regulation program series, as well as the enacted funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2008	FY 2009
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	051-321	Operating Expenses	\$411,623	\$423,975
General Revenue Fund Subtotal			\$411,623	\$423,975
General Services Fund				
4P2	051-601	Ohio Elections Commission	\$255,000	\$255,000
General Services Fund Subtotal			\$255,000	\$255,000
Total Funding: Regulation			\$666,623	\$678,975

Compliance, Investigation, and Enforcement

Program Description: The Commission issues advisory opinions on campaign finance and related subjects and hears complaints of wrongdoing filed. The majority of complaints deal with candidates, campaign committees, political action committees, or corporations that are either late in filing or fail to file the required campaign finance reports. Other cases heard and considered by the Commission concern the inclusion or exclusion of disclaimers on political literature, corporate activities in the political arena, or the inclusion of allegedly false statements in campaign materials. As a part of this program, ELC will investigate, review, and determine approximately 800 to 1,000 cases involving unlawful campaign practices and false statements.

Funding Source: GRF, election filing fees

Implication of the Budget: The appropriations listed above will allow ELC to meet its statutory obligations at current service levels.

FY 2008 - 2009 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

<i>Line Item Detail by Agency</i>			<i>FY 2005:</i>	<i>FY 2006:</i>	<i>Adj. Appropriations:</i>	<i>FY 2008 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2007 to 2008:</i>	<i>FY 2009 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2008 to 2009:</i>
Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill			Version: Enacted						
ELC Elections Commission, Ohio									
GRF	051-321	Operating Expenses	\$ 295,941	\$ 411,177	\$ 411,623	\$ 411,623	0.00%	\$ 423,975	3.00%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 295,941	\$ 411,177	\$ 411,623	\$ 411,623	0.00%	\$ 423,975	3.00%
4P2	051-601	Ohio Elections Commission Fund	\$ 348,648	\$ 220,498	\$ 225,000	\$ 255,000	13.33%	\$ 255,000	0.00%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 348,648	\$ 220,498	\$ 225,000	\$ 255,000	13.33%	\$ 255,000	0.00%
Elections Commission, Ohio Total			\$ 644,590	\$ 631,675	\$ 636,623	\$ 666,623	4.71%	\$ 678,975	1.85%