

LSC Greenbook

Analysis of the Enacted Budget

Ohio Elections Commission

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ATTACHMENT:

Budget Spreadsheet By Line Item

Ohio Elections Commission

- Total budget of \$1.2 million over the FY 2010-FY 2011 biennium
- Just over 57.0% of funding from the GRF

OVERVIEW

Agency Overview

The Ohio Elections Commission (ELC) oversees political party spending, campaign finance, and corporate political contributions to ensure compliance with the Ohio Elections Law 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. Generally, ELC handles between 800 and 1,000 cases during the course of a biennium. Any resulting fines are deposited in the GRF. The Commission consists of seven appointed members including three Republicans, three Democrats, and one Independent. The Commission employs a staff of three, including an executive director and two administrative assistants.

Appropriation Overview

As the table below shows, the ELC appropriation for FY 2010 is \$593,420, a decrease of 2.7% from FY 2009 spending of \$610,133. FY 2011 appropriation is \$598,420, or 0.8% over the FY 2010 level. Just over 57.0% of ELC's funding comes from the GRF, most of which is for personnel costs.

Appropriations by Fund Group, FY 2010-FY 2011					
Fund Group	FY 2009	FY 2010	% change, FY 2009-FY 2010	FY 2011	% change, FY 2010-FY 2011
General Revenue	\$406,975	\$343,420	(15.6%)	\$343,420	0.0%
General Services	\$203,158	\$250,000	23.1%	\$255,000	2.0%
TOTAL	\$610,133	\$593,420	(2.7)%	\$598,420	0.8%

*FY 2009 figures represent actual expenditures.

The remainder of ELC's funding comes from the Ohio Elections Commission Fund (Fund 4P20), which receives a portion of filing fees for petitions of candidacy collected by the Secretary of State. This includes races for statewide offices and ballot issues, as well as races for Ohio House and Senate seats. The rest of the fee is deposited in the GRF. All of the fees for local candidates and issues are remitted to the county

treasury. The fund receives approximately \$300,000 in even-numbered fiscal years and \$100,000 in odd-numbered fiscal years from these filing fees. The table below shows these fees and the portion deposited in Fund 4P20.

Statutory Fees for Filing Petition of Candidacy		
For Elective Office	Amount	Portion to Fund 4P20
Statewide (Governor, U.S. Senate)	\$150	\$50
State Board of Education	\$55	\$35
Judge (Supreme Court judges pay statewide fee)	\$80	\$30
District (State legislators, U.S. Representatives)	\$85	\$35
City	\$45	\$25
County	\$80	\$30
Township and Village	\$30	\$20
School Board/Educational Service Center	\$30	\$20
Jurisdiction Affected by Question/Issue		
Statewide	\$25	\$25
City	\$12.50	\$12.50
County or Multi-County District	\$15	\$15
Precinct or Sub-County District	\$10	\$10
School Board/Educational Service Center	\$10	\$10

ANALYSIS OF ENACTED BUDGET

This section provides an analysis of the two appropriation items that make up ELC's budget. The appropriations are used by ELC to discharge its duties of enforcing compliance with Ohio's Elections Law by candidates for public office, as well as making determinations regarding complaints filed by individuals or organizations and employees at the state and local levels of government.

Ohio Elections Commission Appropriations				
Fund		ALI and Name	FY 2010	FY 2011
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	051321	Operating Expenses	\$343,420	\$343,420
General Revenue Fund Subtotal			\$343,420	\$343,420
General Services Fund Group				
4P20	051601	Ohio Elections Commission Fund	\$250,000	\$255,000
General Services Fund Group Subtotal			\$250,000	\$255,000
Total Funding			\$593,420	\$598,420

Operating Expenses (051321)

This line item is used to pay the personnel, maintenance, and equipment costs of the Commission, and is funded at \$343,420 in both FY 2010 and FY 2011, a 15.6% decrease compared to FY 2009 spending of \$406,975. ELC is governed by a seven-member board whose salaries are set in accordance with section 3517.152 of the Revised Code. That section fixes the salary at \$25,000 and provides for members to be reimbursed for expenses. ELC employs three administrative staff: an executive director who also serves as the staff attorney, an executive assistant, and an administrative assistant.

Ohio Elections Commission Fund (051601)

This line item is funded through a portion of fees collected for petitions for candidacy for various political offices, as well as a portion of fees collected for filing petitions for ballot questions and issues. This line item is funded at \$250,000 for FY 2010, a 23.0% increase over FY 2009 spending of \$203,158, and \$255,000 in FY 2011, a 2.0% increase from FY 2010 appropriations. The Commission is anticipating income from a large fine imposed in FY 2009. This will be used to support increased spending from this fund in FY 2010-FY 2011, which is designed to offset the 15.6% reduction in the GRF line item discussed above.

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FY 2010 - 2011 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

Line Item Detail by Agency			FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010 Appropriations	% Change FY09 - FY10	FY 2011 Appropriations	% Change FY10 - FY11
Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill			Version: Enacted					
ELC Ohio Elections Commission								
GRF	051321	Operating Expenses	\$ 407,212	\$ 406,975	\$ 343,420	-15.62%	\$ 343,420	0.00%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 407,212	\$ 406,975	\$ 343,420	-15.62%	\$ 343,420	0.00%
4P20	051601	Ohio Elections Commission Fund	\$ 207,037	\$ 203,158	\$ 250,000	23.06%	\$ 255,000	2.00%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 207,037	\$ 203,158	\$ 250,000	23.06%	\$ 255,000	2.00%
Ohio Elections Commission Total			\$ 614,249	\$ 610,133	\$ 593,420	-2.74%	\$ 598,420	0.84%