

# **LSC Greenbook**

**Analysis of the Enacted Budget**

**Joint Legislative Ethics Committee**

*Andrew Plagenz, Budget Analyst  
Legislative Service Commission*

*July 2009*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**OVERVIEW**..... 1  
Agency Overview..... 1  
Appropriation Overview ..... 1  
**ANALYSIS OF ENACTED BUDGET** ..... 2  
Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (028321 and 028601) ..... 2

**ATTACHMENT:**

Budget Spreadsheet By Line Item

# Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

- Continuation budget
- Creation of Joint Legislative Ethics Committee Investigative Fund

## OVERVIEW

### Agency Overview

The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC) is a 12-member legislative committee that was created to serve the General Assembly. It is charged with two primary responsibilities: (1) to administer the laws regarding ethics that relate to members and employees of the General Assembly and (2) to administer Ohio's lobbying laws governing the registration and reporting requirements of legislative agents, executive agency lobbyists, and their employers. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate each appoint six members from their respective chambers to serve on the committee, with not more than three being from the same political party. JLEC is assisted in its duties by the Office of the Legislative Inspector General (OLIG). OLIG consists of the Legislative Inspector General and five other full-time staff.

### Appropriation Overview

JLEC received appropriations totaling \$650,000 for each fiscal year of the biennium. This amount is equal to JLEC's appropriations for FY 2009, but 15.3% greater than the agency's actual spending in FY 2009. The table below shows the FY 2010-FY 2011 appropriations for JLEC by fund group. As the table shows, most of the JLEC budget comes from the GRF (84.6%). The remaining 15.4% comes from the General Services Fund Group.

Agency Appropriations by Fund Group, FY 2010-FY2011					
Fund Group	FY 2009	FY 2010	% change, FY 2009-FY 2010	FY 2011	% change, FY 2010-FY 2011
General Revenue	\$503,222	\$550,000	9.3%	\$550,000	0.0%
General Services	\$60,715	\$100,000	64.7%	\$100,000	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$563,936</b>	<b>\$650,000</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>\$650,000</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

\*FY 2009 figures represent actual expenditures.

## ANALYSIS OF ENACTED BUDGET

The following table shows the appropriation levels for each appropriation item in JLEC's budget in each fiscal year of the biennium.

Funding for the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee				
Fund	ALI and Name		FY 2010	FY 2011
<b>General Revenue Fund</b>				
GRF	028321	Legislative Ethics Committee	\$550,000	\$550,000
<b>General Revenue Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$550,000</b>	<b>\$550,000</b>
<b>General Services Fund Group</b>				
4G70	028601	Joint Legislative Ethics Committee	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>General Services Fund Group Subtotal</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Total Funding: Joint Legislative Ethics Committee</b>			<b>\$650,000</b>	<b>\$650,000</b>

### Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (028321 and 028601)

JLEC's budget consists of two line items that together support the operating expenses of the agency. Revenues deposited into General Services Fund 4G70 include registration fees (\$25) and late filings fees (\$12.50 per day, maximum of \$100) charged to legislative agents, executive agency lobbyists, retirement system lobbyists, and their employers and also any interest and earnings from the fund. The budget bill removes an exemption from the requirement to pay registration fees that had been granted to any state employee who acts as a legislative agent or lobbyist for a state agency. The budget stipulates that the registration fee be paid by the state agency of the employee.

The budget also creates the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee Investigative Fund and requires that receipts from the payment of financial disclosure statement filing fees be deposited to the Fund's credit instead of the GRF. Money in the fund is to be used solely for the operations of the committee in conducting investigations. The budget makes no appropriations from this fund.

According to JLEC, the appropriated level of funding will allow the agency to continue to provide the same level of services as provided in FY 2009. This includes maintenance of the new Ohio Lobbying Activity Center (OLAC), an online filing system that was launched on December 15, 2008. This system allows registered lobbyists and their employers to electronically register and to file required reports. OLAC also serves as a searchable database providing public access to all disclosed information provided by lobbyists and employers.

**FY 2010 - 2011 Final Appropriation Amounts**

**All Fund Groups**

<b>Line Item Detail by Agency</b>			<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010 Appropriations</b>	<b>% Change FY09 - FY10</b>	<b>FY 2011 Appropriations</b>	<b>% Change FY10 - FY11</b>
<b>Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill</b>			<b>Version: Enacted</b>					
<b>JLE Joint Legislative Ethics Committee</b>								
GRF	028321	Legislative Ethics Committee	\$ 412,040	\$ 503,222	\$ 550,000	9.30%	\$ 550,000	0.00%
<b>General Revenue Fund Total</b>			<b>\$ 412,040</b>	<b>\$ 503,222</b>	<b>\$ 550,000</b>	<b>9.30%</b>	<b>\$ 550,000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
4G70	028601	Joint Legislative Ethics Committee	\$ 92,046	\$ 60,715	\$ 100,000	64.71%	\$ 100,000	0.00%
<b>General Services Fund Group Total</b>			<b>\$ 92,046</b>	<b>\$ 60,715</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>	<b>64.71%</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Joint Legislative Ethics Committee Total</b>			<b>\$ 504,086</b>	<b>\$ 563,936</b>	<b>\$ 650,000</b>	<b>15.26%</b>	<b>\$ 650,000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>