

# Greenbook

## LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

### Ohio Ethics Commission

Jessica Murphy, Budget Analyst  
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# LBO Greenbook

## Ohio Ethics Commission

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### Quick look...

- The Ohio Ethics Commission administers, interprets, and enforces ethical conduct, with jurisdiction over all state and local government officials and employees, except legislators, judges, and their staffs. The Commission consists of six members who are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.
- Approximately 18,700 elected officials and 590,000 public employees fall under its authority.
- Day-to-day operations are handled by the Executive Director and 18 full-time employees (as of July 2023).
- Biennial budget of \$5.6 million: \$2.8 million in each of FY 2024 and FY 2025.
- Sources of the budget: GRF (81.7%) and state non-GRF (18.3%).

FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Appropriation	FY 2025 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 146321, Operating Expenses</b>					
\$1,881,845	\$1,816,925	\$1,733,095	\$2,141,748	\$2,289,000	\$2,305,000
% change	-3.4%	-4.6%	23.6%	6.9%	0.7%
<b>DPF Fund 4M60 ALI 146601, Operating Support</b>					
\$443,990	\$453,245	\$580,648	\$378,850	\$515,100	\$515,100
% change	2.1%	28.1%	-34.8%	36.0%	0.0%
<b>Total funding:</b>					
\$2,325,835	\$2,270,170	\$2,313,743	\$2,520,597	\$2,804,100	\$2,820,100
% change	-2.4%	1.9%	8.9%	11.2%	0.6%

### Agency overview

The Ohio Ethics Commission administers, interprets, and enforces ethical conduct in state and local government, primarily under the Ohio Ethics Law (R.C. Chapter 102). It has jurisdiction over all state and local government officials and employees, except legislators, judges, and their staffs. The Commission consists of six members who are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The political affiliation of the Commission is equally divided between the two major parties. Members are compensated \$75 for each meeting, up to a maximum of \$1,800 per year. Day-to-day operations are handled by the Executive Director and 18 full-time employees (number of currently filled positions with a potential ceiling of up to 21).

## Analysis of FY 2024-FY 2025 budget

The Ohio Ethics Commission’s budget contains two appropriation line items (ALIs) that together support the operating costs of the agency. The preceding table shows actual expenditures from these ALIs for FY 2020 through FY 2023, and appropriations for FY 2024 and FY 2025.

Of the Commission’s FY 2024-FY 2025 biennial budget, 81.7% is funded with GRF appropriated to ALI 146321, Operating Expenses. The remaining 18.3% is supported by primarily financial disclosure statement filing fees and secondarily court-ordered and other settlement moneys, credited to the Ohio Ethics Commission Fund (Fund 4M60). The GRF funding will cover the majority of personal service expenses (payroll) and DPF Fund 4M60 ALI 146601 will be used to support the Commission’s other operating expenses. Increases to the GRF appropriation may allow the Commission to fill one or more vacant positions during the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium, including a financial disclosure analyst and an advisory attorney.

### Filing fees

The Commission collects primarily financial disclosure statement filing fees and secondarily court-ordered and other settlement moneys, credited to the Ohio Ethics Commission Fund (Fund 4M60). Revenue is used solely for expenses related to the operation and statutory functions of the Commission.

The table below summarizes the Commission’s current fee schedule. That schedule was implemented beginning in CY 2012 for sustaining dedicated purpose funding to supplement and reduce reliance on GRF funding. As noted, the GRF is the largest source of the Commission’s budget. However, since the implementation of the fee schedule, fee revenue has declined due to a decrease in filers as a result of the consolidation of certain boards and commissions and fewer voluntary filers, as well as late fees. The decrease in late fee revenue is a result of the ease of filing in the online Financial Disclosure portal (implemented February 2013), which also enabled the Commission to quickly notify delinquent filers so that they do not accrue the maximum late fees. Currently, over 94% of financial disclosure statements are filed using the online filing portal. The number of persons failing to file timely statements remained below 0.5% of the total number of filers.

License Fees by Type	
License Type	Fee
State elected office holder or candidate	\$95
State board of education member or candidate	\$35
County elected office holder or candidate	\$60
City elected office holder or candidate	\$35
School district board of education member or candidate	\$30
Educational Service Center (ESC) governing board member	\$30

License Fees by Type	
License Type	Fee
School district or ESC superintendent, treasurer, or business manager	\$30
All other filers	\$60
Late Fee Penalty	
Per day	\$10/day
Maximum penalty	\$250