

# Greenbook

## LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

### Ohio Ethics Commission

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#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Quick look.....	1
Agency overview .....	1
Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget .....	1

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## Ohio Ethics Commission

### 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. Approximately 18,700 elected officials and 590,000 public employees fall under its authority.
- Biennial appropriation of \$6.4 million: \$3.1 million in FY 2026 and \$3.3 million in FY 2027.
- GRF increase of 4.9% in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 will enable the Commission to maintain current staffing level of 19 full-time employees.
- Sources of the budget: GRF (79.4%) and state non-GRF (20.6%).

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
<b>GRF ALI 146321, Operating Expenses</b>					
\$1,733,095	\$2,141,748	\$2,295,557	\$2,364,010	\$2,480,744	\$2,603,142
% change	23.6%	7.2%	3.0%	4.9%	4.9%
<b>DPF Fund 4M60 ALI 146601, Operating Support</b>					
\$580,648	\$378,850	\$462,185	\$616,727	\$649,781	\$670,793
% change	-34.8%	22.0%	33.4%	5.4%	3.2%
<b>Total funding:</b>					
\$2,313,743	\$2,520,597	\$2,757,742	\$2,980,736	\$3,130,525	\$3,273,935
% change	8.9%	9.4%	8.1%	5.0%	4.6%

### 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 19 full-time employees, including the Executive Director.

### Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget

Two line items support the Ohio Ethics Commission's operations: GRF line item 146321 and Dedicated Purpose Fund (DPF) Fund 4M60 line item 146601. The preceding table shows

actual expenditures from these line items for FY 2022 through FY 2025, and appropriations for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

The majority of the Commission's FY 2026-FY 2027 biennial budget (79.4%) is funded with GRF appropriated to line item 146321, Operating Expenses. The remaining 20.6% 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 Commission strives to use GRF funding to cover the 88% of personal service expenses (payroll) and DPF Fund 4M60 line item 146601 to support the majority of other operating expenses.

## Filing fees

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. Filing fee revenue is credited to the Ohio Ethics Commission Fund (Fund 4M60). In addition to filing fees, revenue also comes from investigative or other fees, costs, or other funds the Commission receives as a result of court orders and other settlement money. In FY 2025, revenues for the fund totaled \$510,906 and the cash balance as of July 2025 was \$469,895.

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