

Greenbook

LBO Analysis of Enacted Budget

Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

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LBO Greenbook

Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

Quick look...

- The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC) administers ethics laws related to members and employees of the General Assembly and lobbying laws related to legislative agents and executive agency lobbyists.
- JLEC is a 12-member joint legislative committee, with day-to-day operations handled by five full-time staff.
- Biennial appropriation of \$1.7 million: \$873,000 in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027.
- Sources of the budget: GRF (81.7%); Dedicated Purpose Fund (DPF) group (18.3%).

Fund Group	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
General Revenue	\$619,243	\$776,815	\$713,000	\$713,000
Dedicated Purpose	\$159,830	\$159,940	\$160,000	\$160,000
Total	\$779,073	\$936,755	\$873,000	\$873,000
% change	--	20.2%	-6.8%	0.0%
GRF % change	--	25.4%	-8.2%	0.0%

Agency overview

The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC) was created to serve the General Assembly and 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.

JLEC is a 12-member legislative committee, which is assisted in its duties by the Office of the Legislative Inspector General (OLIG). 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 legislative committee, with not more than three being from the same political party. OLIG consists of the Legislative Inspector General and five other full-time staff.

Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget

Operating expenses (ALIs 028321, 028601, and 028602)

FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2027 Appropriation
GRF ALI 028321, Legislative Ethics Committee					
\$621,757	\$587,046	\$619,243	\$776,815	\$713,000	\$713,000
% change	-5.6%	5.5%	25.4%	-8.2%	0.0%
Fund 4G70 ALI 028601, Joint Legislative Ethics Committee					
\$147,217	\$149,689	\$149,830	\$149,940	\$150,000	\$150,000
% change	1.7%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Fund 5HN0 ALI 028602, Investigations and Financial Disclosure					
\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee's (JLEC) three appropriation line items together support the operating expenses of the agency, including OLIG. JLEC's budget for the biennium totals \$1.7 million with appropriations of \$873,000 in each fiscal year. This annual amount represents a 6.8% decrease (\$63,756) from the actual FY 2025 expenditures.

The GRF provides 81.7% of the funding for JLEC. This funding is appropriated to line item 028321, Legislative Ethics Committee. The budget authorizes the Legislative Inspector General to certify to the Director of the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) an amount up to the unexpended, unencumbered balance of GRF ALI 028321, Legislative Ethics Committee, at the end of FY 2025 and FY 2026 to be reappropriated to FY 2026 and FY 2027, respectively, and reappropriates the certified amount.

The remaining percentage of JLEC's budget, 18.3%, consists of money appropriated from two dedicated purpose funds that are supported by fee revenue: the Joint Legislative Ethics Fund (Fund 4G70) and the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee – Investigative Fund (Fund 5HN0).

Fund 4G70 revenue sources include: (1) \$25 registration statement fee paid by legislative agents, executive agency lobbyists, retirement system lobbyists, or their employers, (2) late filing fee (\$12.50 per day, up to a maximum fee of \$100), and (3) investment earnings. Legislative agent registrations expire December 31 of every even-numbered year, and executive and retirement lobbyist registrations expire January 31 of each year.

Fund 5HN0 revenue sources include: (1) \$40 annual financial disclosure statement filing fee assessed members of, and candidates for, the General Assembly, and designated General Assembly and legislative agency staff (staff fee paid by employing state agency), (2) late filing fee (\$10 per day, up to a maximum fee of \$250), and (3) investment earnings.