

State of Ohio
Ohio Elections Commission

Role and Overview

The [Ohio Elections Commission \(ELC\)](#) oversees political party spending, campaign finance laws, and corporate political activity; and investigates and hears cases involving unlawful campaign practices and false statements.

Six of the commission's seven members are appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Democratic and Republican caucuses of the Ohio legislature with the seventh being appointed by the six partisan members of the ELC. The ELC acts on campaign finance-related complaints filed by individuals, local boards of election, or the Secretary of State. The commission holds regular meetings to hear these complaints and to decide whether a violation has occurred. If so, the ELC can impose fines, refer complaints to the appropriate county prosecutor, or issue a letter of reprimand. The ELC also can issue advisory opinions and make recommendations to the Ohio General Assembly on certain areas of law, which are within the commission's jurisdiction.

The commission has a staff of three and an annual budget of approximately \$630,000.

Executive Priorities for the Ohio Elections Commission

- Enforce Ohio's campaign finance, false statement, political disclaimer, and corporate electoral activity laws.

Summary of Budget History and Recommendations

(In thousands) BUDGET FUND GROUP	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE FY 2005	% CHANGE FY 04-05	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004			FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
General Revenue Fund	277	296	294	295	.4	412	39.6	412	.0
General Services Fund Group	296	308	315	322	2.2	225	(30.1)	225	.0
TOTAL	574	604	609	617	1.3	637	3.2	637	.0

(In thousands) OBJECT OF EXPENSE	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE FY 2005	% CHANGE FY 04-05	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004			FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
Personal Services	479	499	502	534	6.4	551	3.1	551	.0
Purchased Services	4	5	5	5	(1.3)	5	.0	5	.0
Maintenance	91	100	101	76	(24.8)	80	5.0	80	.0
Equipment	0	0	0	1	.0	0	(100.0)	0	.0
Transfer & Other	0	0	0	1	455.6	1	.0	1	.0
TOTAL	574	604	609	617	1.3	637	3.2	637	.0

Ohio Elections Commission

PROGRAM SERIES 01: Regulation

This program series ensures and enforces compliance with Ohio's elections law (Ohio Revised Code sections 3517.08 to 3517.13, 3517.17, 3517.18, 3517.20 to 3517.22, 3599.03) by candidates for public office. The commission hears, considers, and makes determinations regarding complaints filed by individuals or organizations and employees at the state and local levels of government.

Program 01.01: Compliance, Investigation, and Enforcement

The commission issues advisory opinions on campaign finance related subjects and hears complaints of wrongdoing filed. The majority of complaints deal with candidates, campaign committees, political action committees, or corporations that are either late in filing or fail to file the required campaign finance reports. Other cases heard and considered by the commission concern the inclusion or exclusion of disclaimers on political literature, corporate activities in the political arena, or the inclusion of allegedly false statements in campaign materials.

What the Budget Buys:

- Oversight of political party spending, campaign finance laws, and corporate political activity;
- Investigation, review and determination of 800 to 1000 cases involving unlawful campaign practices and false statements;
- Supports the development of advisory opinions by the commission that offer guidance to ensure conformity and adherence to state and federal elections laws; and
- Supports three staff member salaries and statutorily established compensation to the commission's seven members.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	051-321	Operating Expenses	411,623	411,623
GSF	4P2	051-601	Ohio Elections Commission	225,000	225,000
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				636,623	636,623

LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Elections Commission

FUND	ALI	ALI TITLE	FY 2002 ACTUAL	FY 2003 ACTUAL	FY 2004 ACTUAL	FY 2005 ESTIMATE	FY 2006 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2007 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
GRF	051-321	Operating Expenses	277,494	296,065	293,828	294,857	411,623	39.6	411,623	.0
TOTAL General Revenue Fund			277,494	296,065	293,828	294,857	411,623	39.6	411,623	.0
4P2	051-601	Ohio Elections Commission	296,319	308,174	314,737	321,766	225,000	(30.1)	225,000	.0
TOTAL General Services Fund Group			296,319	308,174	314,737	321,766	225,000	(30.1)	225,000	.0
TOTAL Ohio Elections Commission			573,813	604,239	608,565	616,623	636,623	3.2	636,623	.0