

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.

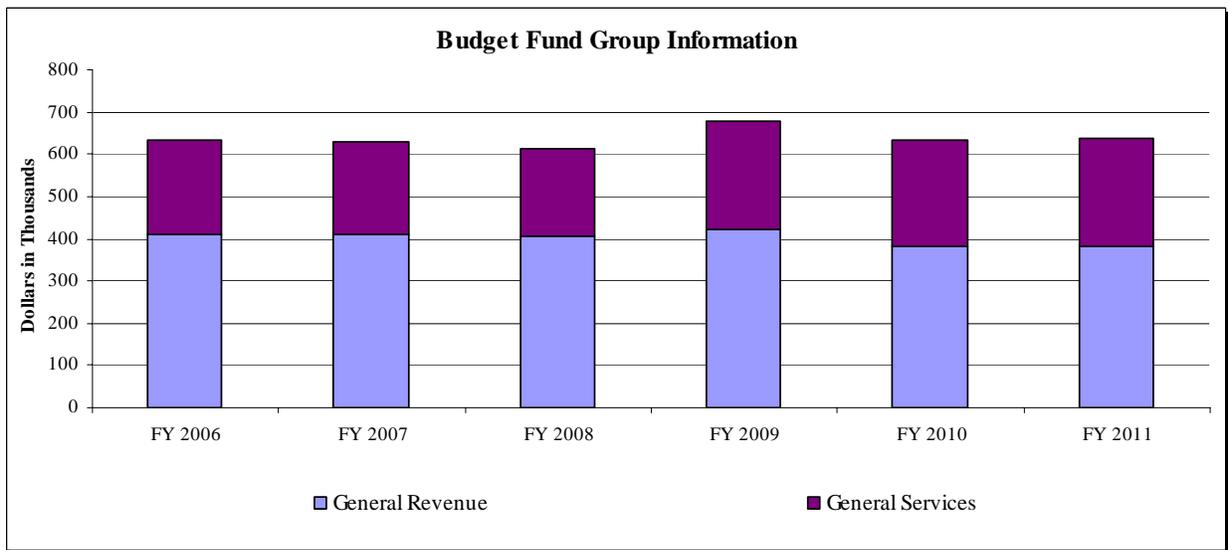
Six of the commission’s seven members are appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Democratic and Republican caucuses of the Ohio legislature with the seventh being appointed by the six partisan members of the ELC. The ELC acts on campaign finance-related complaints filed by individuals, 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 \$631,000.

More information regarding the Ohio Elections Commission is available at <http://elc.ohio.gov/>.

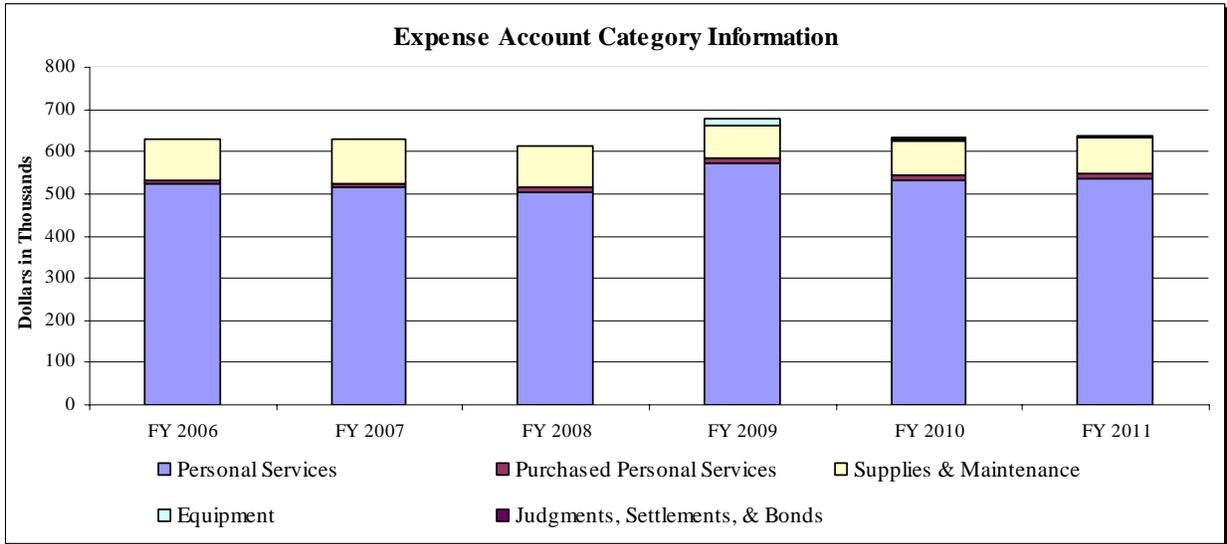
Agency Priority

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

Summary of Budget History and Recommendations



(In Thousands)	ACTUAL			EST.	%	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 08-09	FY 2010	%	FY 2011	%
General Revenue	411	410	407	424	4.1	382	-10.0	382	0.0
General Services	221	220	207	255	23.2	250	-2.0	255	2.0
TOTAL	632	630	614	679	10.5	632	-7.0	637	0.8



(In Thousands) EXPENSE ACCOUNT CATEGORY	ACTUAL			EST.	% CHANGE	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 08-09	FY 2010	% CHANGE	FY 2011	% CHANGE
Personal Services	522	515	503	572	13.7	530	-7.3	535	0.9
Purchased Personal Services	10	7	13	13	-6.0	15	16.1	15	0.0
Supplies & Maintenance	99	107	98	78	-20.6	82	5.2	82	0.0
Equipment	0	0	0	16	100.0	4	-72.8	4	0.0
Judgments, Settlements, & Bonds	0	0	0	1	100.0	1	0.0	1	0.0
TOTAL	632	630	614	679	10.5	632	-7.0	637	0.8

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.

The Executive Recommendation will fund the following objectives:

- Provide oversight of political party spending, campaign finance laws, and corporate political activity;
- Investigate, review, and determine 800 to 1,000 cases involving unlawful campaign practices and false statements;
- Support the development of advisory opinions by the commission that offer guidance to ensure conformity and adherence to state and federal elections laws; and
- Support three staff members' salaries and statutorily established compensation to the commission's seven members.

State of Ohio
Ohio Elections Commission

FUND				RECOMMENDED	
GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	FY 2010	FY 2011
GRF	GRF	051321	Operating Expenses	381,578	381,578
GSF	4P20	051601	Ohio Elections Commission	250,000	255,000
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				631,578	636,578

LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Ohio Elections Commission

FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 ACTUAL	FY 2008 ACTUAL	FY 2009 ESTIMATE	FY 2010 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2011 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
GRF	051321	Operating Expenses	411,176	410,043	407,212	423,975	381,578	-10.0	381,578	0.0
TOTAL General Revenue			411,176	410,043	407,212	423,975	381,578	-10.0	381,578	0.0
4P20	051601	Ohio Elections Commission	220,954	219,580	207,037	255,000	250,000	-2.0	255,000	2.0
TOTAL General Services			220,954	219,580	207,037	255,000	250,000	-2.0	255,000	2.0
TOTAL Ohio Elections Commission			632,130	629,623	629,623	678,975	631,578	-7.0	636,578	0.8