

LSC Greenbook

Analysis of the Enacted Budget

Ohio Elections Commission

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ATTACHMENT:

Budget Spreadsheet By Line Item

Ohio Elections Commission

- Total appropriations of \$1.1 million over the FY 2012-FY 2013 biennium
- Approximately 60% of funding from the GRF
- The remaining 40% comes from election filing fees and fines

OVERVIEW

Agency Overview

The Ohio Elections Commission (ELC) oversees political party spending, campaign finance, and corporate political contributions to ensure compliance with the Ohio Elections Law set forth in Chapter 3517. of the Revised Code. The Commission issues advisory opinions on campaign finance questions, responds to questions about campaign activities, and acts as an enforcement body and customer service center for the policing of campaign activities. Generally, ELC handles between 800 and 1,000 cases during the course of a biennium. The Commission consists of seven appointed members including three Republicans, three Democrats, and one Independent. The Commission employs a staff of three people, including an executive director and two administrative assistants, one of whom works on a part-time basis.

Appropriation Overview

As Table 1 below shows, the budget appropriates \$558,117 for ELC operations in both FY 2012 and FY 2013. This is an increase of 6.2% when compared to FY 2011 spending of \$525,655. Overall, approximately 60% of ELC's funding comes from the GRF. Most of that funding – about 85.0% – is for personnel costs.

Fund Group	FY 2011*	FY 2012	% change, FY 2011-FY 2012	FY 2013	% change, FY 2012-FY 2013
General Revenue	\$325,114	\$333,117	2.5%	\$333,117	0.0%
General Services	\$200,541	\$225,000	12.2%	\$225,000	0.0%
TOTAL	\$525,655	\$558,117	6.2%	\$558,117	0.0%

*FY 2011 figures represent actual expenditures.

The remainder of ELC's funding comes from the Ohio Elections Commission Fund (Fund 4P20) within the General Services Fund Group, which receives a portion of filing fees for petitions of candidacy collected by the Secretary of State, including races for statewide offices and ballot issues, races for Ohio House and Senate seats, and

penalties imposed by the Commission. The rest of the fees are deposited into the GRF. All of the fees for local candidates and issues are remitted to the county treasury. Fund 4P20 receives approximately \$300,000 in even-numbered fiscal years and \$100,000 in odd-numbered fiscal years from these filing fees, primarily because most candidate election cycles occur in even-numbered years. Table 2 below shows these fees and the portion deposited into Fund 4P20.

Table 2. Statutory Fees for Filing Petition of Candidacy		
Elective Office	Amount	Portion to Fund 4P20
Statewide Elective Offices, including Supreme Court	\$150	\$50
State Board of Education	\$55	\$35
Judge	\$80	\$30
District – State Legislators, U.S. Representatives	\$85	\$35
City	\$45	\$25
County	\$80	\$30
Township and Village	\$30	\$20
School Board and Educational Service Center	\$30	\$20
Questions and Issues		
Statewide	\$25	\$25
City	\$12.50	\$12.50
County or Multi-County District	\$15	\$15
Precinct or Sub-County District	\$10	\$10
School Board/Educational Service Center	\$10	\$10

ANALYSIS OF ENACTED BUDGET

Funding for the Ohio Elections Commission				
Fund	ALI and Name		FY 2012	FY 2013
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	051321	Operating Expenses	\$333,117	\$333,117
General Revenue Fund Subtotal			\$333,117	\$333,117
General Services Fund Group				
4P20	051601	Ohio Elections Commission Fund	\$225,000	\$225,000
General Services Fund Group Subtotal			\$225,000	\$225,000
Total Funding: Ohio Elections Commission			\$558,117	\$558,117

Operating Expenses (051321)

This GRF line item is used to pay for much of the personnel, maintenance, and equipment costs of ELC. The budget funds this line item at \$333,117 in both FY 2012 and FY 2013, a 2.5% increase from FY 2011 spending of \$325,114. ELC is governed by a seven-member board whose salaries are set in accordance with section 3517.152 of the Revised Code. That section fixes member salaries at \$25,000 and provides for members to be reimbursed for expenses. ELC employs three administrative staff: an executive director who also serves as the staff attorney, an executive assistant, and an administrative assistant who works part time.

Ohio Elections Commission Fund (051601)

This General Services Fund line item is used to supplement funding for the Commission's operating expenses. The revenue supporting this appropriation is derived from fees collected for petitions of candidacy for various political offices and fees collected for filing petitions for ballot questions and issues (see Table 2 in the **Overview** section). The budget funds this line item at \$225,000 in both fiscal years, an increase of 12.2% from FY 2011 spending of \$200,541. As of this writing, Fund 4P20 has a cash balance of \$144,976.

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FY 2012 - FY 2013 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

Line Item Detail by Agency			FY 2010	FY 2011	Appropriations FY 2012	FY 2011 to FY 2012 % Change	Appropriations FY 2013	FY 2012 to FY 2013 % Change
Report For Main Operating Appropriations Bill			Version: Enacted					
ELC Ohio Elections Commission								
GRF	051321	Operating Expenses	\$ 338,325	\$ 325,114	\$ 333,117	2.46%	\$ 333,117	0.00%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 338,325	\$ 325,114	\$ 333,117	2.46%	\$ 333,117	0.00%
4P20	051601	Ohio Elections Commission Fund	\$ 228,136	\$ 200,541	\$ 225,000	12.20%	\$ 225,000	0.00%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 228,136	\$ 200,541	\$ 225,000	12.20%	\$ 225,000	0.00%
Ohio Elections Commission Total			\$ 566,461	\$ 525,655	\$ 558,117	6.18%	\$ 558,117	0.00%