Ohio Elections Commission

House Higher Education Subcommittee

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Legislative Service Commission

March 27, 2007

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LSC Redbook

for the

Ohio Elections Commission

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ATTACHMENTS:
Catalog of Budget Line Items
LSC Budget Spreadsheet By Line Item

March 27, 2007

Ohio Elections Commission

- Total recommended budget of $1,345,598 for FYs 2008-2009
- The Elections Commission receives 62% of its funding from the General Revenue Fund; 83% of this goes to personal services

OVERVIEW

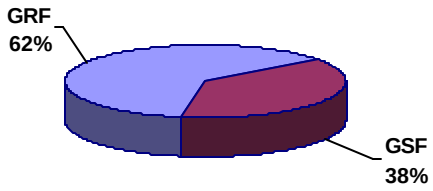
The Ohio Elections Commission (ELC) oversees political party spending, campaign finance, and corporate political contributions to ensure compliance with the Ohio Elections Law set forth in Chapter 3517. of the Revised Code. The Commission issues advisory opinions on campaign finance questions, responds to questions about campaign activities, and acts as an enforcement body and customer service center for the policing of campaign activities.

The Commission is comprised of seven 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.

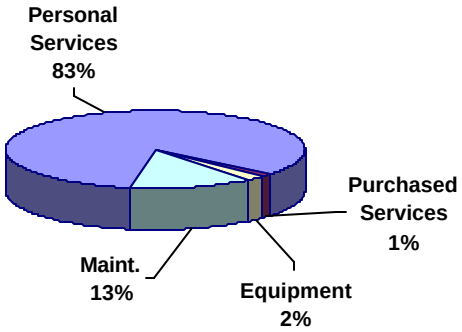
Executive Funding Recommendations, FYs 2008-2009

The estimated executive recommendation for ELC funding is $666,623 in FY 2008, which is a 4.7% increase over FY 2007 spending of $636,623. The recommendation for FY 2009 is $678,975, constituting an approximate 2% increase over FY 2008 appropriations. The following pie charts show the budget by fund group and by object of expense.

Total Budget by Fund Group, FYs 2008-2009



Total Budget by Object Code, FYs 2008-2009



Staffing Levels

Ohio Elections Commission Staffing Levels, FY 2004-2009						
					Estimated	
Program Series/Division	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**
Regulation	10	10	10	10	10	10
Totals	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**

The Elections Commission consists of seven appointed members. Three of the appointed members are Democrats, and three are Republicans. The final member is independent. The remaining three employees counted in the table above are the executive director, and two administrative assistants.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The tables below illustrate statutory filing fees for candidates and ballot issues, and the portion of those fees that are received by ELC. These fees are collected by the Secretary of State's office or appropriate county board of elections. ELC estimates that it receives approximately $300,000 per biennium from candidate and ballot issue filing fees.

Fees for Filing Petition of Candidacy		
Office	**Total Statutory Fee**	**Portion of total fee that goes to ELC (Fund 4P2)**
Statewide (Governor, U.S. Senate)	$150	$50
State Board of Education	$55	$35
Judge (Supreme Court judges pay statewide fee)	$80	$30
District (State legislators, U.S. Representatives)	$85	$35
City	$45	$25
County	$80	$30
Township and Village	$30	$20
School Board/Educational Service Center	$30	$20

Fees for Filing Petitions for Ballot Questions/Issues		
Jurisdiction Affected by Question/Issue	**Total Statutory Fee**	**Portion of total fee that goes to ELC (Fund 4P2)**
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 EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL

Single Program Series **Regulation**

Purpose: This program series ensures and enforces compliance with Ohio's elections law 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. The program series consists of one program, Compliance, Investigation, and Enforcement.

The following table shows the line items that are used to fund the Regulation program series, as well as the Governor's recommended funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2008	FY 2009
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	051-321	Operating Expenses	$411,623	$423,975
		General Revenue Fund Subtotal	**$411,623**	**$423,975**
General Services Fund				
4P2	051-601	Ohio Elections Commission	$255,000	$255,000
		General Services Fund Subtotal	**$255,000**	**$255,000**
Total Funding: Regulation			**$666,623**	**$678,975**

Compliance, Investigation, and Enforcement

Program Description: The Commission issues advisory opinions on campaign finance and 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. As a part of this program, ELC will investigate, review, and determine approximately 800 to 1,000 cases involving unlawful campaign practices and false statements.

Funding Source: GRF, election filing fees

Line Items: 051-321, Operating Expenses, and 051-601, Ohio Elections Commission

Implication of Executive Recommendation: The Governor's recommended funding levels will allow ELC to meet its statutory obligations.

Temporary and Permanent Law Provisions

None

REQUESTS NOT FUNDED

The executive recommendations of $666,623 in FY 2008 and $678,975 in FY 2009 will fully fund the Elections Commission's program.

General Revenue Fund

GRF 051-321 Operating Expenses

2004	2005	2006	2007 Estimate	2008 Executive Proposal	2009 Executive Proposal
$293,828	$295,941	$411,177	$411,623	**$411,623**	**$423,975**
	0.7%	38.9%	0.1%	**0.0%**	**3.0%**

Source: GRF

Legal Basis: Section 206.13 of Am. Sub. H.B. 66 of the 126th G.A.

Purpose: Funds in this line item are used to pay personnel, maintenance, and equipment costs for the Ohio Elections Commission.

General Services Fund Group

4P2 051-601 Ohio Elections Commission Fund

2004	2005	2006	2007 Estimate	2008 Executive Proposal	2009 Executive Proposal
$314,737	$348,648	$220,498	$225,000	**$255,000**	**$255,000**
	10.8%	-36.8%	2.0%	**13.3%**	**0.0%**

Source: GSF: Filing fee revenue from declarations of candidacy and ballot question/issue; fine revenue from violators of Ohio's election laws

Legal Basis: Section 206.13 of Am. Sub. H.B. 66 of the 126th G.A. (originally established by Am. Sub. S.B. 9 of the 121st G.A.)

Purpose: Moneys appropriated to this line item pay expenses related to the operation of the Ohio Elections Commission.

LSC Budget Spreadsheet by Line Item, FY 2008 - FY 2009

Fund	ALI	ALI Title	2006	Estimated 2007	Executive 2008	% Change 2007 to 2008	Executive 2009	% Change 2008 to 2009
ELC Elections Commission, Ohio								
GRF	051-321	Operating Expenses	$ 411,177	$411,623	$ 411,623	0.0%	$ 423,975	3.0%
General Revenue Fund Total			**$ 411,177**	**$ 411,623**	**$ 411,623**	**0.0%**	**$ 423,975**	**3.0%**
4P2	051-601	Ohio Elections Commission Fund	$ 220,498	$225,000	$ 255,000	13.3%	$ 255,000	0.0%
General Services Fund Group Total			**$ 220,498**	**$ 225,000**	**$ 255,000**	**13.3%**	**$ 255,000**	**0.0%**
Total All Budget Fund Groups			***$ 631,675***	***$ 636,623***	***$ 666,623***	***4.7%***	***$ 678,975***	***1.9%***