

# **LSC Redbook**

**Analysis of the Executive Budget Proposal**

**Ohio Elections Commission**

*Terry Steele, Budget Analyst  
Legislative Service Commission*

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## **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Catalog of Budget Line Items
- Budget Spreadsheet By Line Item

# Ohio Elections Commission

- Total recommended budget of \$1.3 million over the FY 2010-FY 2011 biennium
- Approximately 60% of funding from the GRF

## 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. Any resulting fines are deposited in the GRF. 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.

### Appropriation Overview

As Table 1 below shows, the executive recommends FY 2010 appropriations of \$631,578; a decrease of 7.0% from the FY 2009 adjusted appropriations of \$678,975. Recommended FY 2011 appropriations are \$636,578, or 0.8% over the recommended FY 2010 level. Overall, approximately 60% of ELC's funding comes from the GRF. Most of that funding – about 85.0% – is for personnel costs.

Table 1. Executive Budget Recommendations by Fund Group, FY 2010-FY 2011					
Fund Group	FY 2009*	FY 2010	% change, FY 2009-FY 2010	FY 2011	% change, FY 2010-FY 2011
General Revenue	\$423,975	\$381,578	(10.0%)	\$381,578	0.0%
General Services	\$255,000	\$250,000	(2.0%)	\$255,000	2.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$678,975</b>	<b>\$631,578</b>	<b>(7.5)%</b>	<b>\$636,578</b>	<b>0.8%</b>

\*FY 2009 figures represent adjusted appropriations.

The remainder of ELC's funding comes from the Ohio Elections Commission Fund (Fund 4P20), which receives a portion of filing fees for petitions of candidacy collected by the Secretary of State. This includes races for statewide offices and ballot

issues, as well as races for Ohio House and Senate seats. The rest of the fee is deposited in the GRF. All of the fees for local candidates and issues are remitted to the county treasury. The fund receives approximately \$300,000 in even-numbered fiscal years and \$100,000 in odd-numbered fiscal years from these filing fees. Tables 2 below shows these fees and the portion deposited in Fund 4P20.

<b>Table 2. Statutory Fees for Filing Petition of Candidacy</b>		
<b>For Elective Office</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Portion to Fund 4P2</b>
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
<b>Jurisdiction Affected by Question/Issue</b>		
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

**Introduction**

This section provides an analysis of the Governor's recommended funding for each appropriation item in ELC's budget. The appropriations are used by ELC to discharge its duties of enforcing compliance with Ohio's Elections Law by candidates for public office, as well as making determinations regarding complaints filed by individuals or organizations and employees at the state and local levels of government.

<b>Governor's Recommended Amounts for Regulation</b>				
<b>Fund</b>	<b>ALI and Name</b>		<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
<b>General Revenue Fund</b>				
GRF	051321	Operating Expenses	\$381,578	\$381,578
<b>General Revenue Fund Subtotal</b>			<b>\$381,578</b>	<b>\$381,578</b>
<b>General Services Fund Group</b>				
4P20	051601	Ohio Elections Commission Fund	\$250,000	\$255,000
<b>General Services Fund Group Subtotal</b>			<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$255,000</b>
<b>Total Funding: Regulation</b>			<b>\$631,578</b>	<b>\$636,578</b>

**Operating Expenses (051321)**

This line item is used to pay the personnel, maintenance, and equipment costs of ELC. The executive funds this line item at \$381,578 in both FY 2010 and FY 2011, a 10% decrease from FY 2009 adjusted appropriations. 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 the salary 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.

**Ohio Elections Commission Fund (051601)**

This line item is funded through a portion of fees collected for petitions for candidacy for various political offices, as well as a portion of fees collected for filing petitions for ballot questions and issues. The executive funds this line item at \$250,000 for FY 2010, a 2.0% decrease from FY 2009, and \$255,000 in FY 2011, a 2.0% increase from FY 2010 appropriations.

*General Revenue Fund*

**GRF 051321 Operating Expenses**

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 Executive Proposal	2011 Executive Proposal
\$411,177	\$410,043	\$407,212	\$423,975	<b>\$381,578</b>	<b>\$381,578</b>
	-0.3%	-0.7%	4.1%	<b>-10.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

**Source:** GRF

**Legal Basis:** Section 271.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127th 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*

**4P20 051601 Ohio Elections Commission Fund**

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 Executive Proposal	2011 Executive Proposal
\$220,498	\$219,581	\$207,037	\$255,000	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$255,000</b>
	-0.4%	-5.7%	23.2%	<b>-2.0%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>

**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 271.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127th 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 2010 - FY 2011

<i>Fund</i>	<i>ALI</i>	<i>ALI Title</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>As Introduced 2010</i>	<i>% Change 2009 to 2010</i>	<i>As Introduced 2011</i>	<i>% Change 2010 to 2011</i>
<b><i>ELC Ohio Elections Commission</i></b>								
GRF	051321	Operating Expenses	\$ 407,212	\$ 423,975	\$ 381,578	-10.0%	\$ 381,578	0.0%
<b>General Revenue Fund Total</b>			<b>\$ 407,212</b>	<b>\$ 423,975</b>	<b>\$ 381,578</b>	<b>-10.0%</b>	<b>\$ 381,578</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
4P20	051601	Ohio Elections Commission Fund	\$ 207,037	\$ 255,000	\$ 250,000	-2.0%	\$ 255,000	2.0%
<b>General Services Fund Group Total</b>			<b>\$ 207,037</b>	<b>\$ 255,000</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>	<b>-2.0%</b>	<b>\$ 255,000</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>Total All Budget Fund Groups</b>			<b>\$ 614,249</b>	<b>\$ 678,975</b>	<b>\$ 631,578</b>	<b>-7.0%</b>	<b>\$ 636,578</b>	<b>0.8%</b>