

# **LSC Greenbook**

**Analysis of the Enacted Budget**

**Board of Tax Appeals**

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July 2013

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Budget Spreadsheet By Line Item

# Board of Tax Appeals

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- BTA decides tax cases outside the court system
- Most of BTA's costs, all paid from the GRF, are payroll-related

## OVERVIEW

The Board of Tax Appeals (BTA) provides an expert forum outside the court system to resolve controversies between taxpayers and taxing authorities. The agency is an independent, quasi-judicial, single-purpose body. Three Board members appointed by the Governor for six-year terms are authorized to determine all appeals regarding questions arising under Ohio tax laws, other than estate taxes. BTA's staff includes seven attorney examiners who manage cases and preside at evidentiary hearings to determine the facts of these cases as the basis for decisions taken by vote of the Board members. BTA also has an executive director/board secretary who oversees administrative staff.

More than 90% of appeals to BTA arise from real estate valuations by county boards of revision. Cases also arise from appeals of determinations or of rules adopted by the Tax Commissioner, including the Division of Tax Equalization. Another source of cases is appeals of allocations by county budget commissioners of tax receipts to political subdivisions. Beginning with tax year 2004, appeals of decisions of municipal boards of appeal regarding municipal income tax obligations were added to BTA's responsibilities. BTA also has authority to accept appeals of decisions by the Director of Development Services that enterprises are not qualified for tax incentive qualification certificates. Decisions of BTA may be appealed either to an Ohio court of appeals or to the Ohio Supreme Court.

## ANALYSIS OF ENACTED BUDGET

The following table shows the line item that is used to fund the activities of the Board of Tax Appeals and the amounts appropriated.

Fund		ALI and Name	FY 2014	FY 2015
<b>General Revenue Fund</b>				
GRF	116321	Operating Expenses	\$1,900,000	\$1,700,000
<b>Total Funding: Board of Tax Appeals</b>			<b>\$1,900,000</b>	<b>\$1,700,000</b>

### Operating Expenses (116321)

BTA's operating budget, all GRF, is increased 14.6% in FY 2014, compared with the agency's actual expenditures in FY 2013, and then is decreased 10.5% in FY 2015. Most of BTA's budget (and 79% of actual spending in FY 2013) covers payroll costs. Purchased personal services (10%), supplies and maintenance (9%), and equipment (2%) account for the rest. The increase in the appropriation in FY 2014 is in part to pay expected costs of implementing Sub. H.B. 138 of the 130th General Assembly, which makes changes in the law governing BTA. That act's provisions include a requirement for a Small Claims Docket that would expedite handling of qualifying appeals, resumption of BTA's mediation program, establishment of case management schedules and other procedures to increase efficiency, and more widespread use of electronic filing.

*BTA.docx/dp*

# FY 2014 - FY 2015 Final Appropriation Amounts

# All Fund Groups

## Line Item Detail by Agency

			Appropriation	FY 2013 to FY 2014	Appropriation	FY 2014 to FY 2015		
			FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015		
					% Change	% Change		
<b>Report For Main Operating Appropriations Bill</b>			<b>Version: Enacted</b>					
<b>BTA Board of Tax Appeals</b>								
GRF	116321	Operating Expenses	\$ 1,479,475	\$ 1,658,293	\$ 1,900,000	14.58%	\$ 1,700,000	-10.53%
<b>General Revenue Fund Total</b>			<b>\$ 1,479,475</b>	<b>\$ 1,658,293</b>	<b>\$ 1,900,000</b>	<b>14.58%</b>	<b>\$ 1,700,000</b>	<b>-10.53%</b>
<b>Board of Tax Appeals Total</b>			<b>\$ 1,479,475</b>	<b>\$ 1,658,293</b>	<b>\$ 1,900,000</b>	<b>14.58%</b>	<b>\$ 1,700,000</b>	<b>-10.53%</b>