

State of Ohio
Ballot Board

Role and Overview

The Ballot Board (OBB) prescribes and certifies ballot language for proposed constitutional amendments, initiatives, and referenda. The board also oversees the efforts of the Secretary of State to inform registered voters of the purpose and effect of proposed ballot issues.

The Secretary of State chairs the board. There are four other members, each appointed by the Senate President and Senate Minority Leader, as well as the Speaker of the House and the House Minority Leader. The board convenes before any statewide issue is placed on the ballot.

The Secretary of State's Office provides the professional, technical, and clerical support for the Ballot Board.

Executive Priorities for the Ballot Board

- Provide resources to the state's 88 counties to support the costs of advertising ballot issues in an effort to ensure voter awareness and understanding of proposed constitutional amendments, initiatives and referenda that come before them for action.

Summary of Budget History and Recommendations

(In thousands)				ESTIMATE FY 2005	% CHANGE FY 04-05	RECOMMENDED			
BUDGET FUND GROUP	FY 2002	ACTUAL FY 2003	FY 2004			FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
General Revenue Fund	0	602	485	0	(100.0)	0	.0	0	.0
TOTAL	0	602	485	0	(100.0)	0	.0	0	.0

(In thousands)				ESTIMATE FY 2005	% CHANGE FY 04-05	RECOMMENDED			
OBJECT OF EXPENSE	FY 2002	ACTUAL FY 2003	FY 2004			FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
Subsidy	0	602	485	0	(100.0)	0	.0	0	.0
TOTAL	0	602	485	0	(100.0)	0	.0	0	.0

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PROGRAM SERIES 01: Ballot Board

The Ohio Ballot Board prescribes ballot language for proposed amendments to the Ohio Constitution and, in certain instances when the requisite arguments or explanations have not been timely prepared, must prepare the such arguments or explanations or designate a group of persons to do so. Funding for this program, however, is focused on reimbursement of expenses incurred by Ohio's 88 county boards of election.

Program 01.01: Ballot Advertising

This program provides for the reimbursement of ballot advertising expenses incurred by each of the 88 counties.

What the Budget Buys:

- Funding for the Ballot Board is included in Controlling Board line item 911-441, Ballot Advertising Costs; \$300,000 is set-aside in each year of the biennium to reimburse county boards of elections for ballot advertising costs. Appropriations are established for this agency as necessary through Controlling Board action.

LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Ballot Board

FUND	ALI	ALI TITLE	FY 2002 ACTUAL	FY 2003 ACTUAL	FY 2004 ACTUAL	FY 2005 ESTIMATE	FY 2006 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2007 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
GRF	052-501	Ballot Advertising	0	602,368	485,375	0	0	.0	0	.0
TOTAL General Revenue Fund			0	602,368	485,375	0	0	.0	0	.0
TOTAL Ballot Board			0	602,368	485,375	0	0	.0	0	.0