

**Role and Overview**

The Ohio Elections Commission (ELC) oversees political party spending, campaign finance laws, and corporate political activity; and investigates and hears cases involving unlawful campaign practices and false statements.

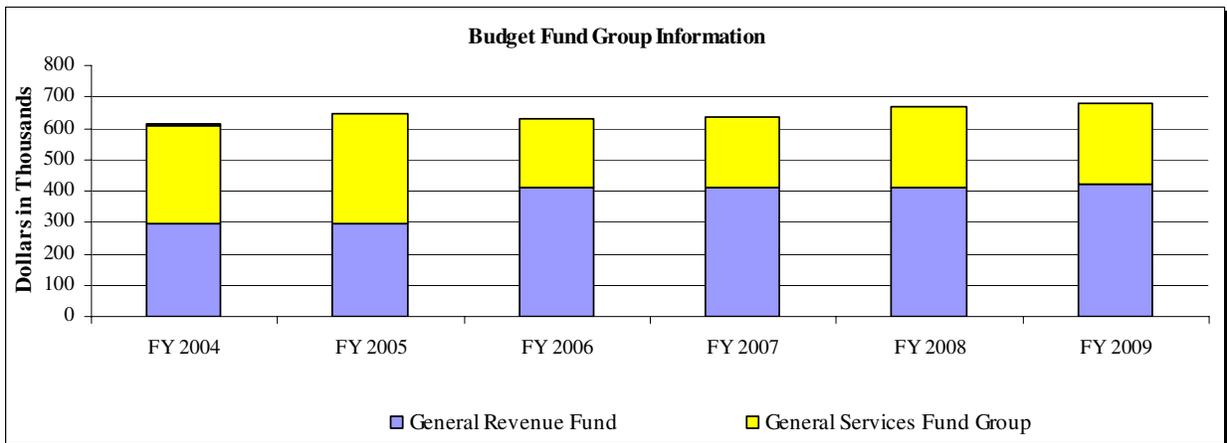
Six of the commission’s seven members are appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Democratic and Republican caucuses of the Ohio legislature with the seventh being appointed by the six partisan members of the ELC. The ELC acts on campaign finance-related complaints filed by individuals, local boards of election, or the Secretary of State. The commission holds regular meetings to hear these complaints and to decide whether a violation has occurred. If so, the ELC can impose fines, refer complaints to the appropriate county prosecutor, or issue a letter of reprimand. The ELC also can issue advisory opinions and make recommendations to the Ohio General Assembly on certain areas of law, which are within the commission’s jurisdiction. The commission has a staff of three and an annual budget of approximately \$667,000.

More information regarding the Ohio Elections Commission is available at <http://elc.ohio.gov/>.

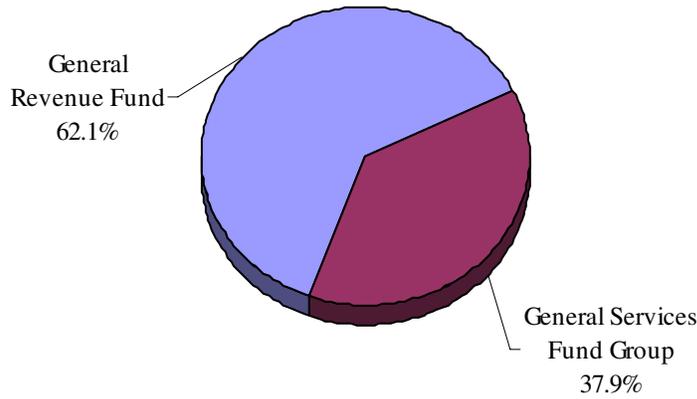
**Agency Priority**

- Enforce Ohio’s campaign finance, false statement, political disclaimer, and corporate electoral activity laws.

**Summary of Budget History and Recommendations**

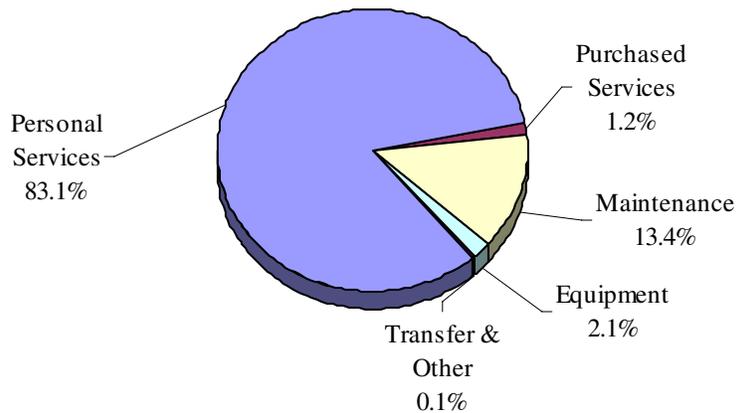


**FY 2008-09 Biennial Appropriation  
by Budget Fund Group**



(In thousands) BUDGET FUND GROUP	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE FY 2007	% CHANGE FY 06-07	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006			FY 2008	% CHANGE	FY 2009	% CHANGE
General Revenue Fund	294	296	411	412	.1	412	.0	424	3.0
General Services Fund Group	315	349	220	225	2.0	255	13.3	255	.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>.8</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>1.9</b>

**FY 2008-09 Biennial Appropriation  
by Expense Category**



State of Ohio  
Ohio Elections Commission

(In thousands) OBJECT OF EXPENSE	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE	%	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 06-07	FY 2008	%	FY 2009	%
Personal Services	502	517	522	541	3.5	556	2.9	564	1.4
Purchased Services	5	8	10	7	(31.5)	8	7.0	8	.0
Maintenance	101	114	99	86	(13.5)	88	3.0	93	5.4
Equipment	0	0	0	3	669.2	14	366.7	14	.0
Transfer & Other	0	6	0	1	.0	1	.0	1	.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>.8</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>1.9</b>

**PROGRAM SERIES 01: Regulation**

This program series ensures and enforces compliance with Ohio's elections law (Ohio Revised Code sections 3517.08 to 3517.13, 3517.17, 3517.18, 3517.20 to 3517.22, 3599.03) 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.

**Program 01.01: Compliance, Investigation, and Enforcement**

The commission issues advisory opinions on campaign finance 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.

**The Executive Recommendation will:**

- Provide oversight of political party spending, campaign finance laws, and corporate political activity;
- Investigate, review, and determine 800 to 1,000 cases involving unlawful campaign practices and false statements;
- Support the development of advisory opinions by the commission that offer guidance to ensure conformity and adherence to state and federal elections laws; and
- Support three staff members' salaries and statutorily established compensation to the commission's seven members.

FUND				RECOMMENDED	
GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	FY 2008	FY 2009
GRF	GRF	051-321	Operating Expenses	411,623	423,975
GSF	4P2	051-601	Ohio Elections Commission	255,000	255,000
<b>TOTAL FOR PROGRAM</b>				<b>666,623</b>	<b>678,975</b>

## LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Elections Commission

FUND	ALI	ALI TITLE	FY 2004 ACTUAL	FY 2005 ACTUAL	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 ESTIMATE	FY 2008 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2009 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
GRF	051-321	Operating Expenses	293,828	295,941	411,176	411,623	411,623	.0	423,975	3.0
<b>TOTAL General Revenue Fund</b>			<b>293,828</b>	<b>295,941</b>	<b>411,176</b>	<b>411,623</b>	<b>411,623</b>	<b>.0</b>	<b>423,975</b>	<b>3.0</b>
4P2	051-601	Ohio Elections Commission	314,737	348,648	220,497	225,000	255,000	13.3	255,000	.0
<b>TOTAL General Services Fund Group</b>			<b>314,737</b>	<b>348,648</b>	<b>220,497</b>	<b>225,000</b>	<b>255,000</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>255,000</b>	<b>.0</b>
<b>TOTAL Ohio Elections Commission</b>			<b>608,565</b>	<b>644,589</b>	<b>631,673</b>	<b>636,623</b>	<b>666,623</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>678,975</b>	<b>1.9</b>