

Role and Overview

The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLE) establishes a code of ethics consistent with law to govern all members and employees of the state legislature and all candidates seeking election to the legislature. The committee also investigates claims alleging a breach of privilege, conflict of interest, or violation of the state ethics laws, by any candidate for legislative office, legislative member, or employee of the Senate, the House of Representatives, or any legislative agency.

The committee consists of 12 members of the legislature. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate appoint six members each, not more than three can be from the same political party. The Speaker and the President annually alternate appointing the chairman and vice-chairman of the committee. The committee employs an executive director and a staff of five to assist in the exercise of its duties. The staff is known as the Office of the Legislative Inspector General. The staff also administers legislative, executive agency and retirement system lobbyist registrations and filings, as well as administration of the recently enacted post employment disclosure filings. The office has an annual GRF budget of approximately \$550,000, and annual spending authority for up to \$100,000 in lobbyist registration fees.

The committee may obtain information concerning any complaint filed against a member of, employee of, or candidate for the legislature and may enforce the attendance and testimony of witnesses during hearings. The committee may recommend appropriate sanctions against a particular member, employee, or candidate. The committee may recommend legislation relating to the conduct and ethics of legislative members, employees, and candidates. The committee also may act as an advisory body to the legislature and to individual members, employees, and candidates regarding possible conflicts of interest. Legislative officials and employees file their annual financial disclosure statements with the committee.

Persons regularly engaged in lobbying activity and their employers are required to register with the JLEC administrative Office of the Legislative Inspector General, and are also required to submit reports three times each calendar year of certain expenditures and certain financial transactions in connection with lobbying activity. Lobbying includes activity to influence legislation, executive agency decisions, or an investment decision of a state retirement system. The registration statements and reports of expenditures and transactions are kept on file by JLEC, which also maintains lists of registered legislative agents, executive agency lobbyists, retirement systems lobbyists, and their respective employers. The list of lobbyists and their employers is updated daily at the Agency Internet site, and is semiannually distributed to department-level agencies and the General Assembly in an electronic format. Violations under Chapters 101 or 121 of the Revised Code are referred to the Attorney General.

All documents filed with JLEC and the searchable database of lobbyists and lobbyist employers are posted to the office website.

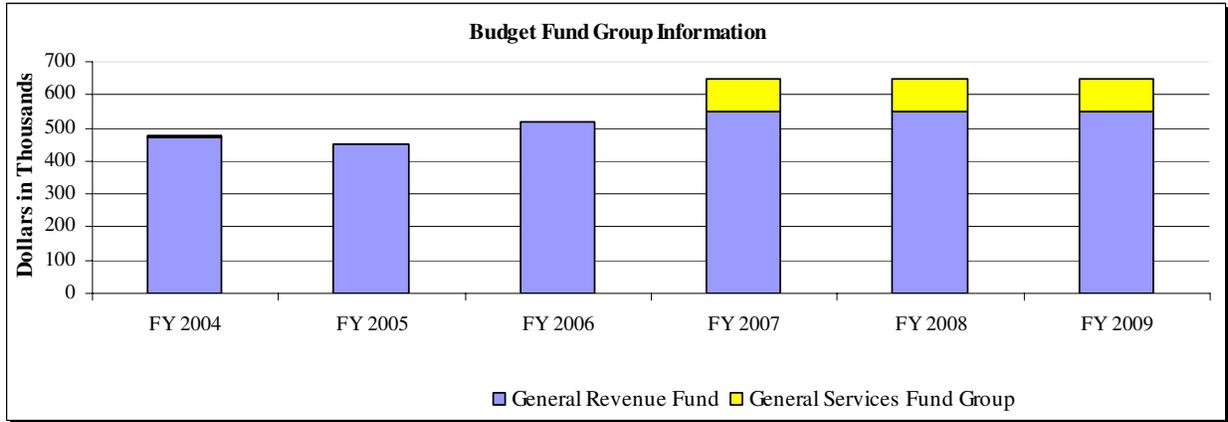
Pursuant to Section 107.03(B) of the Ohio Revised Code, the Governor may not alter the funding requests of agencies of the legislative branch of government. The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee provides the Office of Budget and Management with their budget request for inclusion in the executive budget proposal and not for consideration or approval.

More information regarding the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee is available at <http://www.jlec-olig.state.oh.us/>.

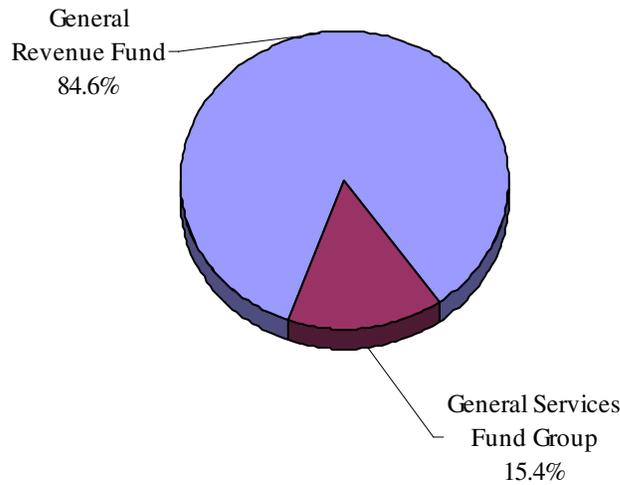
Agency Priorities

- Establish a code of ethics consistent with law to govern all members and employees of the state legislature and all candidates seeking election to the legislature.
- Investigate claims alleging a breach of privilege, conflict of interest, or violation of the state ethics laws, by any candidate for legislative office, legislative member, or employee of the Senate, the House of Representatives, or any legislative agency.

Summary of Budget History and Recommendations

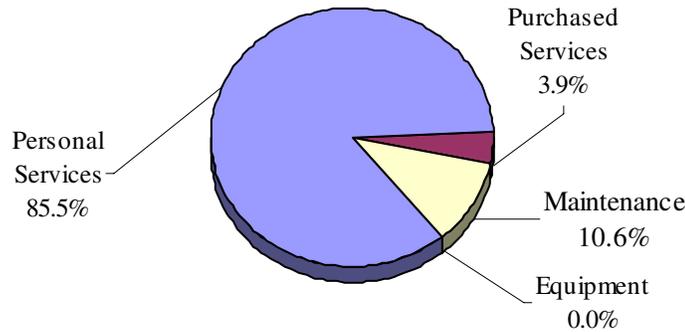


**FY 2008-09 Biennial Appropriation
by Budget Fund Group**



(In thousands) BUDGET FUND GROUP	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE	% CHANGE	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 06-07	FY 2008	% CHANGE	FY 2009	% CHANGE
General Revenue Fund	473	449	516	550	6.5	550	.0	550	.0
General Services Fund Group	0	0	0	100	.0	100	.0	100	.0
TOTAL	473	449	516	650	25.9	650	.0	650	.0

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



(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	374	334	393	546	38.9	534	(2.1)	550	3.0
Purchased Services	21	29	57	20	(65.1)	25	25.0	24	(4.0)
Maintenance	76	84	66	81	21.4	75	(6.8)	60	(20.0)
Equipment	2	2	0	4	.0	16	300.0	16	.0
TOTAL	473	449	516	650	25.9	650	.0	650	.0

PROGRAM SERIES 01: Legislative Inspector General

This program series includes one program to enable the Legislative Inspector General to fulfill its statutory mission.

Program 01.01: Legislative Inspector General

This program supports the establishment and enforcement of a standard code of ethics consistent with law to govern all members and employees of the state legislature and all candidates seeking election to the legislature. The committee also investigates claims alleging a breach of privilege, conflict of interest or violation of the state ethics laws, by any candidate for legislative office, legislative member, or employee in either the Senate or the House of Representatives.

The Executive Recommendation will:

- Continue the current level of 6 full-time positions.

FUND				RECOMMENDED	
GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	FY 2008	FY 2009
GRF	GRF	028-321	Legislative Ethics Committee	550,000	550,000
GSF	4G7	028-601	Joint Legislative Ethics	100,000	100,000
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				650,000	650,000

LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

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	028-321	Legislative Ethics Committee	472,972	448,773	516,245	550,000	550,000	.0	550,000	.0
TOTAL General Revenue Fund			472,972	448,773	516,245	550,000	550,000	.0	550,000	.0
4G7	028-601	Joint Legislative Ethics	0	0	0	100,000	100,000	.0	100,000	.0
TOTAL General Services Fund Group			0	0	0	100,000	100,000	.0	100,000	.0
TOTAL Joint Legislative Ethics Comm.			472,972	448,773	516,245	650,000	650,000	.0	650,000	.0