

## Agency Purpose

The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board is the service and regulatory agency that develops and implements administration and enforcement of M.S. 10A, the Ethics in Government Act. Agency staff supports a six-member bipartisan board, appointed by the governor for staggered four-year terms. The board's mission is to promote public confidence in state government decision making through development, administration, and enforcement of disclosure and public financing programs which will ensure public access to and understanding of information filed with the board.

## Core Functions

Core functions of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board include administration and management of the:

- ◆ registration and public disclosure by state legislative, constitutional, and judicial office candidates, political party units, political committees, and political funds;
- ◆ registration and public disclosure by lobbyists and their principals attempting to influence state legislative actions, administrative action, and the official action of metropolitan governmental units;
- ◆ disclosure of economic interests, conflicts of interest, and representation of a client for a fee under circumstances defined in M.S. 14 and M.S. 216B.243 by public and metropolitan governmental unit officials; and
- ◆ distribution of payments from the state's public subsidy program that provides public funding to qualified state candidates and the state committees of political parties and allows those candidates and parties to give political contribution refund receipts to individual contributors.

## Operations

The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board assists clients in meeting the requirements of the law by:

- ◆ making all forms available in the board office, on the board's website, and mailing required disclosure forms to clients up to three weeks prior to the reporting date;
- ◆ conducting training classes to aid clients in record keeping, reporting, and electronic filing;
- ◆ providing free campaign finance software to candidates for state and judicial offices to assist them in record keeping and to enable them to file required reports electronically;
- ◆ providing electronic filing of lobbyist reports;
- ◆ maintaining an agency website that provides forms and publications for downloading, board advisory opinions, board meeting agendas and minutes, board member and staff information, lists of clients, and summaries of past filings, etc.;
- ◆ maintaining an inbound voice line and fax line;
- ◆ providing in-office client-use computers for customers who do not have access to the Internet;
- ◆ providing a copier for client use in copying information from filed reports; and
- ◆ working with the legislature to ensure that the statute is understandable and easy to administer.

Agency operations directly affect candidates for state office, lobbyists, and public officials by assisting them in compliance with the statute. The general public and news media are benefited by timely, easy access to campaign, lobbying, and public official information filed through agency web base applications.

## Key Measures

- ⇒ Agency-developed electronic filing for lobbyist disclosure was used by approximately 50% of the registered lobbyists required to file periodic reports.
- ⇒ Agency interactive website information is updated daily to keep the public informed.

## At A Glance

In FY 2004, the board administered programs covering:

- ◆ 722 candidate committees
- ◆ 342 political party units
- ◆ 360 political committees and funds
- ◆ 3,260 lobbyist registrations
- ◆ 1,328 reporting public officials
- ◆ \$4.5 million in public subsidy payments to candidates in FY 2003

**Budget**

The board's operating budget is funded by a direct general fund appropriation from the Minnesota Legislature.

Staff salaries currently include nine full-time and one student worker position. Agency operations include all non-subsidy disbursements made to assist clients and are always higher in the second year of the biennium due to the elections cycle.

**Contact**

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2006-07
	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	
<b><u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u></b>					
<b>General</b>					
Current Appropriation	712	712	712	712	1,424
<b>Forecast Base</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>1,424</b>
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2004-05					0%
 <b><u>Expenditures by Fund</u></b>					
<b>Direct Appropriations</b>					
General	684	777	712	712	1,424
<b>Open Appropriations</b>					
General	0	0	160	5,400	5,560
Special Revenue	103	3,929	0	0	0
<b>Statutory Appropriations</b>					
Special Revenue	26	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>4,706</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>6,112</b>	<b>6,984</b>
 <b><u>Expenditures by Category</u></b>					
Total Compensation	515	574	582	596	1,178
Other Operating Expenses	169	203	130	116	246
Payments To Individuals	26	3,705	0	3,977	3,977
Local Assistance	103	224	160	216	376
Transfers	0	0	0	1,207	1,207
<b>Total</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>4,706</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>6,112</b>	<b>6,984</b>
 <b><u>Expenditures by Program</u></b>					
Campaign Finance	813	4,706	872	6,112	6,984
<b>Total</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>4,706</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>6,112</b>	<b>6,984</b>
 <b>Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)</b>	 <b>7.9</b>	 <b>9.3</b>	 <b>9.0</b>	 <b>9.3</b>	