

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 action, 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 web site, 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 and lobbyist principal reports;
- ◆ maintaining an agency web site that provides forms and publications for downloading, advisory opinions, meeting agendas and minutes, board member and staff information, lists of clients, and summaries of past filings, etc.;
- ◆ scanning required filings for viewing on the web site to enable the public easy, timely access to disclosure;
- ◆ 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 to assist in compliance and administration.

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 promulgated rules to further assist clients in meeting the requirements of Chapter 10A.

At A Glance

The board administers programs covering about:

- ◆ 895 candidate committees
- ◆ 340 political party units
- ◆ 375 political committees and funds
- ◆ 3,025 lobbyist registrations
- ◆ 1,300 reporting public officials

In FY 2005 and FY 2006 the Board paid public subsidy payments of:

- ◆ \$1.7 million to candidates for house of representatives
- ◆ \$73,438 to candidates in special elections
- ◆ \$171,088 to qualified state political party units

- ⇒ Agency-developed electronic filing for lobbyist principal disclosure was used by approximately 82% of the principals required to file periodic reports.
- ⇒ Agency interactive website information is updated daily to keep the public informed.

Budget

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

Staff salaries currently include 8.80 full-time equivalents. Agency operations include all non-public 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 2008-09
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
General					
Current Appropriation	694	694	694	694	1,388
Forecast Base	694	694	694	694	1,388
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2006-07					0%
 <u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
General	681	734	694	694	1,388
Open Appropriations					
General	0	0	220	3,850	4,070
Statutory Appropriations					
Misc Special Revenue	132	5,474	5	5	10
Total	813	6,208	919	4,549	5,468
 <u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	588	603	593	593	1,186
Other Operating Expenses	93	131	101	101	202
Payments To Individuals	73	5,328	5	1,802	1,807
Local Assistance	59	146	0	1,250	1,250
Transfers	0	0	220	803	1,023
Total	813	6,208	919	4,549	5,468
 <u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Campaign Finance	813	6,208	919	4,549	5,468
Total	813	6,208	919	4,549	5,468
 Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)	 8.5	 8.8	 8.8	 8.8	

Dollars in Thousands

	Actual FY2006	Budgeted FY2007	Current Law		Biennium 2008-09
			FY2008	FY2009	
<u>Non Dedicated Revenue:</u>					
Other Revenues:					
General	238	87	74	87	161
Total Non-Dedicated Receipts	238	87	74	87	161
<u>Dedicated Receipts:</u>					
Other Revenues:					
Misc Special Revenue	4	5	5	5	10
Total Dedicated Receipts	4	5	5	5	10
Agency Total Revenue					
	242	92	79	92	171