



City & County of San Francisco  
**Ethics Commission**



FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28 Departmental Budget Presentation  
BOS Budget and Appropriations Committee  
Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Patrick Ford, Executive Director

# Ethics Commission Mission

To promote the highest standards of ethical conduct in City government and to ensure transparency into campaign finance and lobbying activities.

## Program Areas

- Conflicts-of-Interest/Ethics
- Campaign Finance
- Lobbyist
- Major Developer
- Campaign Consultant
- Permit Expediter
- Whistleblower Retaliation

## Programs

- Trainings, Advice, Compliance Information
- Disclosure Systems
- Enforcement
- Audits
- Policy Development

# Advances in FY26

Commission staff have researched, adopted, and tracked **30 new Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** to drive efficient, accurate results

- Through May, staff **opened 140 investigations**, with cases spending a rolling average of 1.36 months in the preliminary review phase
- Staff resolved **over 95% of cases within one year**
- Auditors completed 27 campaign committee audits, reviewing **an average of 261 transactions per auditor** for each completed audit
- Auditors also processed and reviewed **over 3,600 submitted contributions** through the Commission's public financing program, distributing over \$1.5 million

- The Commission's disclosure and compliance teams resolved **over 2,500 support tickets**, providing advice, guidance, and technical support
- Commission staff and systems processed **over 12,000 filings** across program areas
- Staff partnered with the Office of the Mayor to strengthen and streamline its Form 700 filing program, **resulting in over 98% compliance** as of June 2026

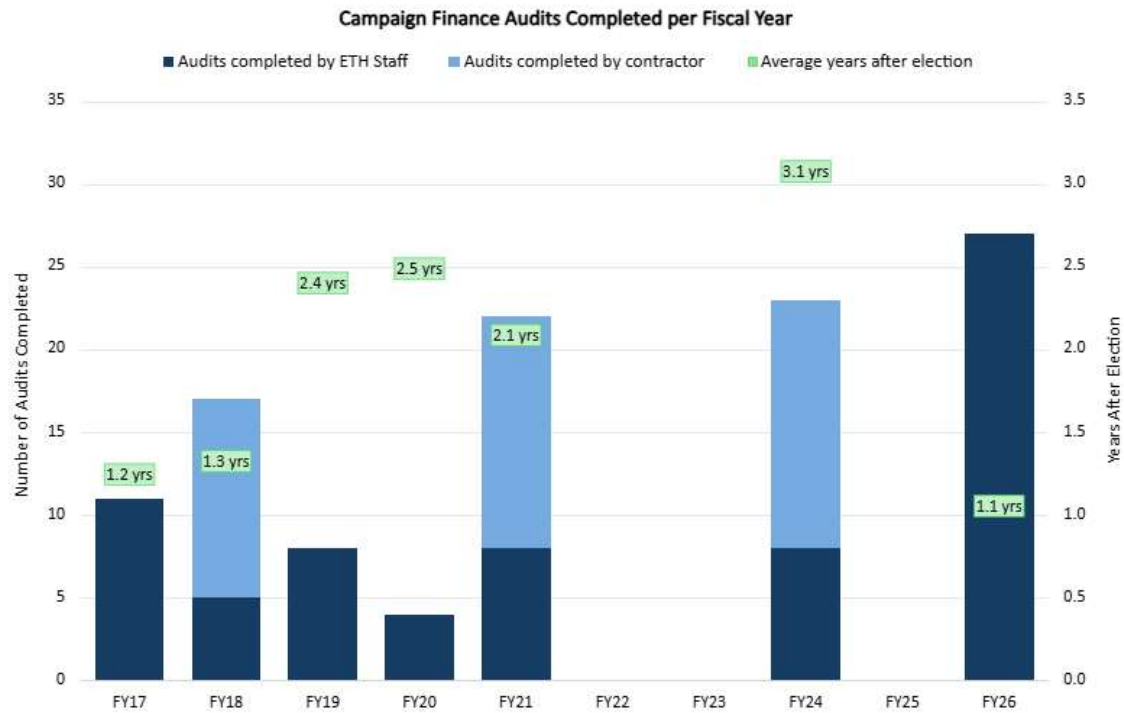
\*All data reflects numbers from July 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026

# Metrics: Audits

## June & November 2026 Election – Public Financing Snapshot

**3,662**  
Contributions reviewed and matched

**\$1,517,430**  
Public funds distributed



# Metrics: Compliance Assistance and Advice

## Requests for Assistance (FY26)

	<u>Responses</u>	<u>Average time</u>
<b>Form 700:</b>	1,466	<1 Day
<b>Campaign Finance:</b>	386	2-3 Days
<b>Ethics:</b>	284	2-3 Days
<b>Lobbyist:</b>	109	<1 Day
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,245</b>	

**2/5 (40%)  
compliance positions  
have been cut in the  
last two budgets**

## Annual Ethics Training – Survey Responses

City Employees Reported Being “Very Knowledgeable” or “Extremely Knowledgeable” about Ethics Rules

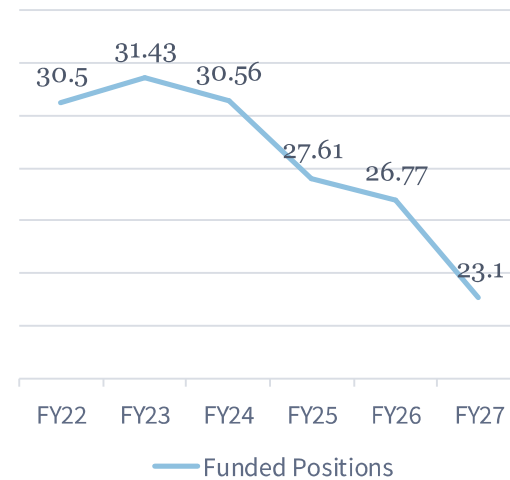
**43%**  
Before training

**79%**  
After training

# Commission's Funding Snapshot

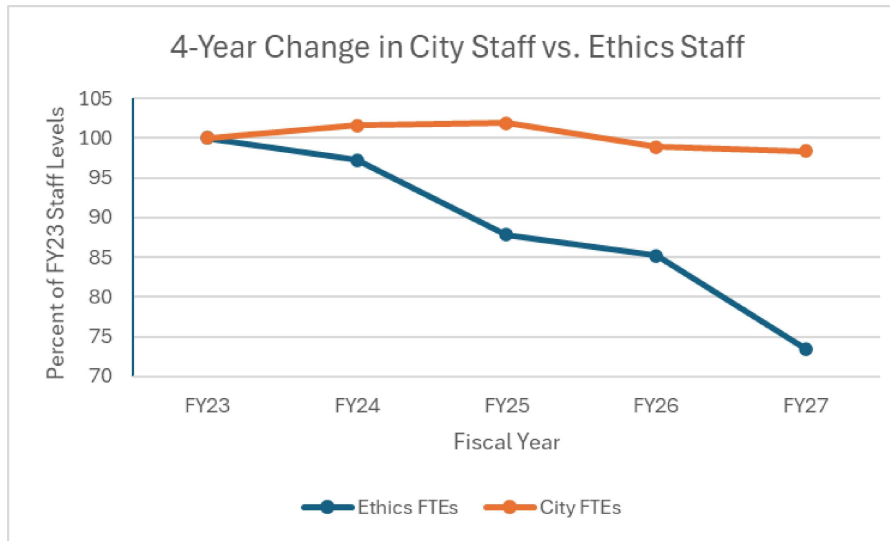
	FY26 Approved	FY27 Proposed	FY28 Proposed
Annual Operating Budget	\$6.56m	\$6.33m	\$6.69m
Election Campaign Fund Contribution	\$0	\$2.97m	\$2.73m
Funded Positions	26.77	23.10	22.98

Change in Funded Positions



The department has attempted during FY26 to wind down under-used programs in response to cuts in last year's budget.

# FY27 Budget Impact Snapshot



- **Government Ethics:** With a largely unchanged workforce, City employees need continued service through trainings, advice, guidance, and technical assistance.
- **Money in Politics:** Committees spent \$69.9 million in November 2024 City elections, and have already spent \$17.9 million in the 2026 City elections. A fully staffed Ethics Commission is required to provide training and advice to campaigns; administer the public financing program; and hold campaigns accountable for improper activity.

## Budget Impact

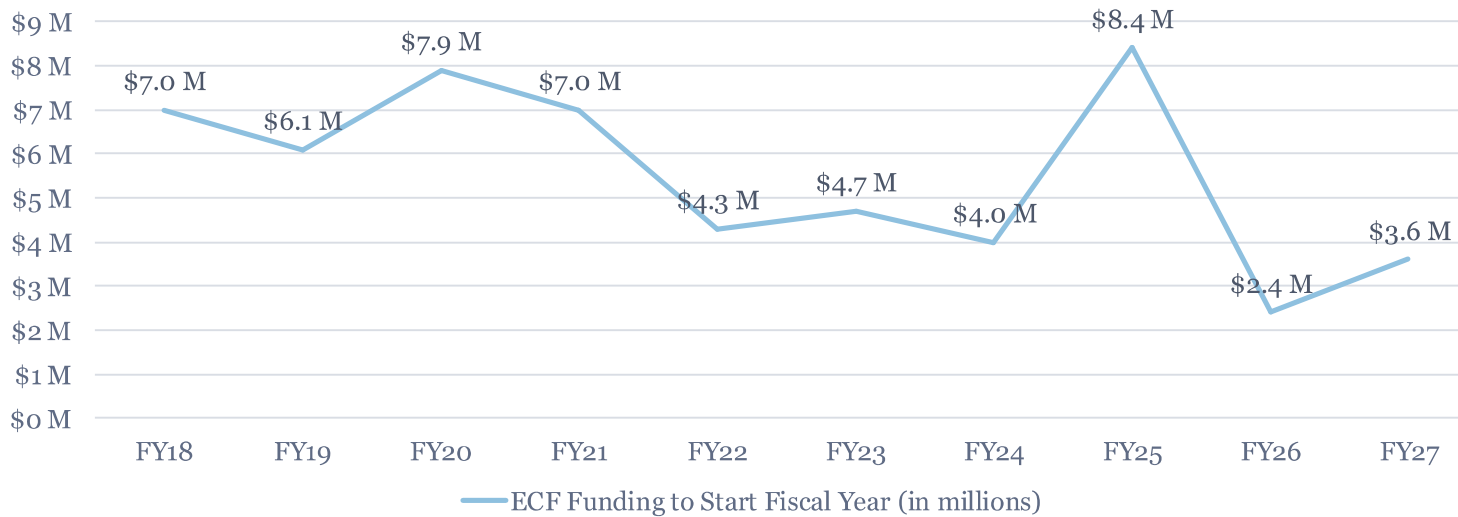
**Mayor's Proposed Budget:** Eliminates 25% of funded positions in Engagement & Compliance and 25% of funded positions in Operations. These cuts would require a reduction in ETH services:

- A rollback of **direct compliance services**, including in-person trainings, tailored departmental support, and proactive Form 700 program that led to over 99% compliance
- **Longer response times and fewer resources** for individuals seeking advice, guidance, and technical assistance
- Inability to address **ongoing campaign malfeasance or risks to government ethics**, including the May 2026 BLA recommendations for Chapter 6 departments and public works contractors

# Election Campaign Fund

- Funds public financing for candidates for Mayor and the Board of Supervisors
- Mayor’s Budget Proposal adds \$2,974,897 to Election Campaign Fund
- Carryover funds covers disbursements, system maintenance, and administrative costs

ECF Funding to Start Fiscal Year



# Commission Requests

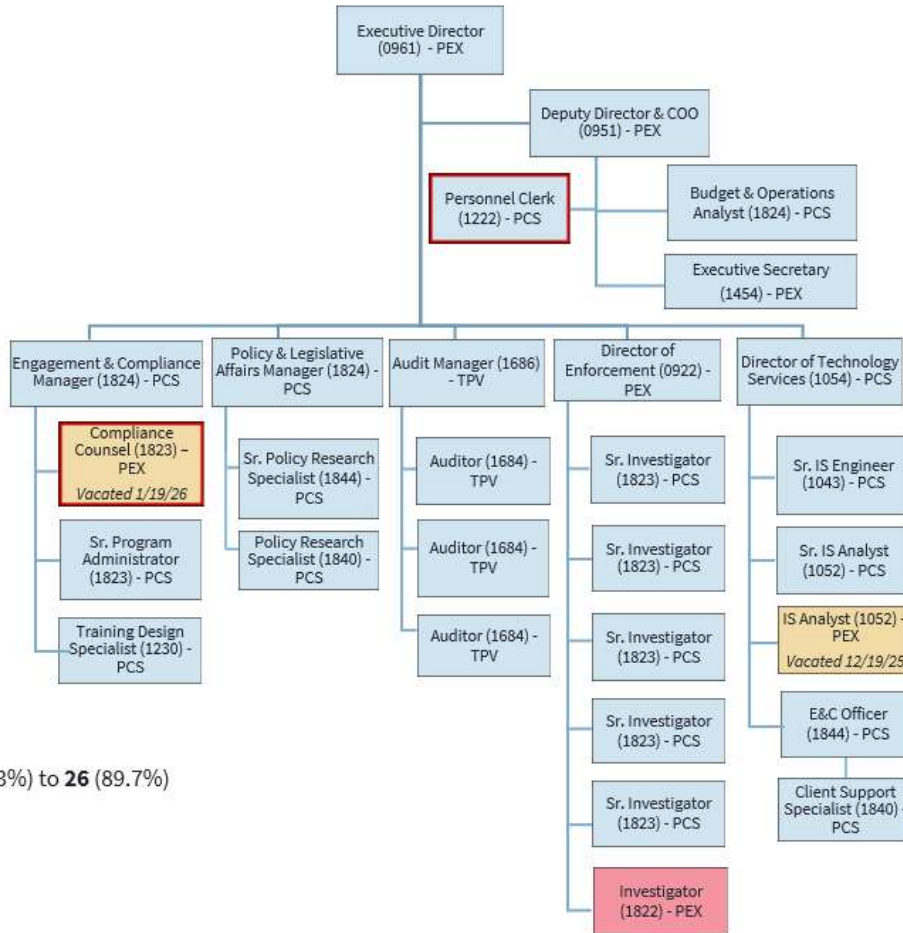
## **Restore One Vacant 1823 Position (Compliance Assistance)**

- Restore an 1823 position that would otherwise be eliminated in the proposed budget.
- Requires restoring one FTE (1823) to the ASO.

# Ethics Commission FY26 Organization Chart

(As of June 1, 2026)

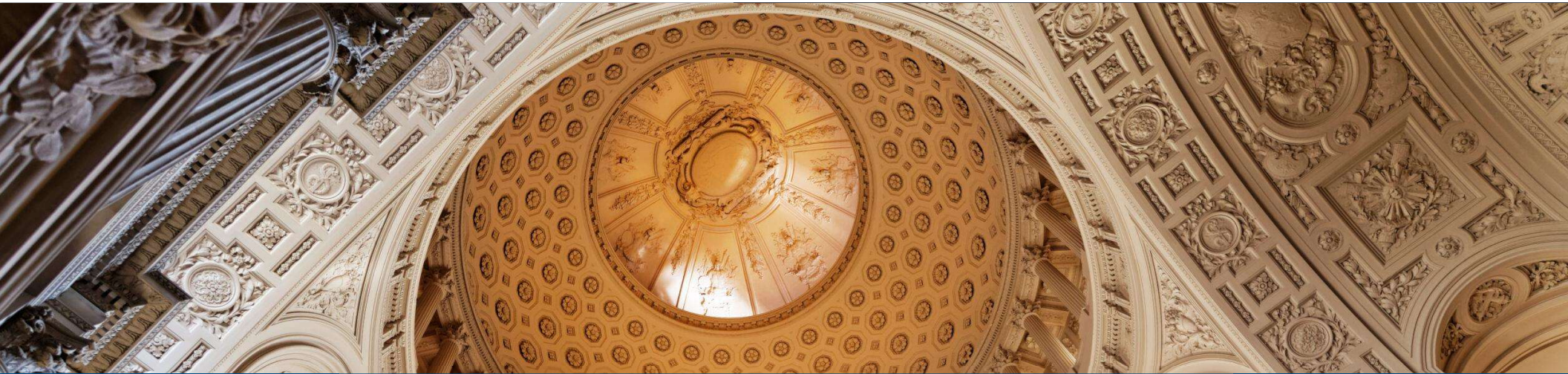
- Vacant position –requires MYR approval to be filled
- Positions held vacant for attrition savings
- Filled positions
- Positions impacted by the target cuts



- **Total 29 positions**
- Ratio of Managerial to Non-Managerial **3 (10.3%) to 26 (89.7%)**



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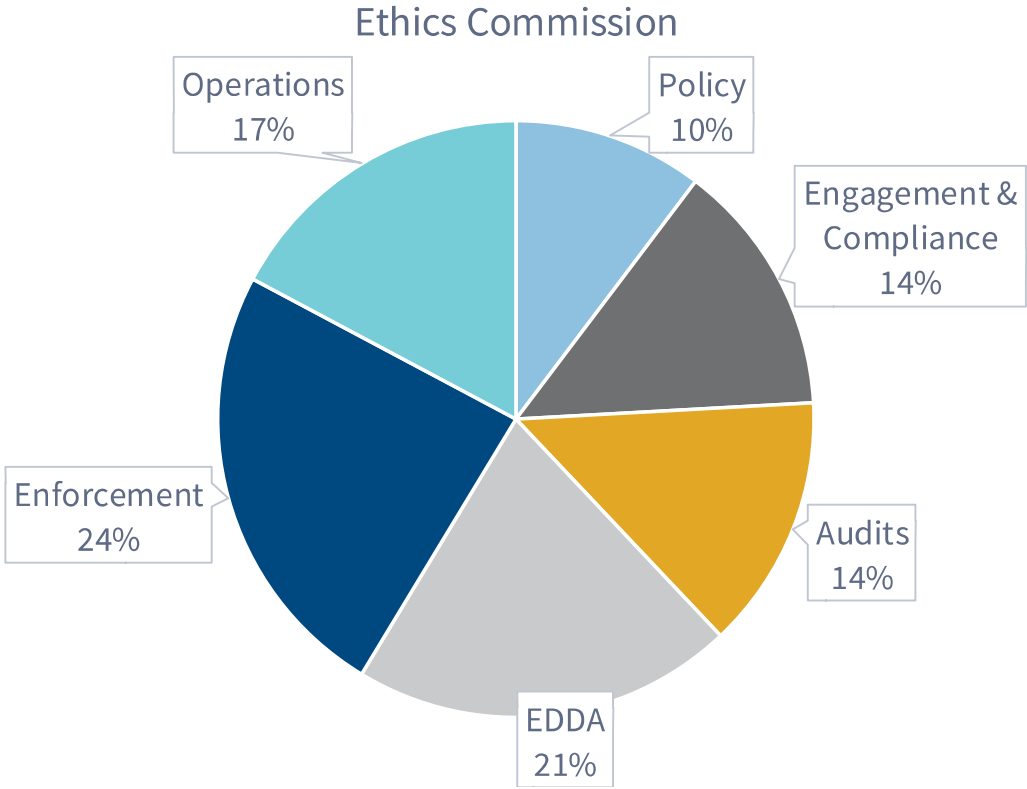
# Appendix A: Objectives by Division

Engagement & Compliance	Policy	Audits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create and administer trainings to City officials, candidates, and lobbyists</li><li>• Answer thousands of compliance inquiries</li><li>• Provide direct filing assistance to city officials</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Answer compliance inquiries</li><li>• Analyze effectiveness of current laws</li><li>• Identify opportunities for improvements</li><li>• Assist departments with ethics compliance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct campaign audits to monitor for compliance</li><li>• Complete all mandatory audits within 1 year</li><li>• Administer the City’s public financing program</li></ul>

## Appendix A: Objectives by Division

Electronic Disclosure & Data Analysis (Technology)	Enforcement	Operations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain electronic disclosure systems and provide the public with access to information</li><li>• Serve commission staff and the public with integrated technology solutions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify, investigate, and remedy violations of the law</li><li>• Pursue proactive and complex investigations</li><li>• Conduct hearings</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Serve commission staff by leading budget, procurement, payroll, HR, and admin work</li><li>• Support public engagement by staffing the Commission's front-office and public meetings</li></ul>

# Appendix B: FY25-26 Budget Allocations



# Appendix C: Budget Overview

**Total FY27 Budget:** \$6,329,283

	<b>FY27</b>	<b>Change from FY26</b>
Salaries & Benefits	\$5,284,328	-\$356,325
Non-Personnel	\$236,163	+\$100,487
Materials, Supplies	\$25,952	+\$7,185
Dept Work Orders	\$782,840	+\$21,968
Programmatic Projects	\$2,974,897	

