



City & County of San Francisco Ethics Commission



FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27 Departmental Budget Presentation
BOS Budget and Appropriations Committee
Wednesday, June 11, 2025

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

Commission’s Funding Snapshot

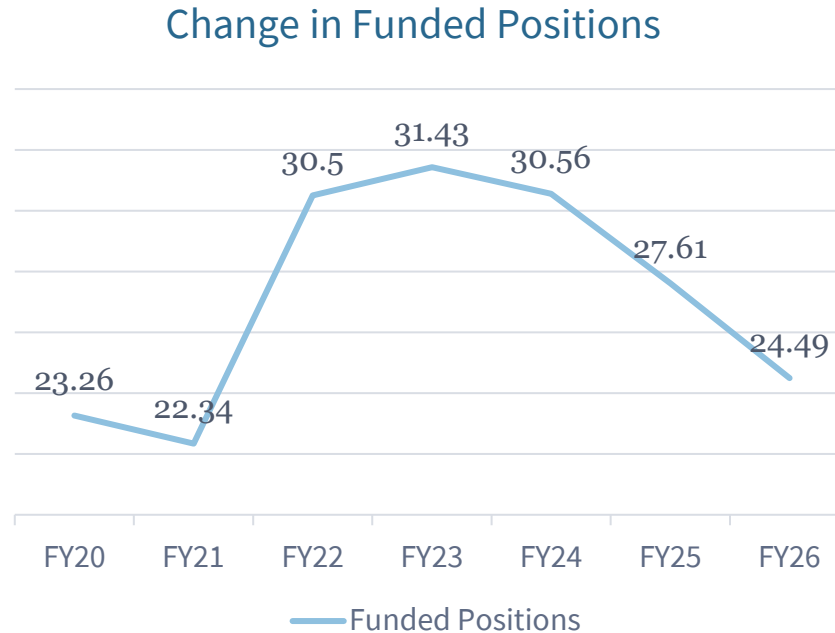
	FY25 Approved (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025)	FY26 Proposed (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)	FY27 Proposed (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027)
Annual Operating Budget	\$6.78m	\$6.48m	\$6.62m
Election Campaign Fund Contribution	\$7.5m	\$0	\$2.2m
Funded Positions	27.61	24.49*	23.61

**Reduction in staffing level is primarily due to eliminating four positions.*

FY26 Distribution of Operating Budget



FY26 Budget Impact Snapshot



Fewer Resources to Address:

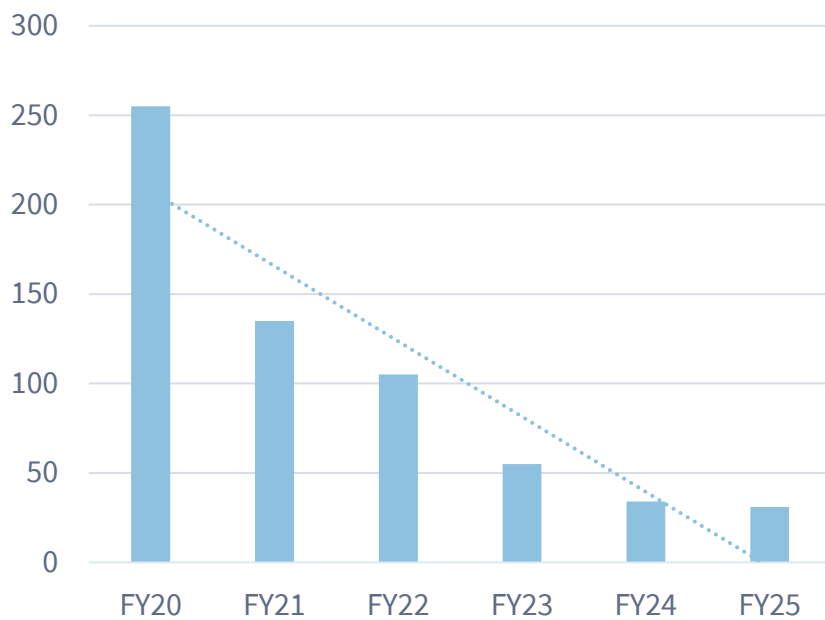
- **Money in Politics:** A record \$72 million was spent on races in the November 2024 elections
- **Government Ethics:** City Workforce will only see a .5% reduction in the coming fiscal years

Metrics: Enforcement

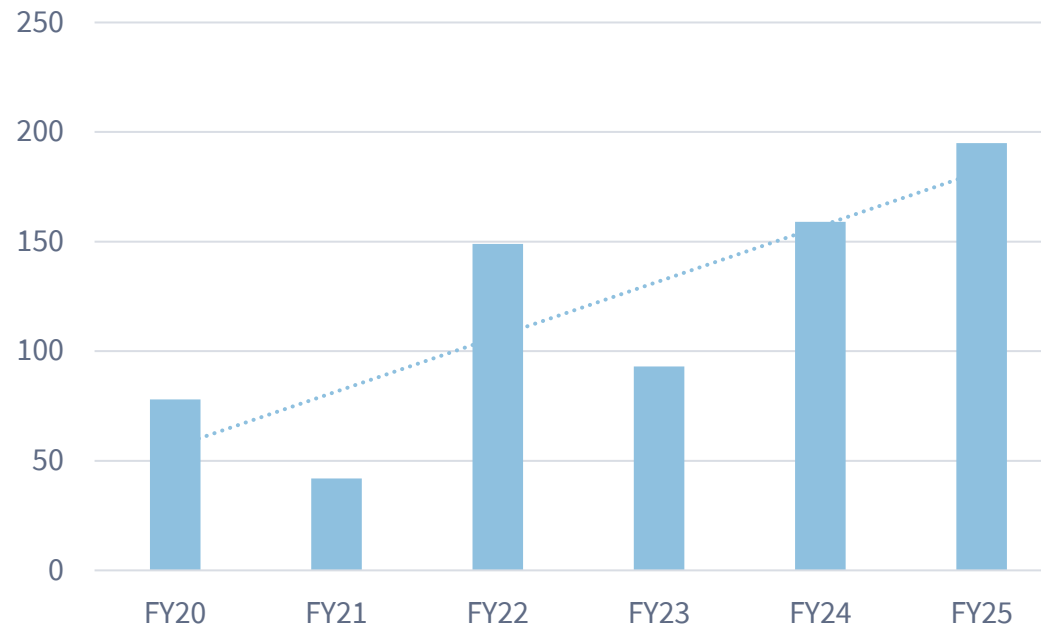
ETH has delivered an effective and timely Enforcement program, including:

- **No backlog** in cases (eliminated in FY23)
- The ability to quickly address serious violations of the law

Average Days to Complete Preliminary Review



Number of Cases Completed



Metrics: Audits

Nov 2024 Election – Public Financing Snapshot

13,068

Contributions reviewed and matched

\$8,840,000

Public funds distributed

The Audits Division is on track to complete all 27 mandatory audits from the 2024 election in a single calendar year.

Audit Plan Progress

Group 1 Audits (9 BOS committees) - June 27

Group 2 Audits (12 BOS committees) - Sept. 5

Group 3 Audits (2 BOS committees, 4 MYR committees) - Dec. 5

Audits of ballot measure committees, IE committees, general purpose committees, non-publicly financed candidates – TBD

Metrics: Compliance Assistance, Advice

Requests for Assistance (FY25)

	<u>Responses</u>	<u>Average time</u>
Form 700:	1,295	<1 Day
Campaign Finance:	341	1-2 Days
Ethics:	312	3-4 Days
Lobbyist:	116	<1 Day
Total:	2,073	

Annual Ethics Training – Survey Responses

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

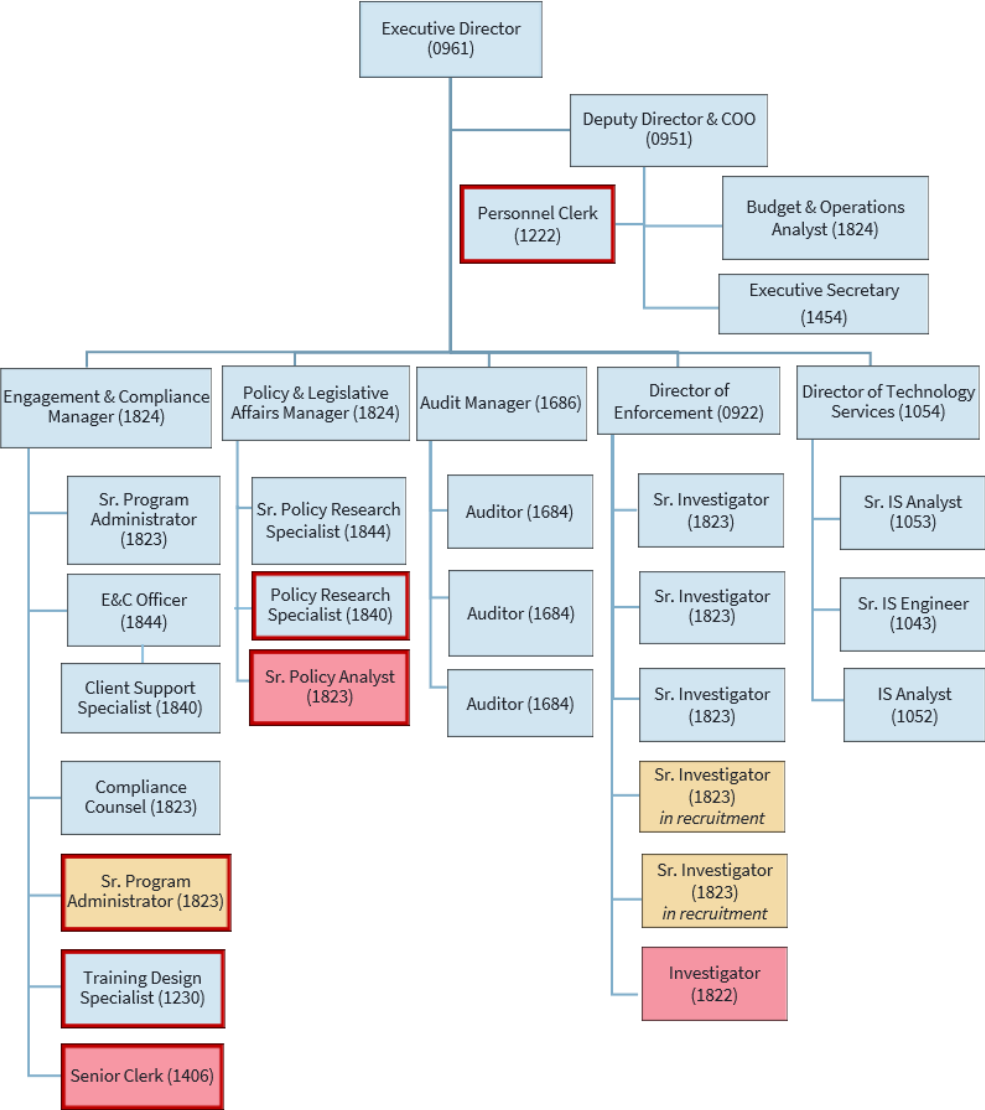
34%
Before training

73%
After training

Ethics Commission FY26 Organization Chart

(Under June 1, 2025 Mayor’s Budget Proposal)

- Vacant positions
- Positions held vacant for attrition savings
- Filled positions
- Positions impacted by the target cuts



Budget Impact

Mayor's Proposed Budget: Eliminates 29% (2 of 7) funded positions in Engagement & Compliance and 33% (1 of 3) funded positions in Policy. These cuts would require a reduction in ETH services:

Compliance Assistance, Trainings, and Resources

- Longer response times for compliance assistance
- Reduced live trainings for City departments, candidates, treasurers, lobbyists
- Fewer compliance resources (website, email reminders, guides)

Policy

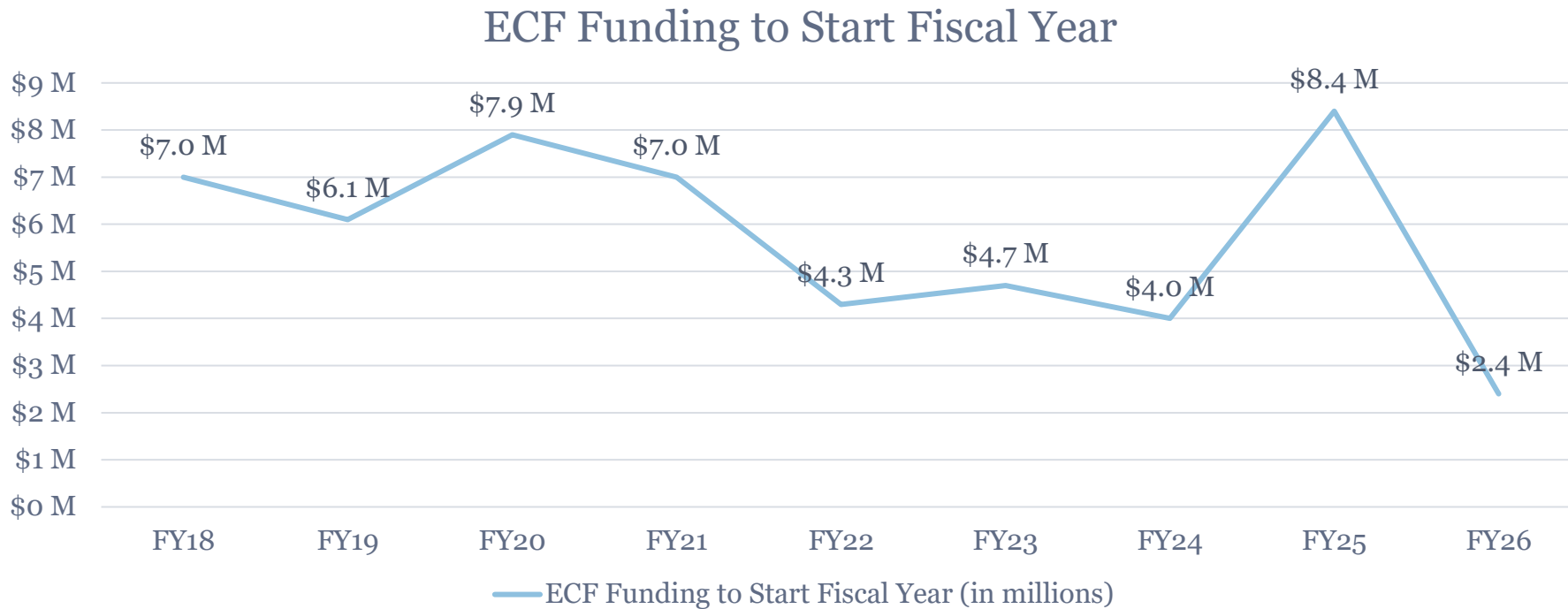
- Limited capacity to analyze rules, develop regulations, update laws
- Waiver process delays

Filing Systems & Programs

- End custom filing process for BOS/Mayor contract approval notifications

Election Campaign Fund

- Funds public financing for candidates for Mayor and the Board of Supervisors
- Mayor's Budget Proposal adds \$0 to Election Campaign Fund
- Carryover funds may not cover FY26 disbursements and administrative costs



Commission Requests

Restore One Filled 1840 Position (Policy and Compliance Assistance)

- ETH has identified existing funding for one full-time employee that would otherwise be laid off in the proposed budget.
- Requires restoring one FTE (1840) to the ASO.

Restore One 1823 Position (Compliance Assistance)

- Reduce DHR and CON work orders to fully cover an 1823 position that would otherwise be eliminated in the proposed budget.
- If restored, the position would help offset the impact of the work order reduction.
- Requires reducing existing work orders and restoring one FTE (1823) to the ASO.



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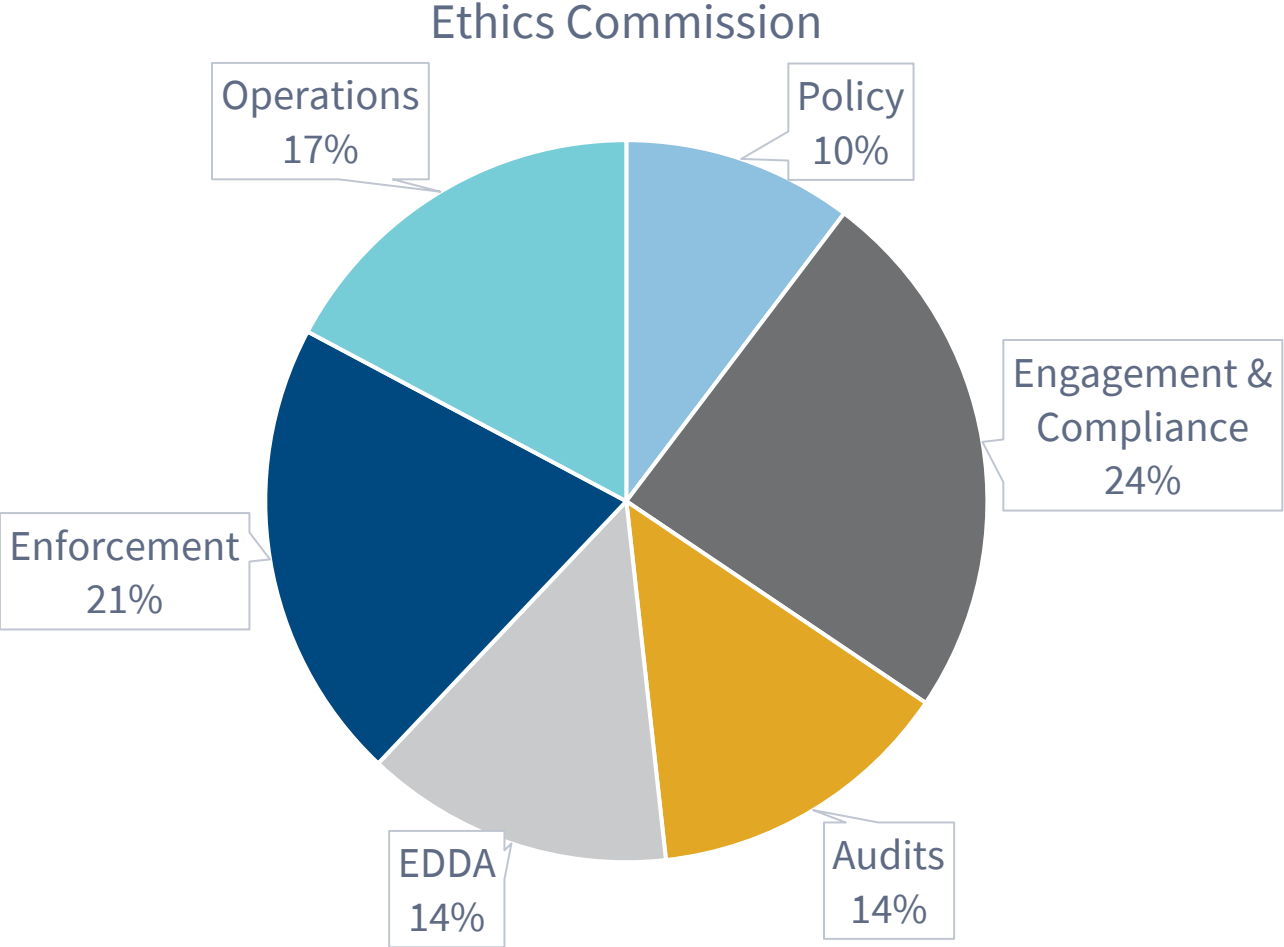
Appendix A: Objectives by Division

Engagement & Compliance	Policy	Audits
• Create and administer trainings to City officials, candidates, and lobbyists • Answer thousands of compliance inquiries • Provide direct filing assistance to city officials	• Answer compliance inquiries • Analyze effectiveness of current laws • Identify opportunities for improvements • Lead research and drafting of revisions	• Conduct campaign audits to monitor for compliance • Complete all mandatory audits within 1 year • Administer the City’s public financing program

Appendix A: Objectives by Division

EDDA (Technology)	Enforcement	Operations
• Maintain electronic disclosure systems and provide the public with access to information • Serve commission staff and the public with integrated technology solutions	• Identify, investigate, and remedy violations of the law • Pursue proactive and complex investigations • Conduct hearings	• Serve commission staff by leading budget, procurement, payroll, HR, and admin work • Support public engagement by staffing the Commission’s front-office and public meetings

Appendix B: FY24-25 Budget Allocations



Appendix C: Proposed Reclassifications and Vacancies

The Commission proposed employee reclassifications. These were rejected in the Mayor's Budget Proposal:

- Reclassify the 1052 IS Analyst to a **1042 IS Engineer** in the Electronic Disclosure and Data Analysis Division to develop technology solutions that enhance the Commission's enforcement and audit functions through automation
- Reclassify the Director of Enforcement position from 0922 Manager I to **0923 Manager II**
- Reclassify two 1823 Senior Investigator positions to **1824 Principal Investigative Analysts** to build out the division's capacity to bring cases through the administrative hearing process

The Commission has the following vacancies:

- 1823, Policy (Attrition, 7/1/24)
- 1822, Enforcement (Attrition, 7/1/24)
- 1426, Sr. Clerk (Attrition, 7/1/24)
- 1823, Compliance (Hiring Freeze, 1/31/25)
- 1823, Enforcement (4/25/25 - in recruitment)
- 1823, Enforcement (5/27/25 - in recruitment)