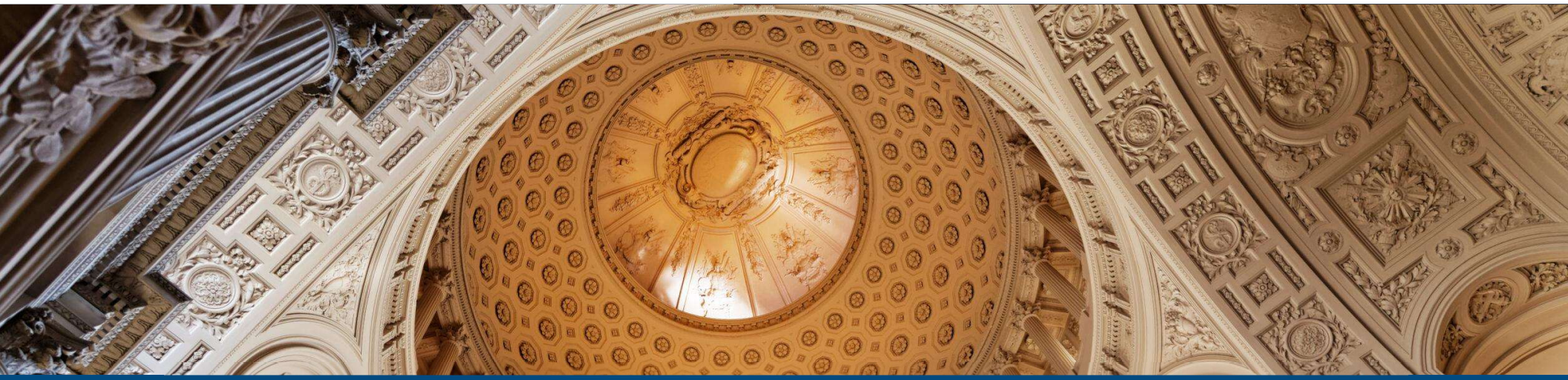
City & County of San Francisco
Ethics Commission



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

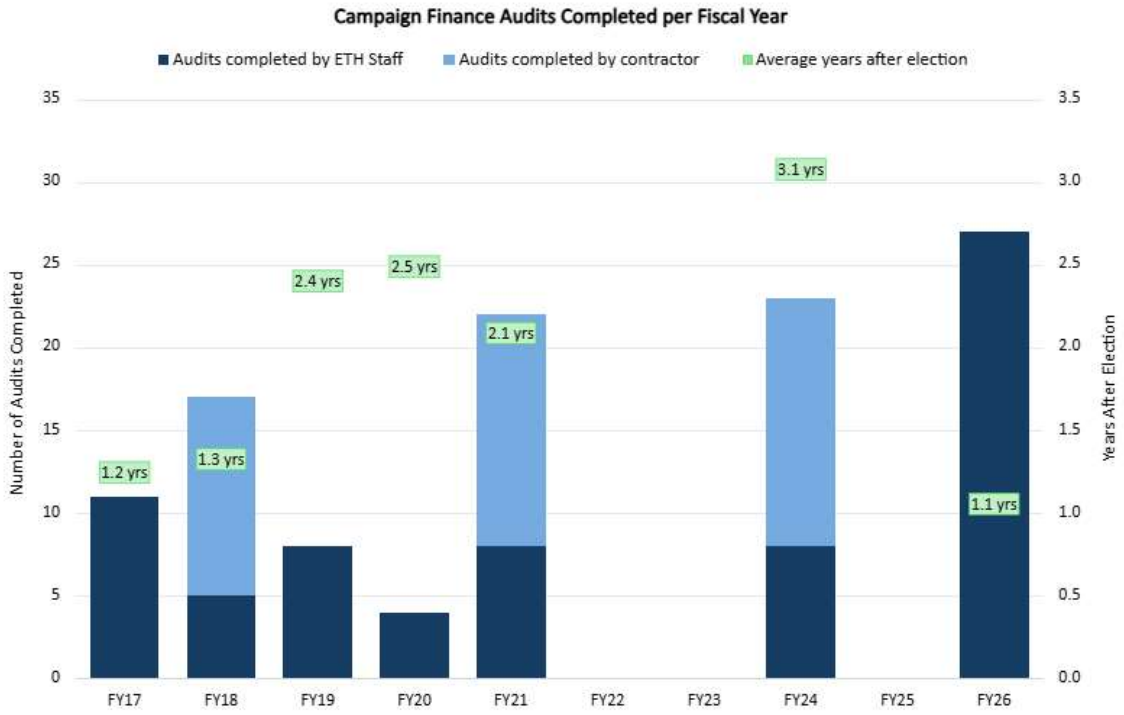
- The Commission's disclosure and compliance teams resolved **over 2,500 support tickets**, providing advice, guidance, and technical support
- Commission staff and systems processed **over 12,000 filings** across program areas
- Staff partnered with the Office of the Mayor to strengthen and streamline 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	**$1,517,430**
Contributions reviewed and matched	Public funds distributed



Metrics: Compliance Assistance and Advice

Requests for Assistance (FY26)

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

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

Annual Ethics Training – Survey Responses

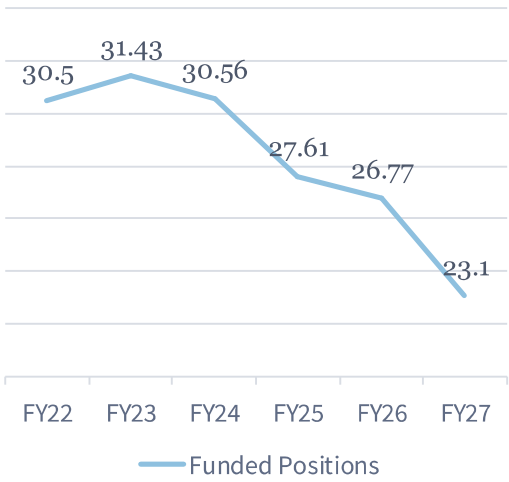
City Employees Reported Being "Very Knowledgeable" or "Extremely Knowledgeable" about Ethics Rules

43%	**79%**
Before training	After training

Commission's Funding Snapshot

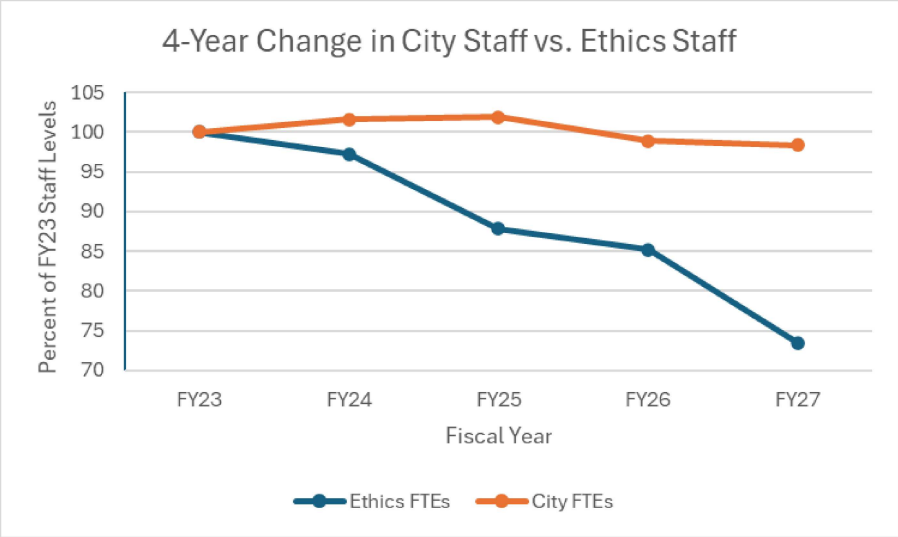
	FY26 Approved	FY27 Proposed	FY28 Proposed
Annual Operating Budget	$6.56m	$6.33m	$6.69m
Election Campaign Fund Contribution	$0	$2.97m	$2.73m
Funded Positions	26.77	23.10	22.98

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.

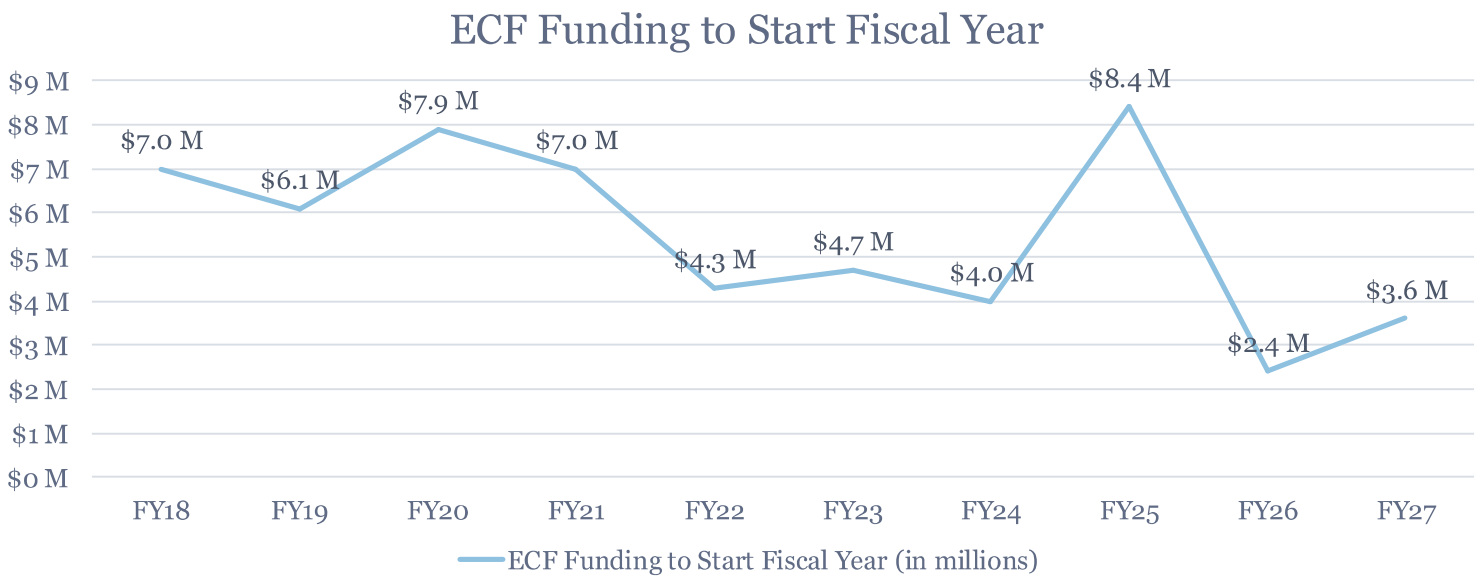
Budget Impact

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



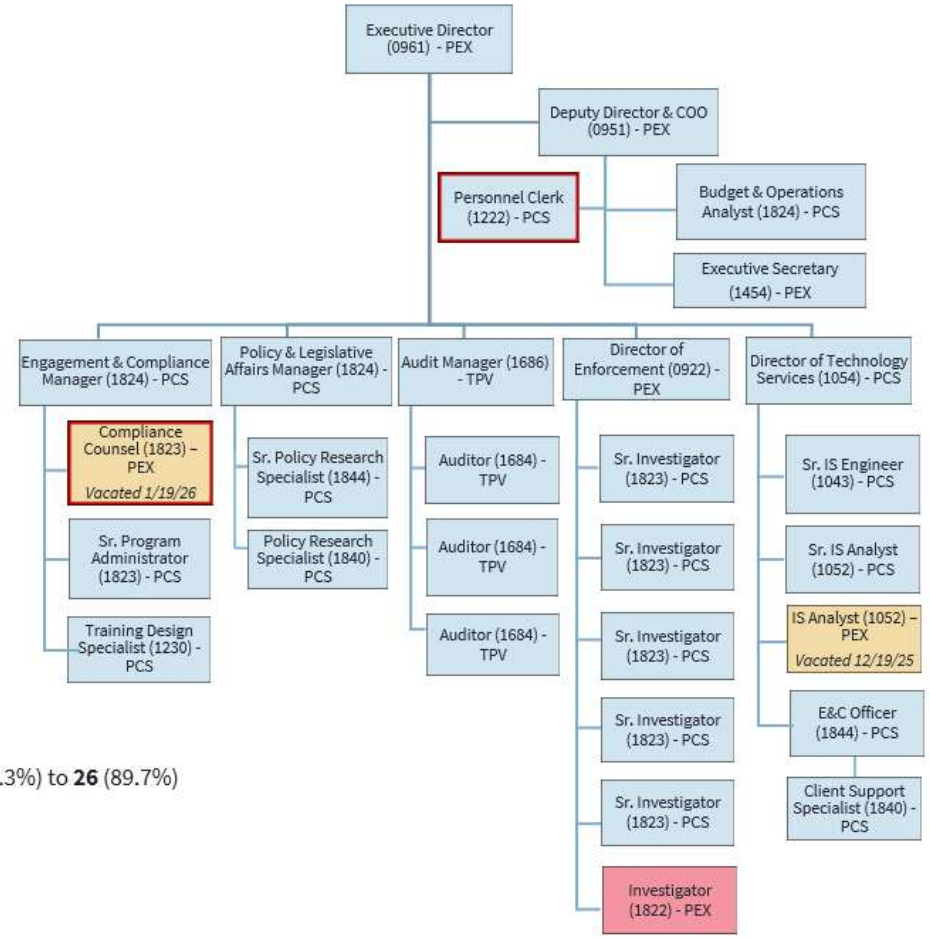
Commission Requests

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

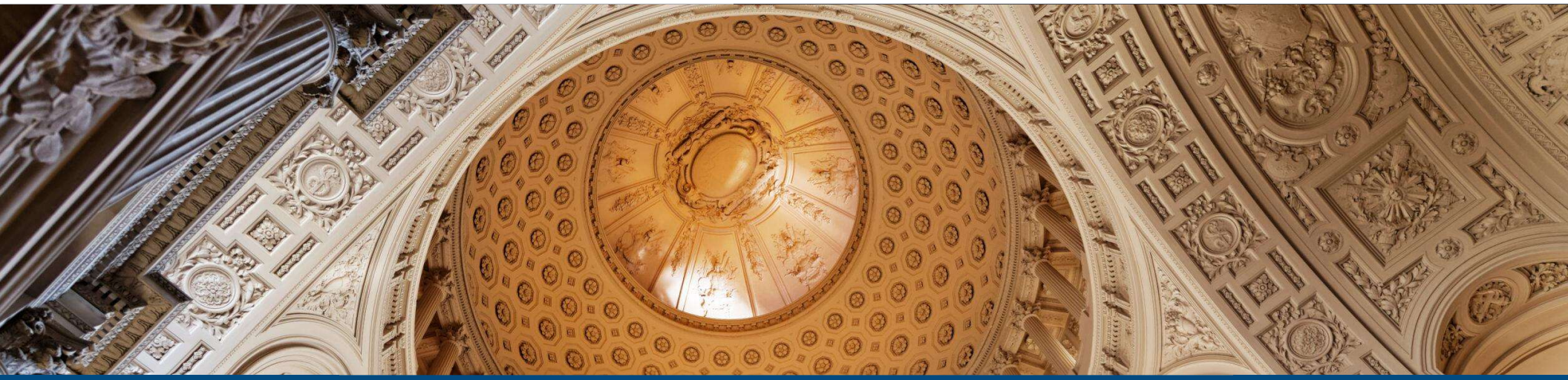
Positions held vacant for attrition savings

Filled positions

Positions impacted by the target cuts

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

City & County of San Francisco
Ethics Commission



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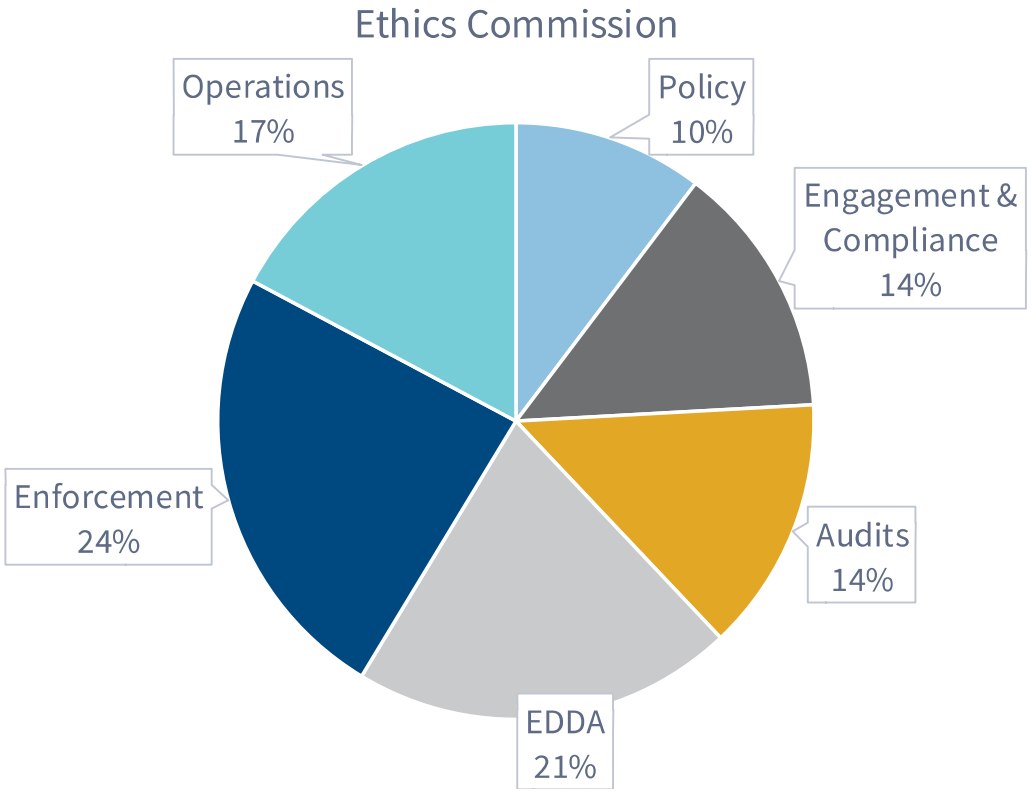
Appendix A: Objectives by Division

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 • Assist departments with ethics compliance	• 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

Electronic Disclosure & Data Analysis (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: FY25-26 Budget Allocations



Appendix C: Budget Overview

Total FY27 Budget: $6,329,283

	FY27	Change from FY26
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	