

Ethics Commission



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Commission Description

Founded in 2001, the Ethics Commission is an independent City entity responsible for monitoring, administering, and enforcing the City's governmental ethics laws, which include the City's campaign and lobbying laws. The Ethics Commission conducts audits and investigations, provides formal and informal advice to persons who fall within its jurisdiction, conducts live training sessions, administers online training programs, and proposes governmental ethics law reforms. For more information concerning the Ethics Commission, please visit the Commission's website at www.sandiego.gov/ethics.

The Commission's mission is:

To preserve public confidence in City government through education, advice and the prompt and fair enforcement of local governmental ethics laws.

The Commission's vision is:

To advance the principles of open government, transparency, and an informed citizenry through the timely disclosure of financial information by candidates, political committees, lobbyists, and City Officials.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Educate City officials, City candidates and lobbyists about the various provisions in the City's governmental ethics laws

- Provide prompt, informal advice via telephone, email and in person
- Issue formal advisory opinions
- Prepare and disseminate educational materials such as fact sheets and manuals
- Provide live and online training courses for City officials, candidates, and lobbyists
- Provide live training courses on the Election Campaign Control Ordinance for City candidates

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Goal 2: Ensure compliance with the City’s governmental ethics laws through audit and enforcement activities

- Conduct efficient and thorough investigations into alleged violations of the City’s ethics laws, campaign laws, and lobbying laws
- Conduct compliance audits of City candidate and ballot measure committees

Goal 3: Propose legislative amendments to ensure that the City’s governmental ethics laws are effective in preventing corruption and the appearance of corruption

- Review existing laws, receive public input, and study laws in other jurisdictions
- Prepare proposed legislative amendments for City Council approval

Key Performance Indicators

Performance Indicator	FY2017 Target	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Target	FY2018 Projection	FY2019 Target
1. Percentage of authorized investigations completed within 180 calendar days	90%	96%	90%	90%	90%
2. Percentage of authorized investigations completed within 360 calendar days	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
3. Percentage of complaints reviewed within 30 calendar days	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
4. Percentage of educational materials updated within 30 days of legislative changes (both State and local)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
5. Percentage of requests for technical assistance (informal advice regarding campaign, lobbying, and ethics laws) responded to within 24 hours	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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Department Summary

	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Proposed	FY2018–2019 Change
FTE Positions (Budgeted)	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00
Personnel Expenditures	\$ 867,234	\$ 954,988	\$ 1,011,961	\$ 56,973
Non-Personnel Expenditures	105,254	274,159	272,124	(2,035)
Total Department Expenditures	\$ 972,488	\$ 1,229,147	\$ 1,284,085	\$ 54,938
Total Department Revenue	\$ 38,006	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

General Fund

Department Expenditures

	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Proposed	FY2018–2019 Change
Ethics Commission	\$ 972,488	\$ 1,229,147	\$ 1,284,085	\$ 54,938
Total	\$ 972,488	\$ 1,229,147	\$ 1,284,085	\$ 54,938

Department Personnel

	FY2017 Budget	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Proposed	FY2018–2019 Change
Ethics Commission	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00
Total	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00

Significant Budget Adjustments

	FTE	Expenditures	Revenue
Salary and Benefit Adjustments Adjustments to reflect savings resulting from vacant positions for any period of the fiscal year, retirement contributions, retiree health contributions, and labor negotiations.	0.00	\$ 56,973	\$ -
Non-Discretionary Adjustment Adjustment to expenditure allocations that are determined outside of the department's direct control. These allocations are generally based on prior year expenditure trends and examples of these include utilities, insurance, and rent.	0.00	(330)	-
Support for Information Technology Adjustment to expenditure allocations according to a zero-based annual review of information technology funding requirements.	0.00	(1,705)	-
Total	0.00	\$ 54,938	\$ -

Expenditures by Category

	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Proposed	FY2018–2019 Change
PERSONNEL				
Personnel Cost	\$ 516,762	\$ 526,710	\$ 558,406	\$ 31,696
Fringe Benefits	350,471	428,278	453,555	25,277
PERSONNEL SUBTOTAL	867,234	954,988	1,011,961	56,973
NON-PERSONNEL				
Supplies	\$ 7,436	\$ 8,602	\$ 9,629	\$ 1,027

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Expenditures by Category (Cont'd)

	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Proposed	FY2018-2019 Change
Contracts	73,255	239,331	238,911	(420)
Information Technology	20,762	20,289	18,584	(1,705)
Other	3,773	5,000	5,000	-
Capital Expenditures	27	937	-	(937)
NON-PERSONNEL SUBTOTAL	105,254	274,159	272,124	(2,035)
Total	\$ 972,488	\$ 1,229,147	\$ 1,284,085	\$ 54,938

Revenues by Category

	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Proposed	FY2018-2019 Change
Charges for Services	\$ 153	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fines Forfeitures and Penalties	37,612	-	-	-
Other Revenue	241	-	-	-
Total	\$ 38,006	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Personnel Expenditures

Job Number	Job Title / Wages	FY2017 Budget	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Proposed	Salary Range	Total
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FTE, Salaries, and Wages

20001220	Executive Director	1.00	1.00	1.00	\$48,516 - \$178,445	\$ 159,469
20001234	Program Coordinator	1.00	1.00	1.00	23,764 - 142,455	74,118
20001222	Program Manager	3.00	3.00	3.00	48,516 - 178,445	324,819

FTE, Salaries, and Wages Subtotal		5.00	5.00	5.00		\$ 558,406
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	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Proposed	FY2018-2019 Change
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Fringe Benefits

Employee Offset Savings	\$ 10,657	\$ 10,701	\$ 11,352	\$ 651
Flexible Benefits	57,736	69,707	72,705	2,998
Insurance	1,086	-	-	-
Long-Term Disability	1,364	-	-	-
Medicare	7,819	7,637	8,096	459
Other Post-Employment Benefits	28,455	30,005	30,655	650
Retiree Medical Trust	385	425	450	25
Retirement ADC	201,304	264,679	275,063	10,384
Risk Management Administration	4,958	5,055	5,270	215
Supplemental Pension Savings Plan	33,620	34,842	36,933	2,091
Unemployment Insurance	935	943	944	1
Workers' Compensation	2,152	4,284	12,087	7,803

Fringe Benefits Subtotal	\$ 350,471	\$ 428,278	\$ 453,555	\$ 25,277
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Total Personnel Expenditures	\$ 1,011,961			
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