

Ethics and Elections Commission

Terry Thomas, Executive Director

Contact Information

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Department Description

The Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC) helps foster public confidence in the integrity of Seattle City government by providing education, training, and enforcement of the City's Code of Ethics and Whistleblower Code. SEEC also promotes informed elections through education, training, and enforcement of the City's Elections Code and Election Pamphlet Code.

SEEC conducts ethics training for all City employees on request, and through the City's New Employee and New Supervisor Orientation programs. It also provides ethics training information for City employees via the City's intranet site.

SEEC issues advisory opinions regarding interpretations of the Code of Ethics and also investigates and rules upon alleged violations of the Code. Thirty years of formal advisory opinions, organized and searchable by topic, are available on SEEC's web site.

Through the Whistleblower Code, SEEC helps to protect an employee's right to report improper governmental action, and to be free from possible retaliation as a result of such reporting. SEEC either refers allegations of improper governmental actions to the appropriate agency or investigates those allegations itself.

SEEC fulfills the public's mandate of full campaign disclosure by training every organization required to report contributions and expenditures in proper reporting procedures, auditing every organization that reports, working with those organizations to correct errors, and making all campaign finance information available to the public. Since 1993, SEEC has made summary reports of campaign financing information available to the public. Since 1995, SEEC has published campaign financing information on its web site.

SEEC produces voters' pamphlets for City elections and ballot measures. It makes these pamphlets available in several languages and produces both an audio version and, with King County, a video version.

Proposed Policy and Program Changes

There are no substantive changes from the 2004 Endorsed Budget.

Appropriations	Summit Code	2002 Actual	2003 Adopted	2004 Endorsed	2004 Proposed
Ethics and Elections Budget Control Level	V1T00	495,835	553,000	567,000	563,891

Ethics & Elections

Appropriations	Summit Code	2002 Actual	2003 Adopted	2004 Endorsed	2004 Proposed
Department Total		495,835	553,000	567,000	563,891
Department Full-time Equivalents Total*		5.50	5.20	5.20	5.20

**FTE totals provided for information only (2002 FTE reflect adopted numbers). Authorized positions are listed in Appendix A.*

Resources

General Subfund		495,835	553,000	567,000	563,891
Total		495,835	553,000	567,000	563,891

Ethics and Elections Budget Control Level

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Compliance, Training, and Public Information budget control level is threefold: 1) to audit, investigate, and conduct hearings regarding non-compliance with, or violations of, Commission-administered ordinances; 2) to advise all City officials and employees of their obligations under Commission-administered ordinances; and 3) to publish and broadly distribute information about the City's ethical standards, City election campaigns, and campaign financial disclosure statements.

Program Summary

There are no substantive changes from the 2004 Endorsed Budget.

Expenditures/FTE	2002 Actual	2003 Adopted	2004 Endorsed	2004 Proposed
Ethics and Elections	495,835	553,000	567,000	563,891
Full-time Equivalents Total*	5.50	5.20	5.20	5.20

**FTE totals provided for information only (2002 FTE reflect adopted numbers). Authorized positions are listed in Appendix A.*