

## Agency Purpose

The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board is the service and regulatory agency that administers M.S. Chapter 10A, which establishes regulatory and reporting requirements for political candidates, party units, political committees and funds, lobbyists and certain officials. The Board was created by legislative act in 1974 and consists of six bipartisan members appointed by the governor and supported by a staff of nine.

The Board's mission is to promote public confidence in state government decision-making by developing and implementing programs for the administration, enforcement, and improvement of the statutes under its jurisdiction.

The Board's mission is embodied in these goals:

- ◆ To facilitate easier and more universal compliance with Chapter 10A,
- ◆ To provide fair and consistent statutory enforcement,
- ◆ To help citizens become better informed about public and private financing of election campaigns and about lobbying. With access to campaign finance and lobbying data, citizens will have a higher level of confidence that elected officials' decision-making is not unduly influenced by outside interests.

## Core Functions

The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board performs the following core functions:

- ◆ Maintain systems for registering candidates for state office, political party units, political committees and funds, and lobbyists and ensure compliance with registration requirements
- ◆ Administer disclosure requirements applicable to the above entities and enforce statutory financial limits
- ◆ Obtain and publish economic interest disclosure statements from designated officials
- ◆ Determine eligibility, calculate amounts, and distribute public subsidy funding for election campaigns to qualified candidates and parties
- ◆ Publish campaign finance, lobbying, and economic interest data in easily accessible and meaningful formats for citizen use through its worldwide web site, printed materials, and electronic communications
- ◆ Provide consultation, educational programs, forms, publications, training, software, internet applications, and other aids to enable those governed by Chapter 10A to understand and comply with their statutory obligations

## Operations

The Board provides its core functions through:

- ◆ Producing and publishing Handbooks, reporting forms, information sheets and other educational materials;
- ◆ Developing and administering programs to review filed reports and documents to ensure statutory compliance;
- ◆ Providing educational classes related to compliance, reporting, lobbying, software use, and other subjects;
- ◆ Developing and maintaining a worldwide web site containing tens of thousands of pages of indexed data available in static and dynamic form, serving more than two million page views to users each year;
- ◆ Developing and supporting software to allow treasurers to record, test for compliance, and report campaign finance transactions, and other technology tools to assist those required to file information with the Board;
- ◆ Providing telephone and in-person consultation and outreach relating to the requirements of Chapter 10A;
- ◆ Issuing formal advisory opinions to persons requesting guidance on a specific issue; issuing Statements of Guidance providing direction at a more general level; investigating filed complaints and issuing findings;
- ◆ Developing and implementing systems to determine eligibility for public subsidy payments and the amount of each payment; disbursing payments on time and in the right amount using state financial systems;

## At A Glance

The Board:

- ◆ Regulates and publishes reports on the campaign finance activities of 1,500 candidates and political entities
- ◆ Provides campaign finance filing software and user support to more than 300 filers
- ◆ Administers reporting by 3,800 lobbyists and 1,350 lobbyist principals
- ◆ Administers the state's public campaign finance program, used by 97% of candidates
- ◆ Pays public subsidy to candidates and party units, totaling \$4.8 million during FY 07-08
- ◆ Administers reporting and publication of economic interest data from 2,100 officials
- ◆ Provides internet access to reported data to 235,000 citizens each year

- ◆ Conducting regular public meetings to set policy, issue decisions, and conduct other Board business; and
- ◆ Working with the legislature to improve the administration of Chapter 10A and to make Board operations more cost-efficient, while not sacrificing the Board’s mission of providing open disclosure.

**Key Goals**

- ◆ To help citizens become better informed about candidates who seek to represent them, so that more people will participate in government and politics (Minnesota Milestones Goal\*, agency strategic goal)
  - ◆ To facilitate easier compliance with the statutory requirements placed on candidates, so that more people will feel able to participate in running for office (Minnesota Milestones Goal\*)
  - ◆ To provide fair and consistent enforcement of Chapter 10A so that citizens participating in the political process will have a level playing field (Minnesota Milestones Goal\*; agency strategic goal)
  - ◆ To maximize the use of technology so that Board operations remain cost-efficient and services can be designed to meet the needs of people who use them (Minnesota Milestones Goal\*\*; agency strategic goal)
- \* Minnesota Milestones Goal: People will participate in government and politics.  
 \*\* Minnesota Milestones Goal: Government in Minnesota will be cost-efficient, and services will be designed to meet the needs of the people who use them.

**Key Measures**

As a data gathering and compliance agency, technology is central to the Board’s success. Thus, measures of success in implementing technology solutions helps measure the Board’s overall effectiveness.

**Measure One:** Number of committees filing reports with the Board’s Campaign Finance Reporter software.  
 Why this measure is important: Use of the software supports efficient agency operation by eliminating manual data entry by Board staff. Compliance rules built into the software eliminate compliance violations as users are alerted of the problem immediately, thus facilitating better overall compliance.

Historical data:

Year:	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Filers:	40	*	*	120	160	200	218	249	344	315*	296*

\* 1999 – 2000 data not available; 2007 decrease due to committee terminations after an election cycle; 2008 reflects pre-primary report, which Senate and constitutional office candidates do not file.

**Measure two:** Amount and accessibility of information available online.  
 Progress: In the past biennium, the Board added scanned candidate reports for previous election years and instituted interactive database search capability for contributions and independent expenditures. The Board also added online systems for filing economic interest statements and 24-hour notices of large pre-election contributions.

**Measure Three:** Public Subsidy is paid on time, to the right people and parties, and in the right amounts.  
 Result: The Board has many proactive procedures in place which result in virtually 100% achievement of this measure.

**Budget**

The Board’s operating budget is funded by a direct general fund appropriation by the Minnesota Legislature.

The Board’s FY09 budget includes 8.2 FTE positions. The Board’s operating budget supports all Board programs and excludes only those funds that are paid directly to candidate and party unit committees under the state’s public subsidy program.

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2010-11
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	
<b><u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u></b>					
<b>General</b>					
Current Appropriation	714	735	735	735	1,470
<b>Forecast Base</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>1,470</b>
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2008-09					1.4%
<b><u>Expenditures by Fund</u></b>					
<b>Direct Appropriations</b>					
General	707	741	735	735	1,470
<b>Open Appropriations</b>					
General	0	0	135	3,885	4,020
<b>Statutory Appropriations</b>					
Miscellaneous Special Revenue	127	1,738	0	1,820	1,820
<b>Total</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>2,479</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>6,440</b>	<b>7,310</b>
<b><u>Expenditures by Category</u></b>					
Total Compensation	616	628	630	631	1,261
Other Operating Expenses	91	113	105	104	209
Payments To Individuals	34	1,592	0	5,624	5,624
Local Assistance	93	146	200	146	346
Transfers	0	0	(65)	(65)	(130)
<b>Total</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>2,479</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>6,440</b>	<b>7,310</b>
<b><u>Expenditures by Program</u></b>					
Campaign Finance	834	2,479	870	6,440	7,310
<b>Total</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>2,479</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>6,440</b>	<b>7,310</b>
<b>Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.8</b>	

*Dollars in Thousands*

	Actual FY2008	Budgeted FY2009	Current Law		Biennium 2010-11
			FY2010	FY2011	
<b><u>Non Dedicated Revenue:</u></b>					
<b>Other Revenues:</b>					
General	45	37	16	45	61
<b>Total Non-Dedicated Receipts</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>61</b>
<b><u>Dedicated Receipts:</u></b>					
<b>Other Revenues:</b>					
Miscellaneous Special Revenue	38	4	0	0	0
<b>Total Dedicated Receipts</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Agency Total Revenue</b>					
	<b>83</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>61</b>