Agency Purpose

The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board administers statutory requirements for raising, spending, and disclosing money used in state elections and for lobbying. The Board also provides disclosure of public officials' economic interests.

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 supports its mission by ensuring public access to and understanding of information filed with the Board so that the public may evaluate on its own the potential effects of money in state politics.

At a Glance

Campaign Finance Regulation and Disclosure

- Implemented new statutes and systems to handle corporate spending and new reporting schedules
- Administered registration and reporting for 1,600 Candidates and political organizations
- 9% increase in candidates filing for office over 2006; the last comparable election year
- Number of reports increased by 30% over 2006
- Electronic filing increased by 30% since 2006
- Staff decrease of 11% since 2006

Website Operation

- Provides access to 280,000 visitors per year
- Web visits up 19% since 2008

Lobbyist Registration and Disclosure

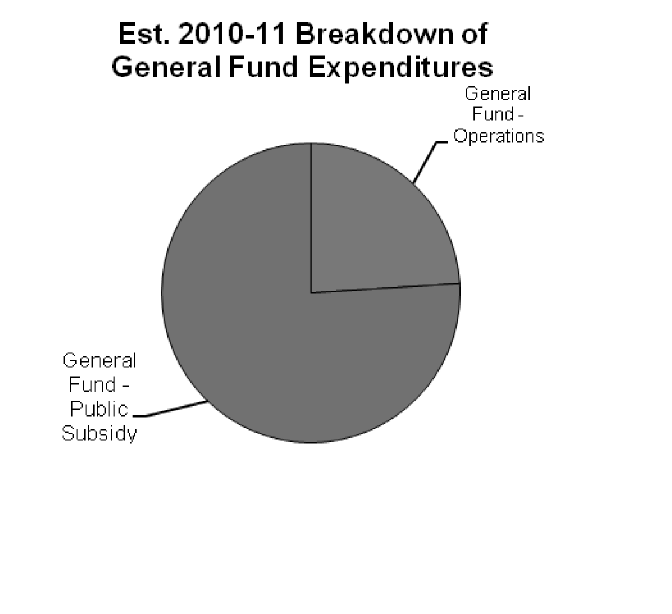
- Lobbyist/Association registrations: 3,200
- Lobbyist reports per year – 4,000
- Principal reports per year – 1,200

Administration of Public Subsidy Program

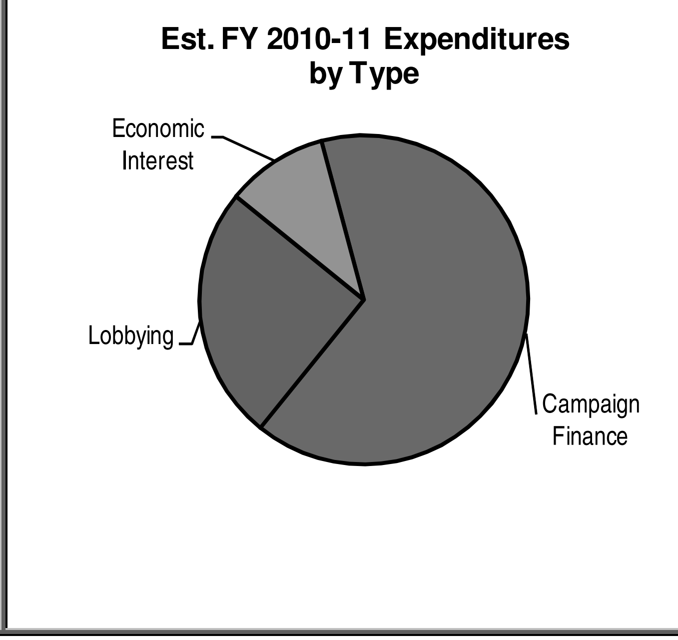
- Administered and audited eligibility for more than 850 candidates
- Managed and disbursed more than $4,000,000 in public subsidy money during FY 2010-11
- 87% of general election candidates qualified

Public Officials Financial Disclosure

- Disclosure maintained for 2,450 officials
- Filings increased 17% over 2008



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement. Note: 100% of the Board's funding is from the general fund.



Source: Agency estimates

Strategies

The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board achieves its mission using these strategies:

- Facilitate easier and more universal compliance with M.S. Chapter 10A by providing strong support for treasurers, most of whom are volunteers, and for other filers so that they can understand and meet the obligations of their positions.
- Cultivate an environment of voluntary compliance by providing educational programs, publications, training, consultation, software, internet applications, and other aids to enable those governed by M.S. Chapter 10A to understand and comply with their statutory obligations.
- Provide swift, even-handed, non-partisan administration of the compliance and disclosure statutes so that regulated entities understand that when compliance is not voluntary, it will be required through agency action and to ensure that subjects of compliance procedures are treated fairly and impartially.
- Provide transparency concerning money in Minnesota politics by publishing campaign finance and other data filed with the Board in easily accessible and meaningful formats for citizen use through its worldwide web site, printed materials, and electronic communications.
- Help citizens to better understand public and private financing of election campaigns and lobbying activities so that they may have a higher level of confidence that elected officials' decision-making is not unduly influenced by outside interests.
- Ensure the integrity of the state's program of partial public financing of political campaigns by determining eligibility, calculating amounts, and distributing public subsidy funding for election campaigns to qualified candidates and parties.

Operations

The Board implements its strategies through:

Filer support
- Developing and supporting software to allow treasurers to record, test for compliance, and report campaign finance transactions
- Providing various other technology tools to assist those required to file information with the Board
- Producing and publishing handbooks, reporting forms, information sheets and other educational materials
- Providing educational classes related to compliance, reporting, lobbying, software use, and other subjects
- Providing fast return of requests for assistance; providing week-end telephone support when filings are due

Fair and impartial compliance operations
- Conducting regular public meetings to set policy, issue decisions, and conduct other board business
- Developing and administering policies and procedures, including the use of objective computer analysis, to review filed reports and documents to ensure consistent statutory compliance
- Investigating filed complaints and issuing public findings
- Cultivating in board members and staff objective, non-partisan, approaches to compliance matters

Creation of a compliance environment
- Developing and implementing a customer service model of operations so that regulated entities are willing to approach the agency for assistance before issues arise
- Making staff available to speak at any meeting or gathering where a better understanding of M.S. Chapter 10A can be promoted
- Issuing formal advisory opinions to persons requesting guidance on a specific issue; issuing statements of guidance providing direction at a more general level, and providing informal staff advice

Transparency of money in politics
- Working with the legislature to achieve its goals for disclosure by assisting in the development of legislation
- Designing and implementing forms and processes to manage the regulation and disclosure of corporate independent expenditures
- Developing and maintaining a web site containing tens of thousands of pages of indexed data available in static and dynamic form, serving more than 1.5 million page views to users each year
- Producing reports of campaign finance and lobbying activity
- Maintaining original documents for public inspection, copying, and eventual archiving to the State Archives

- Developing and implementing systems to determine eligibility and amounts for public subsidy payments; disbursing payments on time and in the right amount using state financial systems; publishing reports of public subsidy paid to candidates and parties

Key Goals & Measures

- 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)
  Measure: Quality and accessibility of information available online.
  Progress: The board has moved virtually all of its recent public data online, thus eliminating the need for citizens to travel to the board offices to obtain copies. In addition to scanned reports, campaign finance data is available in a format that is searchable and available to be downloaded. Site visits have increased 19% since 2008.

- 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*)

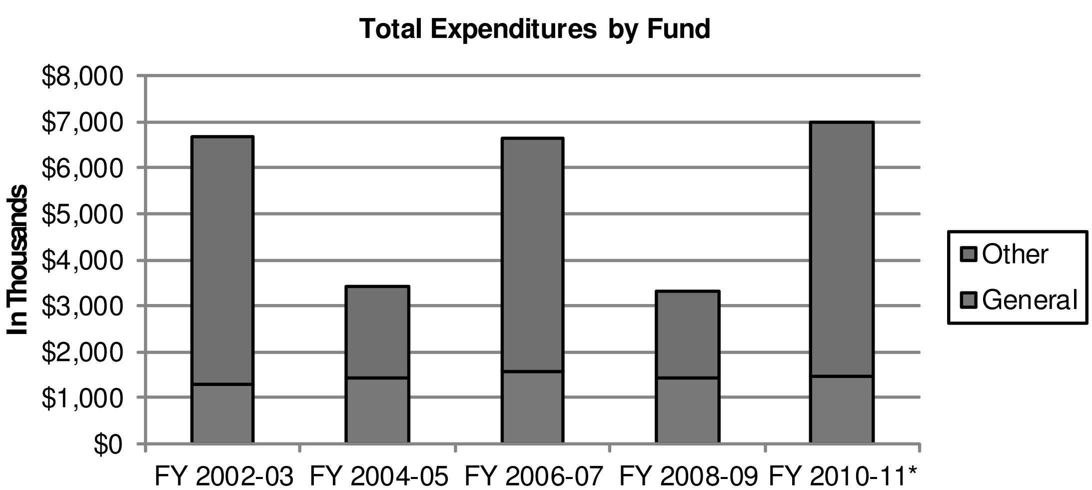
- To maximize the use of technology so that Board operations remain cost-efficient and services can be designed to meet the needs of people who use them (Minnesota Milestones Goal**; agency strategic goal)
  * Minnesota Milestones Goal: People will participate in government and politics.
  ** Minnesota Milestones Goal: Government in Minnesota will be cost-efficient, and services will be designed to meet the needs of the people who use them.
  Measure: 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 easier compliance.

Historical data:

Year:	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Filers	120	160	200	218	249	344	218*	412	456	466**

* 2007 decrease due to committee terminations after an election cycle
** 2010 counts based on pre-primary-election report, which exclude candidates who did not file for office

Budget Trends



*Source data for the previous chart is the Minnesota Accounting and Procurement System (MAPS) as of 9/16/2010. * FY 2010-11 is estimated, not actual. Notes: (1) Public subsidy fluctuates due to the fact that House of Representatives members are elected every two years while other offices are up for election on a four-year cycle. (2) FY 2006-7 General Fund appropriation includes a one-time deficiency appropriation of $146,000 for attorneys' fees in litigation.*

The agency's operations are being strongly affected by changing social trends with respect to use of technology in general and the internet in particular. Both regulated entities and the public expect better data and support materials online, including online registration systems that the agency is not currently able to provide. Treasurers are more widely using the agency's reporting software and expect more features, better functionality, and a more up-to-date user interface. Citizens expect an easy to navigate the web site with access to data through downloading. People with compliance and filing responsibilities expect online training materials in a variety of formats. The state Office of Enterprise Technology and the Office of the Legislative Auditor require systems to be secure and that a functional Continuation of Operations Plan be developed, requiring additional costs for technology equipment and services.

Contact

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium
	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	2012-13
Direct Appropriations by Fund					
General					
Current Appropriation	720	740	740	740	1,480
Forecast Base	**720**	**740**	**725**	**725**	**1,450**
Change		0	(15)	(15)	(30)
% Biennial Change from 2010-11					-0.7%
Expenditures by Fund					
Direct Appropriations					
General	677	782	725	725	1,450
Open Appropriations					
General	0	0	150	2,555	2,705
Statutory Appropriations					
Miscellaneous Special Revenue	106	5,260	0	0	0
Total	**783**	**6,042**	**875**	**3,280**	**4,155**
Expenditures by Category					
Total Compensation	583	599	606	623	1,229
Other Operating Expenses	96	183	119	102	221
Payments To Individuals	21	5,137	0	2,432	2,432
Local Assistance	83	123	150	123	273
Total	**783**	**6,042**	**875**	**3,280**	**4,155**
Expenditures by Program					
Campaign Finance & Publ Disc	783	6,042	875	3,280	4,155
Total	**783**	**6,042**	**875**	**3,280**	**4,155**
Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)	**7.6**	**8.0**	**8.0**	**8.0**	

Dollars in Thousands

	Actual FY2010	Budgeted FY2011	Current Law FY2012	Current Law FY2013	Biennium 2012-13
Non Dedicated Revenue:					
Other Revenues:					
General	67	60	47	40	87
Total Non-Dedicated Receipts	**67**	**60**	**47**	**40**	**87**
Dedicated Receipts:					
Other Revenues:					
Miscellaneous Special Revenue	2	0	0	0	0
Total Dedicated Receipts	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Agency Total Revenue	**69**	**60**	**47**	**40**	**87**