

**Agency Legislative Budget**

The following table summarizes the total proposed budget for the agency by year, type of expenditure, and source of funding.

Agency Legislative Budget								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2006	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2008	New Proposals Fiscal 2008	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2008	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2009	New Proposals Fiscal 2009	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2009	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 08-09
FTE	5.00	0.00	1.00	6.00	0.00	1.00	6.00	6.00
Personal Services	195,535	45,988	58,852	300,375	46,784	59,199	301,518	601,893
Operating Expenses	102,896	4,089	200,838	307,823	(1,804)	124,075	225,167	532,990
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$298,431</b>	<b>\$50,077</b>	<b>\$259,690</b>	<b>\$608,198</b>	<b>\$44,980</b>	<b>\$183,274</b>	<b>\$526,685</b>	<b>\$1,134,883</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>298,431</b>	<b>50,077</b>	<b>259,690</b>	<b>608,198</b>	<b>44,980</b>	<b>183,274</b>	<b>526,685</b>	<b>1,134,883</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$298,431</b>	<b>\$50,077</b>	<b>\$259,690</b>	<b>\$608,198</b>	<b>\$44,980</b>	<b>\$183,274</b>	<b>\$526,685</b>	<b>\$1,134,883</b>

**Page Reference**

Legislative Budget Analysis, A-76

**Executive Budget Comparison**

The following table compares the proposed budget for the 2009 biennium to the budget requested by the Governor, by type of expenditure and source of funding.

Executive Budget Comparison								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2006	Executive Budget Fiscal 2008	Legislative Budget Fiscal 2008	Leg - Exec. Difference Fiscal 2008	Executive Budget Fiscal 2009	Legislative Budget Fiscal 2009	Leg - Exec. Difference Fiscal 2009	Biennium Difference Fiscal 08-09
FTE	5.00	5.00	6.00	1.00	5.00	6.00	1.00	
Personal Services	195,535	241,523	300,375	58,852	242,319	301,518	59,199	118,051
Operating Expenses	102,896	246,323	307,823	61,500	163,667	225,167	61,500	123,000
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$298,431</b>	<b>\$487,846</b>	<b>\$608,198</b>	<b>\$120,352</b>	<b>\$405,986</b>	<b>\$526,685</b>	<b>\$120,699</b>	<b>\$241,051</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>298,431</b>	<b>487,846</b>	<b>608,198</b>	<b>120,352</b>	<b>405,986</b>	<b>526,685</b>	<b>120,699</b>	<b>241,051</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$298,431</b>	<b>\$487,846</b>	<b>\$608,198</b>	<b>\$120,352</b>	<b>\$405,986</b>	<b>\$526,685</b>	<b>\$120,699</b>	<b>\$241,051</b>

This bill includes an additional \$273,051 in general fund over the biennium to provide 1.00 FTE as an investigator for complaints regarding campaign rule violations and to provide a one-time-only appropriation for anticipated legal costs.

**Agency Highlights**

<p><b>Commissioner of Political Practices</b> <b>Major Budget Highlights</b></p>
<p>Total funding increases include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ New proposals for a campaign and lobbyist registration computer system</li> <li>◆ Statewide present law adjustments</li> </ul>

**Agency Discussion**

The Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP) addresses its duties with one appointed official and four staff members. Personal services comprised 65 percent of the FY 2006 base budget. In the 2009 biennium this percentage drops to 54 percent due to the executive new proposals for a campaign filing and lobbyist registration system.

The other major expenditure for COPP relates to complaints that are handled by the Agency Legal Service Bureau at the Department of Justice or outside legal counsel. An outside counsel is used in cases where there is a conflict of interest. Legal fees comprise 46 percent of the operating costs and 16 percent of the total budget. The FY 2006 base budget cost for legal fees is \$47,500, a decrease of \$38,000 from the projected budget in the 2007 biennium.

**Funding**

This program is entirely funded with general fund. A small amount of revenue is generated from nominal fees charged for printing and distribution, as well as civil fines for violation of campaign laws. Both are deposited into the general fund. In addition, COPP collects a \$150 lobbyist filing fee, \$50 of which is deposited into the general fund and \$100 in a state special revenue account that is appropriated to the Legislative Services Division to fund the state broadcasting system. The lobbyist license expires at the end of each even-numbered year, just before the start of the legislative session. Thus, the majority of the revenues are collected in odd numbered years. Total deposited revenues for statewide broadcasting in FY 2005 were \$56,684.

**Present Law Adjustments**

Present Law Adjustments	-----Fiscal 2008-----					-----Fiscal 2009-----				
	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
Personal Services					45,988					46,784
Inflation/Deflation					321					386
Fixed Costs					3,768					(2,190)
<b>Total Statewide Present Law Adjustments</b>					<b>\$50,077</b>					<b>\$44,980</b>
<b>Grand Total All Present Law Adjustments</b>					<b>\$50,077</b>					<b>\$44,980</b>

The “Present Law Adjustments” table shows the primary changes to the proposed adjusted base budget. “Statewide Present Law” adjustments are standard categories of adjustments made to all agencies. Decisions on these items were applied globally to all agencies, unless otherwise noted. The other numbered adjustments in the table correspond to the narrative descriptions.

**New Proposals**

New Proposals	-----Fiscal 2008-----					-----Fiscal 2009-----					
	Program	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
DP 1 - Campaign Filing, Lobbyist/Principal Systems OTO											
01	0.00	123,338	0	0	123,338	0.00	46,575	0	0	46,575	
DP 3 - Campaign Violation Investigator											
01	1.00	58,852	0	0	58,852	1.00	59,199	0	0	59,199	
DP 4 - Additional Legal Costs (OTO)											
01	0.00	77,500	0	0	77,500	0.00	77,500	0	0	77,500	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>\$259,690</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$259,690</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>\$183,274</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$183,274</b>	

DP 1 - Campaign Filing, Lobbyist/Principal Systems OTO - This bill provides a one-time-only, restricted general fund appropriation to support completion of a system for candidate filing system and a lobbyist/principal registration system. The database for this system was developed during FY 2005 and FY 2006. However, the web-based portion which allows access to file electronically has not been completed and requires additional funding to complete.

*The following information is provided so that the legislature can consider various performance management principles when examining this proposal. It is as submitted by the agency, with editing by LFD staff as necessary for brevity and/or clarity.*

Justification: The current paper-based system is both time intensive and error prone. Shifting to modern computer processes will simplify filing for most users, reduce errors, and ease public access to the data.

Goals: To allow easy-to-use electronic filing for candidates, committees, lobbyists and principals and to provide a convenient method for the public to access the data and reduction of errors in the reports filed with the Commissioner of Political Practices.

Performance Criteria: A project charter and a timeline presented to the Joint Appropriation Subcommittee on General Government and Transportation are to be used to track progress.

Milestones: Testing will begin in FY 2008. The new system will be available to users for the 2008 campaign cycle and 2009 lobbyist reporting period.

FTE: Agency is contracting with IT personnel to complete the work.

Funding: Project will be 100 percent general fund.

Obstacles: The high costs and complexities of delivering IT projects are the biggest challenges. Further, since campaign and lobbying filing deadlines are firm, the tendency to miss implementation deadlines with these projects raises those attendant risks.

Risks: The risk of not implementing this project is the continuation of current inefficient processes and the related costs and difficulties for both staff and the public.

DP 3 - Campaign Violation Investigator - This bill includes general fund support for 1.00 FTE and personal service costs of \$118,051 over the biennium for an investigator to resolve campaign violations.

DP 4 - Additional Legal Costs (OTO) - This bill includes a one-time-only general fund appropriation to the Commissioner of Political Practices of \$77,500 general fund in each year of the biennium to fund anticipated legal costs and reduce the backlog of unresolved complaints.