

IOWA ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE BOARD

An Independent Agency of the Executive Branch

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BOARD MEMBERS:
James Albert, Chair
Geraldine Leinen, 1st Vice Chair
Gwendolyn Boeke, 2nd Vice Chair
Mark McCormick
Bernard McKinley
Phyllis Peters

TO: JOINT ADMIN./REGULATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
FROM: W. CHARLES SMITHSON, DIRECTOR & COUNSEL WCS
DATE: MARCH 4, 2002
Re: FY 03 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE ETHICS BOARD

Thank you for inviting me to appear before the Joint Administration & Regulation Appropriations Subcommittee. I offer the following budget information:

The Board has the following statutory duties:

1. Oversight and administration of the campaign finance laws in Chapter 56.
2. Oversight and administration of the executive branch ethics laws in Chapter 68B.
3. Oversight and administration of the executive branch lobbying laws in Chapter 68B.
4. Provide advice & guidance to local government personnel on the ethics laws in Chapter 68B.

The following chart reflects recent funding of the Board:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>% Difference</u>
01	\$515,505	8	+2.27
02	\$451,659	7	-12.39
02 cont.	\$432,238	6.5	-4.30 (deappropriation)
02 cont.	\$427,916	6	-1.0 (proposed deappropriation in SF 2034)
02 cont.	\$423,896	6	-0.94 (proposed furloughs in SF 2034)
03	\$415,490	5.5 (projected)	-1.98 (Governor's Recommendation)

The Board took several positive steps in reaction to the budget reductions in FY-02. This included personnel changes, streamlining of procedures, and a paradigm shift in how it views the mission of the agency (increased focus as a service provider, looking more at big picture items instead of focusing on minor issues, increased work in the area of executive branch ethics). Based on these steps, the Board has been able to continue accomplishing its statutory duties.

The Governor's proposed budget would force the Board to reduce one FTE to part time. That reduction negatively impacts the ability of the Board to carry out its duties. We are not seeking an increase in our budget. Rather, we would like the opportunity to maintain what we have in terms of funds and staff in order to continue working to promote the public's trust and confidence in government in an efficient and expeditious manner.