



Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board

BUDGET PRESENTATION FY2026

Erika Eckley
Executive Director and Legal Counsel

BOARD MEMBERS:
James Albert, Chair
Elaine Olson, Vice Chair
Jonathan Roos • Daniel Jessop
Leah Rodenberg



ABOUT US

The mission of the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board is to promote the public's trust and confidence in government by ensuring the integrity of political campaigns, the ethical standards for officials and employees of the executive branch of state government, and the lawful conduct of executive branch lobbyists.

The Board enforces the statutes and rules under its jurisdiction, guided by the principles of fairness and consistency. This enforcement should not discourage individuals from being involved in the political process or state government. At all times the Board will seek to educate those individuals and entities that come under its jurisdiction concerning the requirements of Iowa law and will continue to embrace technological changes to better serve the public.

- Created in 1973
- Reorganized in 1993
- Six board members (currently 5 active)



BOARD

James Albert

Serves as Chair of the Board. First appointed in 1997, Albert holds the distinction of being the longest serving chair of any ethics or campaign board in the United States. Currently serving his fifth term, Albert has been appointed to the Board by every governor, Republican and Democrat, since 1997. He is a tenured Professor of Law at Drake University Law School in Des Moines.

Residence: Urbandale; **Term Expires:** April 30, 2027

Elaine Olson

Is Vice Chair of the Board. Olson was first appointed in 2018 and has served as Vice Chair since 2021. She is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and previously worked for Wartburg College and the University of Illinois.

Residence: Bettendorf; **Term Expires:** April 30, 2027

Daniel Jessop

First appointed in 2022, Jessop is serving his first term on the Board. He is a graduate of Hastings College and the Columbia Theological Seminary and serves as Pastor for the First Presbyterian Church of Williamsburg.

Residence: Williamsburg; **Term Expires:** April 30, 2028

Leah Rodenberg

Was first appointed in 2022 and is serving her first term on the Board. She is a graduate of Iowa State University and currently serves as Senior Community Affairs Program Manager for Alliant Energy, where she has worked for over 25 years.

Residence: Marion; **Term Expires:** April 30, 2028

Jonathan Roos

First appointed in 2011, Roos is serving his third term on the Board. He is a retired journalist who worked nearly three decades for the Des Moines Register covering state government and as chief writer of the Iowa Poll, the oldest statewide poll in the United States.

Residence: Polk City; **Term Expires:** April 30, 2029



STAFF

Legal

Erika Eckley, Director 515-423-5006

Kim Murphy, Deputy Director 515-423-4112

Nancy Wood, Executive Secretary, 515-423-5905

Campaign Audit and Compliance

Tim Annee, County, city, school, and other local campaigns, (515) 281-4104

Jason Hacker, Political committees (PACs), ballot issue committees, county political parties, and federal/out-of-state committees, (515) 281-4411

Vanessa Sayasane, Legislative campaigns for Iowa Senate or House of Representatives, (515) 423-4107

Marie Spilman, Statewide campaigns, state political parties, and legislative campaigns, (515) 281-4106



WHO WE SERVE

- **The Public:** Ensure transparency in election financing and election communications and ethical standards for executive branch employees
- **The Candidates:** Provide guidance on campaign requirements and work to ensure consistent and fair application of regulations
- **Local Governments:** Provide advice and guidance regarding application of campaign and ethics requirements
- **Executive Branch Employees:** Provide advice and guidance and work to ensure all employees follow established ethics requirements
- **The Legislature:** Ensure enforcement of the laws passed to promote integrity in elections and government



OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Jurisdiction over Iowa Code chapters 68A and 68B
- Investigating complaints
- Providing legal information and guidance
- Drafting advisory opinions
- Auditing campaign finance reports for compliance
- Assisting candidates/campaigns to ensure compliance
- Reviewing ethics reports (dual-compensation, gifts, personal financial disclosures, etc.)
- Presenting to organizations throughout the state on campaign and ethics laws



FY2026 ACTIVITIES

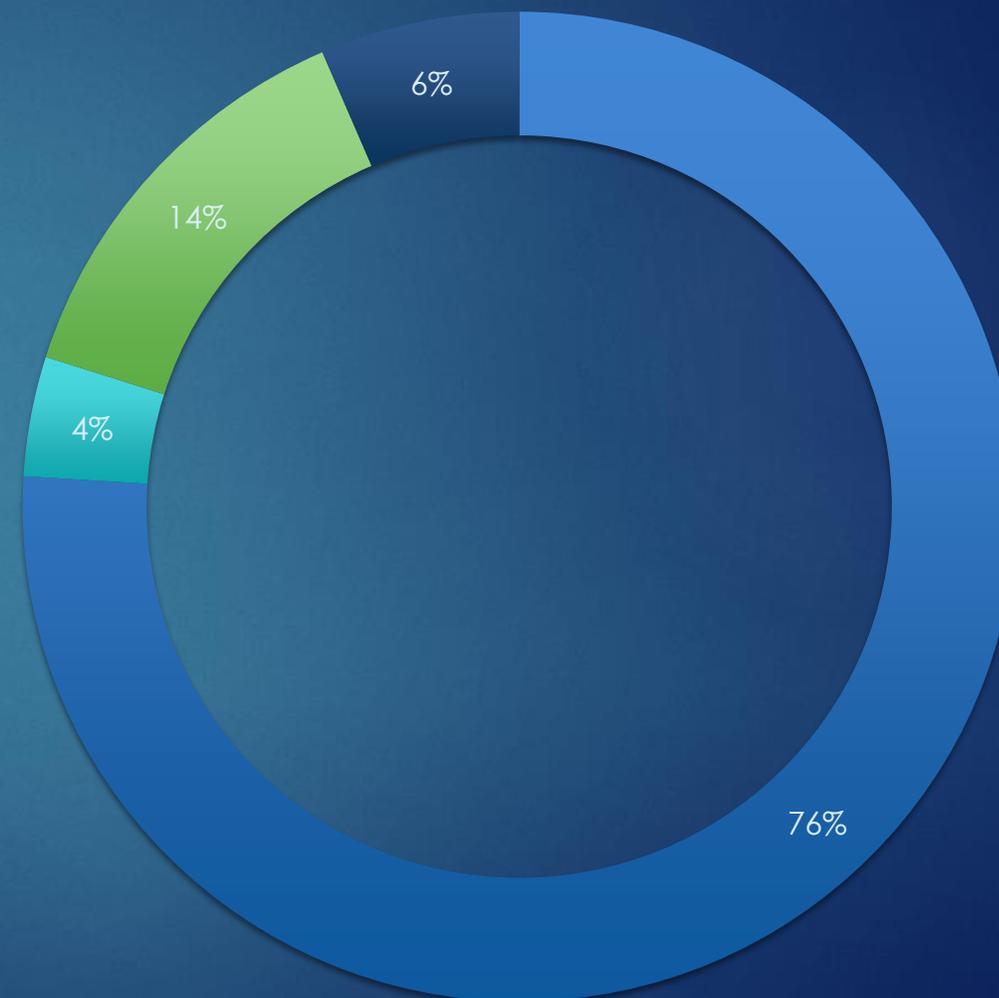
- New executive director and deputy director in July 2025
- Implemented inquiry, advisory, and complaint management system to assist in responsiveness, consistency, and tracking
- Programming upgrades to the Web Reporting System to improve the experience for users and auditors
- Building educational videos for WRS and common topics on campaigns and ethics
- Developing system for credit card/online payments for fine and fees
- Completing final stages of administrative rules red tape review



FY2026 BUDGET

ESTIMATED FY2026

- PERSONNEL
- REIMBURSEMENTS TO OTHER AGENCIES
- IT SERVICES (WRS AND TECHNOLOGY)
- ALL OTHER





CHALLENGES

- **Lacking Penalty Collection Process:** Board can assess fines and penalties, but does not have broad authority and ability to collect the fines and penalties once issued
- **Small (but mighty) Staff:** Only 7 total staff members with jurisdiction over every campaign and committee in all Iowa elections
- **Campaign Complexity Increasing:** Costs of elections continue to increase as more candidates are required to file and reports become more complex to audit



FY2027 GOALS

- Routine audit of all committees at least every year and a half
- Continue to develop on-demand training resources
- Track timeliness and responsiveness to inquiries and complaints
- Update ethics website and resources to create better accessibility for the public and campaigns
- Retain knowledgeable, professional staff

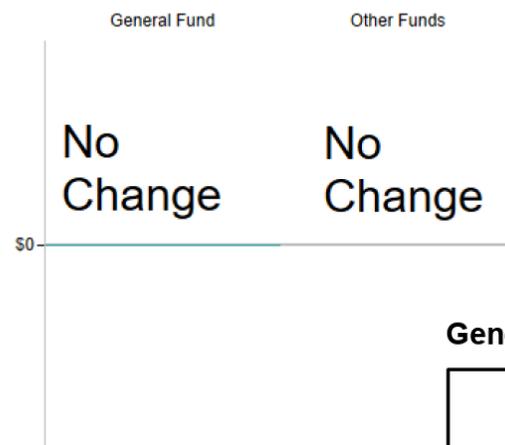


FY2027 BUDGET

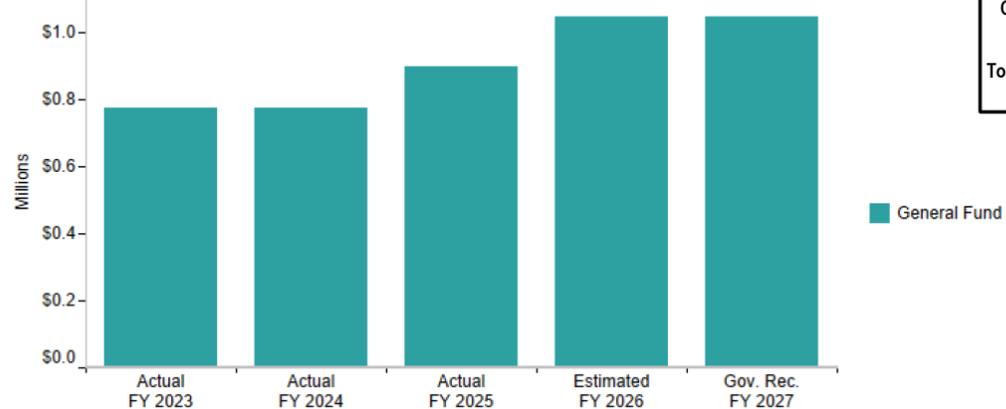
FY 2027 Governor's Recommendations Total: \$1,045,432



Governor's Recommendations Compared to Estimated FY 2026



Funding History



General Fund Recommendations

	Actual FY 2025 (1)	Estimated FY 2026 (2)	Gov Rec FY 2027 (3)	Gov Rec FY 27 vs Est FY 2026 (4)
<u>Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board, Iowa</u>				
Campaign Finance Disclosure				
Ethics & Campaign Disclosure Board	\$ 897,151	\$ 1,045,432	\$ 1,045,432	\$ 0
Total Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board, Iowa	\$ 897,151	\$ 1,045,432	\$ 1,045,432	\$ 0

7 FTEs

QUESTIONS?

ethics.iowa.gov

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "Official State of Iowa Website" and "Agencies A-Z Programs & Services". Below this is the main header with the "IOWA" logo and the full name of the board. A search bar is located to the right of the header. A horizontal menu contains links for "About", "Rulings and Law", "Ethics", "Campaigns", "Web Reporting System", "FAQs", and "Contact Us". The main content area features a large background image of the Iowa State Capitol dome with an eagle and the year "1801". Overlaid on this image is the board's circular logo. Below the image, the text reads "Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board" followed by a mission statement: "An Independent Agency of the Executive Branch working to ensure the ethical standards for government officials and the integrity of political campaigns." On the right side of the main content area, there are four buttons: "Our Mission", "File or View Ethics and Campaign Reports", "Start a Campaign", and "Search Campaign Finance Data". A vertical "Give Feedback" button is on the far right. A small chat icon is visible in the bottom left corner.