



New York City Council

Christine C. Quinn, Speaker

Finance Division

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Hearing on the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2012 Executive Budget

Campaign Finance Board

June 1, 2011

The Committee on Finance

Hon. Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Chair

The Committee on Governmental Operations

Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Chair

Andy Grossman, Deputy Director

John Russell, Senior Legislative Financial Analyst

Overview

The Campaign Finance Board (The Board) or CFB is responsible for implementing the City's campaign finance program. The Board establishes regulations regarding contribution and expenditure limitations for candidates seeking election to the office of Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President and City Council. The Board renders advisory opinions and initiates reviews and investigations to insure compliance with, and administration of, the New York City Campaign Finance Act. In addition, the Board publishes and distributes the Voter Guide.

Campaign Finance Board Financial Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Adopted	2011 Exec. Plan	2012 Exec. Plan	Difference 2011–2012*
Spending						
Personal Services	\$5,379	\$6,242	\$6,670	\$6,670	\$6,944	\$274
Other Than Personal Services	1,779	7,278	5,340	4,799	3,556	(1,784)
Campaign Finance Fund	1,500	30,800	2,500	2,500	1,750	(750)
TOTAL	\$8,658	\$44,320	\$14,510	\$13,969	\$12,250	(2,260)
Funding						
City Funds	N/A	N/A	\$14,510	\$13,969	\$12,250	(2,260)
TOTAL	N/A	N/A	\$14,510	\$13,969	\$12,250	(2,260)
Positions						
Full-time Positions	80	80	84	84	89	5

**Difference refers to the variance between the Fiscal 2011 Adopted Budget and the Projected Fiscal 2012 Budget.*

According to the CFB, “the Board’s Fiscal 2012 budget reflects a decrease from the FY 2011 budget primarily because the Board is not budgeting for a citywide Voter Guide and is anticipating a reduction in matching funds payments. The Fiscal 2012 budget includes \$1.75 million for the New York City Election Fund for payments to candidates who participate in the Campaign Finance Program. The total budget reduction of \$2.26 million more than meets the Office of Management and Budget’s March 2011 requested reduction of \$318,000.”

“The budget does reflect an increased headcount of five positions to implement the CFB’s two new mandates from the Charter amendments passed last fall – voter assistance and the disclosure of independent expenditures. Three of the new positions are transferred from the Department of Citywide Administrative Services for voter assistance. The other two new positions are required for the independent expenditure disclosure mandate to develop and administer this system, train those affected, and answer questions.”

The Budget Submission Process Following Charter Reform. The budget submission process for the Campaign Finance Board has changed significantly since Fiscal 1999. Following adoption of the Charter reform ballot proposal in the General Election of 1998, the Campaign Finance Board’s budget request is to be included, without change, in the Mayor’s Executive Budget submission to the City Council. The Board’s budget is submitted annually to the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council by March 10th. This year, an extender bill was passed by the Council giving the Board until March 18th to make its submission.