

FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

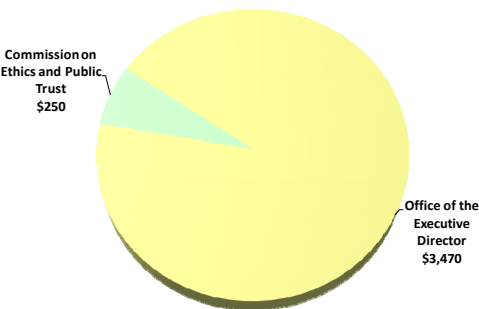
The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust (Ethics Commission) is an independent agency with advisory, investigatory and quasi-judicial powers. The purpose of the Ethics Commission is to promote and enforce high standards of ethical conduct in government and to build and maintain confidence in public servants.

As part of the General Government strategic area, the Ethics Commission is dedicated to reinforcing public trust in the administration of government by informing County and municipal elected officials, employees, the public and the private sector about the County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance (County Ethics Code), and the various municipal ethics ordinances. The Ethics Commission is authorized to investigate complaints and render advisory opinions related to the following County or municipal legislation: the County Ethics Code including sections related to Lobbyist Registration and Cone of Silence, the Citizens’ Bill of Rights, Ethical Campaign Practices, the Employee Protection Ordinance and the Public Service Honor Code. It also provides guidance on State of Florida Public Records and Government in the Sunshine laws. Community outreach and educational programs are crucial components of the Ethics Commission's mission. The Ethics Commission hosts a wide array of programs to educate the public on issues concerning ethics, good governance and accountability through town hall meetings, panel discussions and training workshops, as well as local and national conferences and forums.

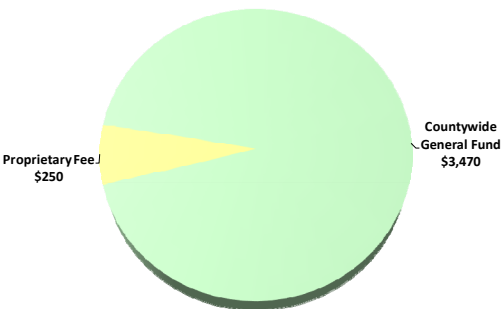
The Ethics Commission, by Board ordinance, has jurisdiction extending to municipalities within Miami-Dade County. Its jurisdiction also extends to lobbyists, contractors and vendors. The Ethics Commission works closely with the Office of the Inspector General and the State Attorney’s Office, as well as other law enforcement agencies.

FY 2025-26 Proposed Operating Budget

Expenditures by Activity
(dollars in thousands)



Revenues by Source
(dollars in thousands)



FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

<u>OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</u>	
Provides administrative support to the Ethics Commission; recommends legislative and policy initiatives that promote ethical government and accountability; issues and approves ethics opinions; supervises and participates in ethics training programs for public officials, employees and candidates for elected office.	
<u>FY 24-25</u> 17	<u>FY 25-26</u> 19

The FY 2025-26 total number of full-time equivalent positions is 19

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DIVISION: OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust promotes and enforces high standards of ethical conduct in government and builds and maintains confidence in public servants.

- Conducts investigations of official and/or employee misconduct in County and municipal governments and processes complaints that are filed by third parties to be heard by the Ethics Commission
- Manages, assigns and reviews enforcement actions undertaken by the Ethics Commission investigators and the Commission Advocate
- Provides training for government officials and personnel, candidates for office, students and the business community regarding ordinances under the purview of the Ethics Commission and ethical practices in government
- Recommends legislative and policy initiatives that promote ethical government and accountability; liaises with the community through outreach activities, including speeches, media events, reports and publications
- Responds to requests for advisory opinions by officials, employees and contractors under the authority of the Ethics Commission
- Responsible for the day-to-day operation of the agency including budget and personnel functions
- Manages and supports the prosecution of cases before the Ethics Commission and refers cases for criminal prosecution or other disposition(s) with appropriate agencies
- Acts as repository for county financial disclosures and outside employment statements

Strategic Plan Objectives

- GG1-1: Support a customer-focused organization by providing convenient access to information and services, and by ensuring processes are easy to navigate

Departmental Objectives	Performance Measures	Measure Type	Good Direction	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26
				Actual	Actual	Budget	Target
Improve the image of County Government	Number of complaints filed	IN	↔	51	51	50	55
	Number of requests for opinions	IN	↔	322	256	200	275
	Number of hotline, mailbox and general inquiries responses	OP	↔	441	447	500	510
	Number of ethics trainings, workshops and outreach	OP	↔	92	96	100	109
	Number of compliance submissions addressed and administratively resolved*	OP	↔	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,300
	Number of lobbyist appeal cases*	IN	↔	N/A	N/A	N/A	115
	Number of charging instruments subject to investigation*	OP	↔	18	26	30	30

*This is a new measure for FY 2025-26

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- During FY 2024-25, one Chief Compliance Officer position and a Compliance Clerk position were added, to support the Ethics Commission's assumption of the financial disclosure and outside employment repository function from the Supervisor of Elections (\$223,000)
- The FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget includes a transfer of \$130,000, as required under Ordinance 10-56, from the Office of the Clerk Lobbyist Trust Fund to support ethics training and conference expenditures including, but not limited to, educational materials and personnel expenditures
- The Ethics Commission anticipates a continued increase in the demand for ethics counsel services through FY 2025-26
- During FY 2024-25, the Ethics Commission recalibrated enforcement services and engagement efforts, which are anticipated to yield gains in total enforcement actions in third-party complaint submissions through FY 2025-26
- The State requirement to initiate ethics investigations only upon sworn third-party complaints has increased the labor needed to properly understand submissions and address cases within new and shorter time frames that did not exist under the self-initiated investigative model; these challenges are particularly impactful when inquiries address complex financial and electronic evidence, which the Ethics Commission anticipates will increase personnel workload through FY 2025-26
- The Ethics Commission has implemented innovative digital solutions to reach constituents implant electronic notarization platforms to facilitate the complaint process

SELECTED ITEM HIGHLIGHTS AND DETAILS

Line-Item Highlights	(dollars in thousands)				
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Projection	Proposed
	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 24-25	FY 25-26
Advertising	1	0	0	0	0
Fuel	0	0	0	0	0
Overtime	0	0	0	0	0
Rent	0	0	0	0	0
Security Services	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary Services	0	0	0	0	0
Travel and Registration	1	1	4	7	7
Utilities	7	8	8	6	9

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OPERATING FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)	Actual FY 22-23	Actual FY 23-24	Budget FY 24-25	Proposed FY 25-26
Revenue Summary				
General Fund Countywide	2,535	2,717	3,024	3,470
Carryover	111	111	0	0
Fees and Charges	144	119	140	120
Lobbyist Trust Fund	126	128	130	130
Total Revenues	2,916	3,075	3,294	3,720
Operating Expenditures				
Summary				
Salary	1,976	2,134	2,262	2,514
Fringe Benefits	727	806	877	1,034
Contractual Services	2	6	11	13
Other Operating	61	69	97	110
Charges for County Services	38	27	33	32
Capital	1	6	14	17
Total Operating Expenditures	2,805	3,048	3,294	3,720
Non-Operating Expenditures				
Summary				
Transfers	0	0	0	0
Distribution of Funds In Trust	0	0	0	0
Debt Service	0	0	0	0
Depreciation, Amortizations and Depletion	0	0	0	0
Reserve	0	0	0	0
Total Non-Operating Expenditures	0	0	0	0

(dollars in thousands)	Total Funding		Total Positions	
Expenditure By Program	Budget FY 24-25	Proposed FY 25-26	Budget FY 24-25	Proposed FY 25-26
Strategic Area: General Government				
Commission on Ethics and Public Trust	270	250	0	0
Office of the Executive Director	3,024	3,470	17	19
Total Operating Expenditures	3,294	3,720	17	19