



OKLAHOMA

Ethics Commission



Special Commission Meeting
& Public Hearing
December 19, 2025 10:00 AM
OK State Capitol, Rm. G-3



OKLAHOMA
Ethics Commission

Call to Order

Open Meeting Act Compliance

Introductions & Announcement

**Announcements, consideration,
discussion, and possible action
on the disqualification or recusal
of any Commissioner or
Commissioners pursuant to
Ethics Rule 1.6**



OKLAHOMA
Ethics Commission



Consideration, discussion, and possible action on minutes for the regular meeting and executive session held November 13, 2025



Executive Session



OKLAHOMA

Ethics Commission



Special Commission Meeting
& Public Hearing
December 19, 2025



Executive Session



OKLAHOMA

Ethics Commission



Special Commission Meeting
& Public Hearing
December 19, 2025



Returning Soon From
Executive Session



OKLAHOMA

Ethics Commission



Special Commission Meeting
& Public Hearing
December 19, 2025

Possible Action Following Executive Session

No Action On:

**Case No. 2022-25 alleging violations of
Campaign Finance Ethics Rule 2; State of
Oklahoma ex rel. Oklahoma Ethics
Commission v. Pittman, Oklahoma County
District Court, Case No. CJ-2025-2636**

Public Hearing

Consideration of Proposed Ethics Rules Amendments (ERA)

Amendment modifies Ethics Rule 2.19

Modification: Increasing cash contribution limit from \$50 to \$200

AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 2.19 Cash Contributions is amended to read as follows:

No contribution of more than ~~Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)~~ **Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00)** in cash in the aggregate may be made to or accepted by a political party committee, a political action committee or a candidate committee.

Public Hearing

ERA 2025-01

Ethics Rule 2.19



OKLAHOMA
Ethics Commission

Rule 2.19. Cash Contributions.

No contribution of more than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) in cash in the aggregate may be made to or accepted by a political party committee, a political action committee or a candidate committee.

History

Promulgated by Ethics Commission January 10, 2014; effective upon Legislature's sine die adjournment May 23, 2014; operative January 1, 2015.

Amendment promulgated by Ethics Commission February 5, 2018; effective upon Legislature's sine die adjournment May 3, 2018; operative May 3, 2018.

The 2018 amendment added "to" between "may be made" and "or accepted" in the provision.

Commission Comment

Because cash cannot be traced as easily as a check or credit card, the Commission limits the amount of funds that can be contributed in cash. Cash contributions are not prohibited entirely in the interests of providing opportunities for small (e.g., \$1 or \$5) contributions, for example, and of preserving traditional small fundraising activities such as "passing the hat" at campaign events. Candidates and their agents should monitor such events closely to ensure that contributors understand and comply with the limits on cash contributions. For instance, half of a One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) cash contribution placed in a "hat" at a fundraising event would have to be forfeited if the recipient could not identify the donor, reject the cash and have it replaced by written instrument. See Rule 2.20 regarding forfeitures to the state general revenue fund.

The cash contribution limit applies to all committees, including unlimited committees. The cash contribution limit applies to political action committees on a per calendar year basis.

Example: Sue gave \$50 in cash to PAC X, an unlimited committee, in 2020. Sue is prohibited from giving any more cash to PAC X in 2020, but she can still contribute to PAC X in 2020 via other types of monetary contributions or in-kind contributions. Additional contributions will be aggregated with the \$50 cash contributions for contribution limit purposes.

Amendment modifies Ethics Rule 2.48

Option 1 Modification: Adding provision for committees with funds remaining at the time of dissolution for exploratory activities and extending time limit to **6 months**.

Option 2 Modification: Adding provision for committees with funds remaining at the time of dissolution for exploratory activities and extending time limit to **1 year**.

Amendment modifies Ethics Rule 2.48

AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 2.48 Candidate Committee Surplus Funds is amended to read as follows:

“... (H) Retained by the Candidate for Exploratory Activities in accordance with Rule 2.78.

Any surplus funds remaining in the candidate committee’s possession within ninety ~~(90) days~~ _____ after the expiration of the term to which the candidate was elected or, for candidates who were not elected, within ninety ~~(90) days~~ _____ after the second year following the general election, shall be deposited in the general revenue fund of the state.

Rule 2.48. Candidate Committee Surplus Funds.

Surplus funds of a candidate committee are those funds not otherwise obligated following the election at which the office for which the candidate committee was formed has been determined which, in the candidate's discretion, are not required to be used for campaign expenses or officeholder expenses. Such surplus funds may be:

- (A) Retained in any amount for use in a future campaign for the next succeeding term for the same office;
- (B) Retained for a future campaign for a different state elective office, excluding a judicial office;
- (C) Donated to a charitable organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code as it currently exists or as it may be amended;
- (D) Returned to any contributor, as long as the amount returned does not exceed the contributor's aggregate contribution during the immediately preceding primary, runoff primary and general elections;
- (E) Contributed to a political party committee in any amount not to exceed Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) in the aggregate;
- (F) Used to purchase item(s) for donation to a charitable organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code as it currently exists or as it may be amended; provided:
 - 1) the donated item(s) are sold by the charitable organization for fundraising purposes;
 - 2) the purchase of the item(s) for donation is reported on a Contributions and Expenditures Report which includes a description and cost of the item(s) purchased;
 - 3) the donation of the item(s) is reported on a Contributions and Expenditures Report as an in-kind expenditure to the charitable organization which includes a description and the value of the item(s) donated; and
 - 4) the donated item(s) may not be purchased or used by the candidate whose committee is donating the item, any other candidate, a committee, or officer, board member or employee of the charitable organization; or
- (G) Donated in accordance with the provisions of Title 60 O.S. § 381, et seq., to the State of Oklahoma, or, to any county, city, town or school district within the State of Oklahoma.

Any surplus funds remaining in the candidate committee's possession within ninety (90) days after the expiration of the term to which the candidate was elected or, for candidates who were not elected, within ninety (90) days after the second year following the general election, shall be deposited in the general revenue fund of the state.

History

Promulgated by Ethics Commission January 10, 2014; effective upon Legislature's sine die adjournment May 23, 2014; operative January 1, 2015.

Amendment promulgated by Ethics Commission on January 27, 2017; effective upon sine die adjournment of the Legislature May 26, 2017; operative May 26, 2017.

The 2017 amendment added subsections (F) and (G) in their entirety.

Commission Comment

A candidate cannot determine the existence of surplus funds until after the election for which the funds were received. For that reason, this Rule cannot be applied until after the election.

A candidate may continue to use campaign funds for campaign purposes and officeholder expenses and still determine that some funds are "surplus funds" and thus available for use as provided in this Rule.

The rule allows for surplus funds to be returned to a contributor up to the amount contributed, but this does not include contributions from the candidate. Contributions cannot be returned to the candidate unless the candidate executed a written loan document with the committee at the time of the loan, and deposited the funds from the loan into the committee's depository at the time of the loan. See also Rule 2.67, prohibiting repayment to a candidate except in the case of a properly documented loan to the candidate committee.

This Rule also provides that surplus funds remaining in the candidate committee's possession ninety (90) days after the expiration of the term to which the candidate was elected are forfeited to the State. For candidates who are not elected, the ninety (90) day period begins two years after the general election.

Advisory Opinion 2019-01: A candidate committee without funds remaining in its campaign depository must dissolve by the specified mandatory dissolution date as established in Rule 2.116.

Whereas, a candidate committee with funds remaining in its campaign depository on the specified mandatory dissolution date as established in Rule 2.116 are, from the mandatory dissolution date and on, no longer permitted to (1) receive contributions, (2) contribute to other candidate committees, (3) make campaign expenditures, or (4) make operating expenditures. However, such committees may make the following expenditures:

- a. Candidate committees of **elected officers** may make expenditures (1) for officeholder expenses until his/her term expires or the office is vacated and (2) of surplus funds as provided for in Rule 2.48 for ninety (90) days after the officeholder's term is completed or vacated; or
- b. Candidate committees of **unelected candidates** may make expenditures of surplus funds as provided for in Rule 2.48 for ninety (90) days after the second year following the general election for which the committee was formed.

After the ninety (90) day period has ended, any remaining funds must be deposited in the state's general revenue fund.



Amendment modifies Ethics Rule 2.79

Modification: Updating definition of a PAC to include any one person or more than one individual.

AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 2.79 Political Action Committee Definition is amended to read as follows:

A political action committee is (a) any group of two or more ~~persons~~ individuals; or (b) any person, other than an individual, including but not limited to a committee, association, organization or any other entity, whether one or more, and whether or not incorporated; that receives contributions or makes expenditures for any of the following purposes: (1) Making contributions to candidates or candidate committees; (2) making contributions to other political action committees; (3) making independent expenditures; (4) making electioneering communications or (5) advocating the approval or defeat of a state question. Unless they choose to be considered as such, family members, as defined by these Rules, or members of the same household shall not be considered a political action committee.

Public Hearing

ERA 2025-03

Ethics Rule 2.79



OKLAHOMA
Ethics Commission

Political Action Committees

Rule 2.79. Political Action Committee Definition.

A political action committee is any group of two or more persons that receives contributions or makes expenditures for any of the following purposes: (1) Making contributions to candidates or candidate committees; (2) making contributions to other political action committees; (3) making independent expenditures; (4) making electioneering communications or (5) advocating the approval or defeat of a state question. Unless they choose to be considered as such, family members, as defined by these Rules, or members of the same household shall not be considered a political action committee.

History

Promulgated by Ethics Commission January 10, 2014; effective upon Legislature's sine die adjournment May 23, 2014; operative January 1, 2015.

Commission Comment

With an exception for families or members of the same household, any group of two or more persons create a political action committee by operation of law when they receive contributions or make expenditures for any of the five listed activities. This applies to both limited and unlimited committees.



I just wanted to provide some brief comments related to the potential amendment to Rule 2.79. As I read it, the proposed language would define a political action committee (PAC) to be any committee, association, or organization that . . . “make[s] independent expenditures”. Under this rubric, a corporation (non-profit or for-profit) that engages in any amount of independent expenditures (or electioneering communications) would be required to register as a PAC—a very broad requirement.

A few items for consideration:

1. Corporations do not fall neatly within the definition of a **limited committee** (a PAC organized to make contributions to candidate that cannot accept contributions in excess of the individual limits of \$5k/year), or an **unlimited committee** (a PAC organized *exclusively* for the purposes of making IEs/ECs). See Rule 2.2(14); Rule 2.2(21). For that reason, I believe that Rule 2.2 would need to be amended to come up with *another type* of PAC that the corporation could qualify as.
2. Qualifying as a PAC means the corporation (as a whole) would be under the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission, meaning they would need to (1) register annually, (2) report all activity quarterly, (3) have separate bank accounts, (4) only accept contributions from qualified sources, etc. Most corporations are organized for entirely different purposes (either as a for-profit business entity or a non-profit entity—neither of which can be organized for the primary purpose of political activity). PACs are generally required to report *all* sources of funds—which obviously a corporation (e.g. Starbucks) would not want to do as that would be thousands of proprietary business information and is far outside of the purview of what was likely very limited political activity. For those reasons, I have concerns about potential legal challenges if the Commission was to define a PAC as *any* corporation that engages in IE/EC activity.
3. Rule 2.107 and 2.108 currently require reporting of IE/EC activity engaged in by a corporate entity (both non-profit and for-profit), without making the corporation *itself* a “PAC” under the Ethics Rules.

In any event, I hope these comments are helpful and I’m happy to discuss further. As always, we greatly appreciate the opportunity engage with the Commission on potential Rule amendments. We appreciate the work you all do!

Best,
Denise

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**COFFEE
LAWSON
FIELDS**

PEOPLE UNITED *for* PRIVACY FOUNDATION

December 18, 2025

Via Electronic Mail

Oklahoma Ethics Commission
ATTN: Chair Justin Meek
2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard
Room G-27
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

RE: Amendatory Ethics Rule 2.79's Dubious Constitutionality and Harm to Nonprofit Advocacy and Associational Privacy

Dear Chair Meek and Commissioners of the Oklahoma Ethics Commission:

On behalf of People United for Privacy Foundation,¹ we write to express our strong concerns with Amendatory Ethics Rule 2.79 proposed by Oklahoma Ethics Commission Rule Amendment 2025-03, which seeks to vastly expand the existing statutory definition of "political action committee" (PAC). These changes will trap the unwary and wreak havoc on the civic engagement of Oklahoma's nonprofit sector. If enacted, the new Rule will also violate the First Amendment.

Amendatory Ethics Rule 2.79 dramatically expands the power of the Oklahoma government over its people and their projects. Under current law, "any group of two or more persons" constitutes a PAC if they satisfy certain conditions. The proposed amendment would strip that coalition component and transform any organization – "whether or not incorporated" – into a PAC if it makes contributions, independent expenditures, electioneering communications, or simply voices an opinion on a ballot measure.² This is an intolerable imposition on the First Amendment, which shields "privacy of association and belief" from the heavy hand of government regulation.³

The effects of this change would be wide-ranging. Any corporation, union, trade association, or membership organization would be converted into a PAC upon the spending of \$1,000.⁴ The PAC would need to abide by the Commission's treasurer and depository account requirements.⁵ It would have to file granularly detailed quarterly reports on its spending with the Commission, including

¹ People United for Privacy Foundation's vision is an America where all people can freely and privately support ideas and nonprofits they believe in, so that all sides of a debate will be heard, individuals won't face retribution for supporting important causes, and all organizations maintain the ability to advance their missions because the privacy of their supporters is protected.

² See "2026 Proposed Rule Amendments – Amendatory Ethics Rule 2.79," Oklahoma Ethics Commission. Available at: <https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/ethics/documents/notice-of-hearings/rules/2026%20Rule%20Package.pdf> (Dec. 19, 2025) at 6.

³ *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1, 64 (1976) (*per curiam*).

⁴ See Rule 2.80. (When to File a Political Action Committee Statement of Organization.). "Oklahoma Ethics Law – A Compilation of Constitutional Provisions, Statutes, Ethics Rules (Version 2025.1)," Oklahoma Ethics Commission. Available at: <https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/ethics/documents/resources/laws/EthicsCommissionCompilationRules.pdf> (June 1, 2025) at 83.

⁵ *Id.* Rules 2.94. (Campaign Depository in Financial Institution.) and 2.95. (Campaign Depository Account Requirements.) at 88-89.

UNITEDFORPRIVACY.COM

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Washington, D.C. 20007

providing the "name, address, occupation and employer of any person" other than another PAC that contributed over just \$50 during the reporting period.⁶

This is particularly troubling given the unbounded conception of a "contribution" under Oklahoma law – defined as "any . . . payment, distribution or deposit of money made to . . ." a "political action committee."⁷ So long as PACs were defined as coalition vehicles made of two or more persons, this ensured that normal commercial transactions to going concerns, regular union dues payments, rote church contributions, un earmarked donations to nonprofits, and the like were protected from the grasping hands of government and the doxing impulses of the public. If Amendatory Ethics Rule 2.79 becomes law, this certainty will be broken – courting chaos and chilling beneficial economic, educational, and political activity throughout the State.

The chilling effect will be twofold. Any Oklahoman who might worry about accidentally being revealed as a supporter of a PAC will cease giving to any group that might engage in issue or political advocacy. In these days of political polarization, cancellation mobs, and targeted violence, who wants to give sixty bucks to an unincorporated neighborhood food bank on the off-chance that organization might decide that quarter to put a few dollars behind a measure on abortion, taxes, or homelessness policy? Groups will inevitably cease involvement in civic and political life – not wishing to lose financial lifelines, risk having their contractor payments to a for-profit made public record, or exposing the names of rank-and-file union members or out-of-state allies to online harassment.

Worse still, by expanding the base of disclosing organizations while burrowing down to the mere \$50 contributor, Oklahoma risks *misinforming* its electorate. As the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit explained in rebuffing a similar effort to expand donor disclosure:

Imagine the following not unlikely scenario. A Republican donates \$5,000 to the American Cancer Society (ACS), eager to fund the ongoing search for a cure. Meanwhile, Republicans in Congress, aware of a growth in private donations to ACS, push for fewer federal grants to scientists studying cancer in order to reduce the deficit. In response to their push, the ACS runs targeted advertisements against those Republicans, leading to the defeat of several candidates in the upcoming election. Wouldn't a rule requiring disclosure of ACS's Republican donor, who did *not* support issue ads against her own party, convey some misinformation to the public about who *supported* the advertisements?⁸

This is unconstitutional, of course. The First Amendment, which applies to Oklahoma by virtue of the Fourteenth, protects donor privacy.⁹ And the State cannot avoid that result by claiming that it is merely regulating campaign finance. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, which oversees federal cases arising from Oklahoma, has flatly ruled that forcing PAC status on a group spending \$3,500 on a ballot question violated the First Amendment.¹⁰ Amendatory Ethics Rule 2.79 upsets far more activity for far less spending.

⁶ *Id.* Rule 2.105. (Report Requirements for Political Action Committee.) at 97-101.

⁷ See Rule 2.2(6). (Definitions. "Contribution."). "Annotated Ethics Rules (Version 2025.1)," Oklahoma Ethics Commission. Available at: <https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/ethics/documents/resources/laws/ANNOTATEDEthicsCommissionRules.pdf> (June 1, 2025) at 30.

⁸ *Van Hollen v. Fed. Election Comm'n*, 811 F.3d 486, 497 (D.C. Cir. 2016) (emphasis in original).

⁹ *Ams. for Prosperity Found. v. Bonta*, 594 U.S. 595 (2021); *NAACP v. Ala.*, 357 U.S. 449 (1958).

¹⁰ *Coal. for Secular Gov't v. Williams*, 815 F.3d 1267 (10th Cir. 2016).





(Continued)

As anyone with even a modest understanding of American history knows, government monitoring of lawful political activity is dangerous. Requiring the reporting of a citizen's contributions is especially so as "financial transactions can reveal much about a person's activities, associations, and beliefs."¹¹

It's reason enough not to adopt Amendatory Ethics Rule 2.79 because the First Amendment forbids it. But in an era of doxing, harassment, and political violence, there's especially no need to promulgate this ill-considered attack on donor privacy and civic engagement. For the above reasons, People United for Privacy Foundation urges the Commission to rescind and reject Amendatory Ethics Rule 2.79.

Sincerely,

Matt Nese
Vice President
People United for Privacy Foundation

Zac Morgan
Senior Fellow
People United for Privacy Foundation





OKLAHOMA
Ethics Commission

Public Hearing ERA 2025-03

Public Comments

December 18, 2025

Oklahoma Ethics Commission
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., G-27
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
ethics@ethics.ok.gov

Re: Objection to Proposed Amendment to Ethics Rule 2.79 (2025-03)

On behalf of a broad coalition of nonprofit organizations and advocacy groups operating across the political and ideological spectrum, we respectfully submit this letter to oppose the proposed amendment to Ethics Rule 2.79.

We are concerned that the proposal represents a material policy change that exceeds the Ethics Commission's delegated authority and is therefore inappropriate for adoption through administrative rulemaking.

The amendment would substantially redefine "political action committee" to include organizations long treated under Oklahoma law as distinct from PACs. This change goes beyond a technical clarification and instead constitutes a significant expansion of regulatory scope that is more appropriately considered by the Oklahoma Legislature. Adopting such a change through rulemaking risks creating legal uncertainty and unnecessary costs for taxpayers.

Nothing in the Commission's enabling statutes appears to authorize collapsing the long-recognized distinctions between PACs and nonprofit organizations engaged in issue advocacy or independent communications. For decades, Oklahoma law—consistent with federal law and enforcement practice—has maintained these distinctions and provided regulated entities with predictable rules of the road. The proposed amendment would alter that framework by administrative action, disrupting good-faith reliance on existing law.

Beyond questions of statutory authority, the proposal could have significant unintended consequences. By effectively requiring nonprofit organizations engaged in lawful independent advocacy to register as PACs, the rule would impose disclosure requirements not contemplated by current Oklahoma law or required under federal campaign finance law for independent actors. This could burden lawful civic participation and raise concerns related to donor privacy and freedom of association, as recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court in *NAACP v. Alabama* (1958).

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Ethics Commission to withdraw the proposed amendment to Rule 2.79. If changes of this magnitude are to be considered, they should be addressed through the legislative process, where questions of scope, authority, and policy can be openly debated.

We appreciate the Commission's consideration and stand ready to engage constructively on future efforts consistent with statutory limits and the established legal framework governing civic participation in Oklahoma.



AMERICANS for
PROSPERITY



THE STATE CHAMBER



THE
PETROLEUM
ALLIANCE
OF OKLAHOMA



GREATER
OKLAHOMA CITY
CHAMBER

A.J. Ferate
Former Chairman
Oklahoma Republican Party



INSTITUTE
for JUSTICE

yes.
every
kid.



Rule 2.79 Political Action Committee Definition

- the way this rule change is written, it appears that the State will now make my retired ladies Tuesday morning coffee club a PAC. We have - for various things - put our money together to buy signs or postcards - to help notify the public of something our town is doing and to make our concern known. THAT is the absolute definition of "community" - or "local control", if you will. To make regular citizens have to fill out paperwork and report to the government in order to interact with local politics is almost unAmerican.

A PAC is an organization to which contributions are made by individuals or groups in order to influence an election through direct donations to candidate campaigns, through donations to other PACs or through advertising created to benefit a candidate - to add much more to it than that muddies the water.

I think the current proposed definition is too broad and could curtail the First Amendment rights of citizens to act together on issues involving their communities.

Rule 2.116 Dissolution of Candidate Committee

- I would object to this rule change. Too many issues can arise with allowing candidates to have open accounts for 6 months to a year.

Thank you for your time,

Jenni White
Managing Editor
The ROPE Report
ROPE2.org



It has come to my attention that the Commission will consider an amendment to Ethics Rule 2.79, the Political Action Committee Definition.

The current rule is clearly unconstitutional, and the proposed amendment would make an already bad law worse.

Earlier this year, our organization won a permanent injunction against a Kansas law that shared some of the same defects in Ethics Rule 2.79. The Kansas law was arguably less defective.

Judge Daniel D. Crabtree ruled that Supreme Court and Tenth Circuit precedents “require that a group have *the* major purpose ... of express advocacy before a state may designate the group as a political committee.” I’ve attached a copy of the ruling.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas also [entered an order](#) under which state officials agreed to pay \$98,500 in attorney fees and costs to the Institute for Free Speech and local counsel Kriegshauser Ney Law Group, bringing a successful conclusion to our litigation that protected free speech rights for grassroots issue advocacy organizations in Kansas.

Moreover, a recent bill signed into law by Kansas Governor Laura Kelly was passed, in part, in response to the Institute’s successful lawsuit, bringing the state’s definition of a political committee into compliance with the First Amendment.

As you know, Oklahoma Ethics Rules fail to include the major purpose test in its definition of a political action committee.

Pursuant to *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1, 79 (1976), an organization may only be subject to the full panoply of PAC regulations if it has the “the major purpose” of nominating or electing candidates for office.

The Court held that:

To fulfill the purposes of the Act, the [definition of “political committee”] need only encompass organizations that are under the control of a candidate or **the major purpose of which is the nomination or election** of a candidate. Expenditures of candidates and of “political committees,” so construed, can be assumed to fall within the core area sought to be addressed by Congress. They are, by definition, campaign-related.

But when the maker of the expenditure is not within these categories—when it is an individual other than a candidate or a group other than a “political committee”—the relation of the information sought to the purposes of the Act may be too remote.

(Emphasis added.)

Candidate campaign committees and political parties clearly fit the bill. Still, civil society is full of organizations engaged in public affairs that do not have the primary purpose of electing candidates (e.g., the ACLU, the NRA, the Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Realtors, labor unions, trade associations, and community groups).

Advocacy groups deserve clear and constitutional guidance – in advance – on how the law regulates their speech and what they can and cannot do in accordance with the law.

Under the proposed amendment to Ethics Rule 2.79, an organization that makes a single expenditure on express advocacy or a single contribution to an unlimited committee of over \$1,000 would be forced to register and report as a political action committee. Such an expenditure might represent less than 1% of the group’s budget, yet the organization would have to report as if it were a regular political committee. That is both absurd and unconstitutional.

Instead of amending the current law to make it worse, the Commission should update its rules to comply with the Supreme Court’s First Amendment rulings. We would be pleased to work with the Commission to identify the constitutional infirmities in the current rules and correct them.

Respectfully,

David Keating
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Amendment modifies Ethics Rule 2.116

Option 1 Modification: Adding provision for committees with funds remaining at the time of dissolution and extending time for dissolution to 6 months.

Option 2 Modification: Adding provision for committees with funds remaining at the time of dissolution and extending time for dissolution to 1 Year.

Public Hearing

ERA 2025-04

Ethics Rule 2.116



OKLAHOMA
Ethics Commission

Rule 2.116. Dissolution of Candidate Committee.

A candidate committee may dissolve at any time by filing a Final Report of Contributions and Expenditures that shows no funds remaining in the committee. A candidate committee shall dissolve no later than two (2) years after the general election for an office with a two-year term, no later than four (4) years after the general election for an office with a four-year term, and no later than six (6) years after the general election for an office with a six-year term, if not required to dissolve sooner by law or these Rules.

History

Promulgated by Ethics Commission January 10, 2014; effective upon Legislature's sine die adjournment May 23, 2014; operative January 1, 2015.

The 2017 amendment's addition of a new Rule as section 2.109 modified this Rule's section number from 2.115 to 2.116.

Commission Comment

Candidate committees may file a final report and dissolve only when there are no funds remaining in the committee.

Candidate committees are required to terminate their existence by a date certain. Candidates, including candidates losing an election, have a continuing duty to timely submit Reports of Contributions and Expenditures, even if the candidate committee has no activity, until the candidate committee is dissolved to the satisfaction of the Commission and a Final Report of Contributions and Expenditures is filed. See, also, Rule 2.48 for candidates who are not elected.

The mandatory time frames for dissolution of candidate committees are based on the term of office for the office that the candidate serves. This ensures the timely dissolution of candidate committees and levels the playing field for successful candidates and unsuccessful candidates. The committee may dissolve after resolving any debt. See Rule 2.117.

Advisory Opinion 2019-01: *A candidate committee without funds remaining in its campaign depository must dissolve by the specified mandatory dissolution date as established in Rule 2.116.*

However, a candidate committee with funds remaining in its campaign depository on the specified mandatory dissolution date as established in Rule 2.116 are, from the mandatory dissolution date and on, no longer permitted to (1) receive contributions, (2) contribute to other candidate committees, (3) make campaign expenditures, or (4)

Amendment modifies Ethics Rule 2.116

AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 2.116 Dissolution of Candidate Committee is amended to read as follows:

A candidate committee may dissolve at any time by filing a Final Report of Contributions and Expenditures that shows no funds remaining in the committee. A candidate committee **without funds remaining in its campaign depository** shall dissolve **by the mandatory dissolution date, being** no later than two (2) years after the general election for an office with a two-year term, no later than four (4) years after the general election for an office with a four-year term, and no later than six (6) years after the general election for an office with a six-year term, if not required to dissolve sooner by law or these Rules.

Amendment modifies Ethics Rule 2.116

(Continued)

A candidate committee with funds remaining in its campaign depository on the specified mandatory dissolution date set forth above, may no longer (1) receive contributions, (2) contribute to other candidate committees, (3) make campaign expenditures, or (4) make operating expenditures.

For no longer than **six (6) months**/**one (1) year** following the mandatory dissolution date as set forth above, a candidate committee with funds remaining in its campaign depository on the specified mandatory dissolution date, may (1) make expenditures for remaining officeholder expenses for elected officers, and (2) distribute any surplus funds as provided for in Rule 2.48.

Amendment modifies Ethics Rule 5.2

Modification: Adding definitions for “traditional business expense” and “de minimis amounts.”

AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 5.2 Definitions is amended to read as follows:

3. “**De minimis amounts**” are expenditures of \$20.00 or less expended for Traditional Business Expenses. If the yearly cumulative amount spent on the Governor, a legislator or any employee of the Governor or the Legislature is greater than the de minimis amount, it shall be reported and aggregated against the Traditional Business Expenses limit provided to an individual recipient.

Amendment modifies Ethics Rule 5.2

(Continued)

Modification: Adding definitions for “traditional business expense” and “de minimis amounts.”

AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 5.2 Definitions is amended to read as follows:

11. **“Traditional Business Expenses”** means expenditures for meals, any individual or team sports, athletic contests or events, conferences, lectures, performances, seminars, or similar events held within the boundaries of the State of Oklahoma.

Public Hearing ERA 2025-06



Amendment modifies Ethics Rule 5.3

Modification: Adding provision for Lobbyist disclosure of countries of particular concern.

AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 5.3 Annual Registration for Legislative Liaison and Legislative Lobbyist is amended to read as follows:

“...Information on the registration shall include the legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist’s name, business address, including electronic mail address and business telephone numbers, the name and address of each lobbyist principal by whom the liaison or lobbyist is employed or retained **including disclosure of whether each lobbyist principal is a government, political party, individual or entity organized in or with its principal place of business located in a country of particular concern as identified by the US Department of State,** and the date of the registration.”

Rule 5.3. Annual Registration for Legislative Liaison and Legislative Lobbyist.

Each legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist shall be required to register with the Ethics Commission each year that the legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist engages in lobbying. Each legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist shall register or renew his or her registration with the Commission and pay any applicable fees no earlier than December 1 of each year nor later than January 15 of the following year for the calendar year beginning January 1 or within five (5) days after engaging in lobbying on behalf of one or more lobbyist principals. Registration by legislative liaisons or legislative lobbyists shall be filed electronically, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission or the Executive Director of the Commission. Information on the registration shall include the legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist's name, business address, including electronic mail address and business telephone numbers, the name and address of each lobbyist principal by whom the liaison or lobbyist is employed or retained and the date of the registration.

History

Promulgated by Ethics Commission January 10, 2014; effective upon Legislature's sine die adjournment May 23, 2014; operative December 1, 2014.

Amendment promulgated by Ethics Commission January 27, 2017; effective upon sine die adjournment of the Legislature May 26, 2017; operative May 26, 2017.

The 2017 amendment added "and pay any applicable fees" in the second sentence between "the Commission" and "no earlier than," and it added "of each year" in the second sentence between "December 1" and "nor later than." Also in the second sentence, the 2017 amendment replaced "December 31" with "January 15," deleted "each" between "of" and "year," and moved "the following" from between "beginning" and "January 1" to between "of" and "year." The 2017 amendment removed the following language at the end of sentence two after "lobbyist principals": "and pay a registration fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) and an additional processing fee for using a credit card. Each legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist may be reimbursed for the registration fee and service fee by a lobbyist principal." The sentences read: "Each legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist shall register or renew his or her registration with the Commission no earlier than December 1 nor later than December 31 of each year for the calendar year beginning the following January 1 or within (5) five days after engaging in lobbying on behalf of one or more lobbyist principals and pay a registration fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) and an additional processing fee for using a credit card. Each legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist may be reimbursed for the registration fee and service fee by a lobbyist principal."

Commission Comment

This Rule acknowledges that legislative liaisons and legislative lobbyists often work year-round and on a continuing basis. It also recognizes the fact that some legislative lobbying is done on an ad hoc basis. This Rule provides for registration of lobbyists under both sets of circumstances.

A lobbyist or legislative liaison must register even if they will only be lobbying part of one day in a calendar year.

By having the registration deadline include the period for filing the final report for the prior registration year, a lobbyist or liaison is able to both file the final report for the prior year and renew the registration for the upcoming year on the same day

A registration filed by January 15th is prospective only and registers a liaison or lobbyist for the entire calendar year, which begins January 1st.



Amendment modifies Ethics Rule 5.5

Modification: Adding provision for Lobbyist disclosure of countries of particular concern.

AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 5.5 Annual Registration and Termination of Registration for Executive Lobbyist is amended to read as follows:

“...Information on the registration shall include the executive lobbyist’s name, business address, including electronic mail address and business telephone numbers, the name and address of each lobbyist principal by whom the lobbyist is employed or retained **including disclosure of whether each lobbyist principal is a government, political party, individual or entity organized in or with its principal place of business located in a country of particular concern as identified by the US Department of State**, the agency or agencies before which the lobbyist is lobbying and the date of the registration....”



Rule 5.5. Annual Registration and Termination of Registration for Executive Lobbyist.

Each executive lobbyist shall be required to register with the Ethics Commission. An executive lobbyist may register and pay any applicable fees no earlier than December 1 of each year nor later than January 15 of the following year for the calendar year beginning January 1 or within five (5) days after engaging in lobbying on behalf of one or more lobbyist principals. Registration by executive lobbyists shall be filed electronically, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission or the Executive Director of the Commission. Information on the registration shall include the executive lobbyist's name, business address, including electronic mail address and business telephone numbers, the name and address of each lobbyist principal by whom the lobbyist is employed or retained, the agency or agencies before which the lobbyist is lobbying and the date of the registration. The executive lobbyist may terminate his or her registration at any time by electronically filing a notice of termination on a form provided by the Commission and filing a final Executive Lobbyist Report. An executive lobbyist whose registration has not been terminated by November 30 of any year shall be required to register as provided in this subsection for the calendar year beginning the following January 1. Until terminated, the registration shall remain effective, and the executive lobbyist shall be required to file Executive Lobbyist Reports as provided by these Rules.

History

Promulgated by Ethics Commission January 10, 2014; effective upon Legislature's sine die adjournment May 23, 2014; operative December 1, 2014.

Amendment promulgated by Ethics Commission January 27, 2017; effective upon sine die adjournment of the Legislature May 26, 2017; operative May 26, 2017.

The 2017 amendment added "and pay any applicable fees" in the second sentence between "register" and "no earlier," and it added "of each year" between "December 1" and "nor later" to the second sentence. Also in the second sentence, the 2017 amendment replaced "December 31" with "January 15," deleted "each" between "of" and "year," and moved "the following" from between "beginning" and "January 1" to between "of" and "year." The second sentence read: "An executive lobbyist may register no earlier than December 1 nor later than December 31 of each year for the calendar year beginning the following January 1 or within five (5) days after engaging in lobbying on behalf of one or more lobbyist principals."

The 2017 amendment removed the language "no earlier than December 1 nor later than December 31 of that year to continue his or her registration through December and" from the sixth sentence, and it added "as provided in this subsection" to the sixth sentence between "register" and "for the calendar year." The sentence read: "An executive lobbyist whose registration has not been terminated by November 30 of any year shall be required to register no earlier than December 1 nor later than December 31 of that year to continue his or her registration through December and for the calendar year beginning the following January 1."

Commission Comment

This Rule acknowledges that executive lobbyists often work year-round and on a continuing basis. It also recognizes the fact that some executive lobbying is done on an ad hoc basis. This Rule provides for registration of lobbyists under both sets of circumstances. It permits lobbyists to terminate their registrations at any time provided they file a final report. It requires lobbyists to continue filing reports until their registration has been terminated.

By having the registration deadline include the period for filing the final report for the prior registration year, a lobbyist is able to both file the final report for the prior year and renew the registration for the upcoming year on the same day.

A registration filed by January 15th is prospective only and registers a liaison or lobbyist for the entire calendar year, which begins January 1st.

Amendment modifies Ethics Rule 5.6

Modification: Adding provision for traditional business expenses.

AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 5.6 Prohibition on Things of Value Provided to or Accepted by Governor, Legislative Officers and Employees is amended to read as follows:

“...The Governor, a legislator or any employee of the Governor or the Legislature shall not knowingly accept anything of value from a legislative liaison, a legislative lobbyist or a lobbyist principal by whom the legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist is employed or retained except **for expenditures expended as traditional business expenses as defined in Rule 5.2 or** as permitted by these Rules...”



Rule 5.6. Prohibition on Things of Value Provided to or Accepted by Governor, Legislative Officers and Employees.

Except as provided in these Rules, a legislative liaison, a legislative lobbyist or a lobbyist principal by whom the legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist is employed or retained shall provide no gift to the Governor, a legislator or any employee of the Governor or the Legislature.

The Governor, a legislator or any employee of the Governor or the Legislature shall not knowingly accept anything of value from a legislative liaison, a legislative lobbyist or a lobbyist principal by whom the legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist is employed or retained except as permitted by these Rules. Except as provided in these Rules, an executive lobbyist or a lobbyist principal by whom the executive lobbyist is employed or retained shall provide nothing of value to any officer or employee of an agency that is the subject of the executive lobbyist's lobbying activities. No officer or employee of an agency that is subject to an executive lobbyist's lobbying activities shall knowingly accept anything of value from an executive lobbyist or a lobbyist principal by whom an executive lobbyist is employed except as permitted by these Rules. In no event shall a legislative liaison, a legislative lobbyist, an executive lobbyist or a lobbyist principal indirectly provide anything of value to any state officer or employee by providing a thing of value to a family member of the state officer or employee, other than as permitted by these Rules. In no event shall the costs of a thing of value provided by a legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist to the Governor, a legislator or any employee of the Governor or the Legislature permitted by these Rules be divided or shared with other legislative liaisons or legislative lobbyists in filing a report required by these Rules unless otherwise provided by these Rules. Agencies may provide two (2) tickets or admissions to any conference, seminar, lecture or similar event held within the boundaries of the State of Oklahoma and sponsored in whole or in part by the agency to the Governor, any legislator or any employee of the Governor or Legislature, provided the tickets or admissions are used by the recipient and a family member of the recipient.

Commission Comment

This Rule absolutely prohibits the giving of a thing of value by a legislative liaison, a legislative lobbyist or a lobbyist principal to the Governor, legislators or members of their staff unless otherwise permitted by the Rules. Both the giving of a thing of value by a liaison, lobbyist or lobbyist principal and the receiving by the Governor, a legislator or their staff members is prohibited. In other words, unless there is a specific authorization for the giving of such a thing of value elsewhere in the Rules, this Rule prohibits it. The same prohibition applies to transactions between an executive lobbyist and state officers and employees in the agency that is the subject of the executive lobbyist's lobbying activities. Further, the Rule bars attempted circumvention of the prohibition by the giving of a gift to a family member of a state officer or employee when the giving of a thing of value is prohibited for the state officer or employee. The Rule also prohibits lobbyist ticket splitting unless specifically authorized elsewhere in these Rules.

The Rule recognizes that state agencies that are lobbyist principals may sponsor conferences, seminars, lectures and similar events that are useful in the discharge of duties by state officers and employees and provides a limited exception for tickets or admissions to such events.

Staff Memorandum 2015-05: *If a meal is provided by a lobbyist to a legislator and a family member, such as a spouse, only the meal provided to the legislator is reportable and counts against the lobbyist's monetary limit for meals. This only applies to meals, not gifts, such as a gift for an "infrequently occurring occasion of personal significance."*

Staff Memorandum 2015-02: *Gifts to the state are categorically different than gifts to individual state officers and employees referenced in the Ethics Rules; consequently, any gifts given to the state fall outside the scope of the Ethics Rules.*

History

Promulgated by Ethics Commission January 10, 2014; effective upon Legislature's sine die adjournment May 23, 2014; operative January 1, 2015.
Amendment promulgated by Ethics Commission January 9, 2015; effective upon sine die adjournment of the Legislature May 22, 2015; operative May 22, 2015.

The 2015 amendment changed the words "nothing of value" in the first sentence to "no gift" and added the following sentence at the end of the Section: "Agencies may provide two (2) tickets or admissions to any conference, seminar, lecture or similar event held within the boundaries of the State of Oklahoma and sponsored in whole or in part by the agency to the Governor, any legislator or any employee of the Governor or Legislature, provided the tickets or admissions are used by the recipient and a family member of the recipient."

Amendment promulgated by the Ethics Commission January 27, 2017; effective January 1, 2018; operative January 1, 2018.

The 2017 amendment added the following sentence to the end of the provision: "For all other gifts provided by a legislative liaison, legislative lobbyist or executive lobbyist that include meals or attendance at an event, the lobbyist or legislative liaison must attend the meal or event with the recipient."

Amendment promulgated by the Ethics Commission February 4, 2025; effective upon sine die adjournment of the legislature May 30, 2025; operative May 30, 2025.

The 2025 amendment removed the attendance requirement of lobbyists.

Amendment modifies Ethics Rule 5.8

Modification: Removes Provision of 5.8.

AMENDATORY Ethics Rule ~~5.8 Gift Limits for Legislative Liaison or Legislative Lobbyist~~ is repealed in its entirety:

~~A legislative liaison or a legislative lobbyist may make a gift to the Governor or any legislator or any employee of the Governor or the Legislature in recognition of infrequently occurring occasions of personal significance. The gift shall be given and received contemporaneously with the occasion or at times when such gifts are traditionally given. Such gifts may be made to a family member of the Governor or any legislator or any employee of the Governor or the Legislature, provided such family member is a party to a marriage, serious illness, birth or adoption of a child or retirement. Such gifts to any individual recipient may not exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) in the aggregate in any calendar year from any legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist. Any such gifts shall be reported to the Commission and aggregated with meals, and the aggregate total of meals and other gifts provided to an individual recipient by a legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist may not exceed Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$750.00).~~

Rule 5.8. Gift Limits for Legislative Liaison or Legislative Lobbyist.

A legislative liaison or a legislative lobbyist may make a gift to the Governor or any legislator or any employee of the Governor or the Legislature in recognition of infrequently occurring occasions of personal significance. The gift shall be given and received contemporaneously with the occasion or at times when such gifts are traditionally given. Such gifts may be made to a family member of the Governor or any legislator or any employee of the Governor or the Legislature, provided such family member is a party to a marriage, serious illness, birth or adoption of a child or retirement. Such gifts to any individual recipient may not exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) in the aggregate in any calendar year from any legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist. Any such gifts shall be reported to the Commission and aggregated with meals, and the aggregate total of meals and other gifts provided to an individual recipient by a legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist may not exceed Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$750.00).

History

Promulgated by Ethics Commission January 10, 2014; effective upon Legislature's sine die adjournment May 23, 2014; operative January 1, 2015.

Amendment promulgated by Ethics Commission January 27, 2017; effective January 1, 2018; operative January 1, 2018.

The 2017 amendment added the following sentence as the second sentence in the provision: "The gift shall be given and received contemporaneously with the occasion or at times when such gifts are traditionally given." The 2017 amendment replaced "Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00)" with "One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)" and added "reported to the Commission and" between "Any such gifts shall be" and "aggregated with" in the last sentence.

Amendment promulgated by Ethics Commission February 4, 2025; effective upon Legislature's sine die adjournment May 30, 2025; operative May 30, 2025.

The 2025 amendment raised the gift limit from \$100.00 to \$200.00 and raised the aggregate limit from \$500.00 to \$750.00.

Commission Comment

This Rule allows a gift or gifts of up to the specified dollar limit in value to be given by a legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist to the Governor, a legislator or an employee of the Governor or the Legislature for "infrequently occurring occasions of personal significance." Gifts may be given to family members of the Governor or a legislator or employees of the Governor or the Legislature subject to certain limitations. While the term "infrequently occurring occasions of personal significance" is not defined, it is reasonable to assume that the events to which a family member must be "a party" would qualify. Those events include marriage, serious illness, birth or adoption of a child or retirement. Because there is no definition of the term, it is reasonable to assume there may be other events that meet the criterion. Any such gifts are aggregated with meals given to the recipient so that the total for a calendar year may not exceed Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00). See Rule 5.7.

A legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist should ensure a recipient of a gift is an individual who accepts gifts from liaisons or lobbyists prior to providing the gift. Typically, gifts may be returned to a lobbyist or legislative liaison to negate the gift if the recipient does not accept gifts. However, flowers, and other perishable gifts are difficult, if not impossible to return. In the event an unwanted and perishable gift is provided, the recipient of the gift should contact Ethics Commission staff as soon as practicable for advice.

Advisory Opinion 2018-01 (Rescinded 12/11/2021 as It Interprets Rule 5 Inconsistently with Rule Change 2021-02 as to giving of books and similar informational materials, but does not impact the following advice): A gift given for an infrequently occurring occasion of personal significance may be given on an occasion that is both infrequent and in recognition of a major life event that is personally significant to the recipient. Events which are annually occurring, such as birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays, are not infrequently occurring occasions of personal significance within the meaning of Ethics Rules 5.8 and 5.11.

Commission Enforcement Directive 12/31/2020: Ordering Director to enforce Rule 5 in accordance with Promulgated Rule Change 2021-02 as of January 1, 2021.

- **Rule Change 2021-02:** provides a new exception to the Gift prohibition in order to allow Governor, Legislators, and their staff to accept books and similar informational materials related to their state responsibilities from legislative lobbyists and liaisons, and lobbyist principals lobbying the Governor, Legislature, or their staff.
- Requires reporting of those items in the same manner of other gifts if the item exceeds \$100.
- Does not impact or require reporting of lobbying via written communications such as by letter, e-mail, text message, flyer, etc.



Amendment modifies Ethics Rule 5.16

Modification: Adding provision for Lobbyist Principals to provide food and beverage for legislative sessions.

AMENDATORY Ethics Rule 5.16 Food and Beverage Provided by a Lobbyist Principal to either House of the Legislature, a Legislative Committee or Subcommittee is amended to read as follows:

A lobbyist principal that employs or retains a legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist may provide food and beverage for any event or legislative session held within the Capitol building to which all members of either House of the Legislature, a committee or subcommittee of either House of the Legislature identified in the Rules or Journal of the respective House are invited and which is attended by a majority of members of the House of the Legislature, committee or subcommittee no more than once per calendar year for any such House of the Legislature, committee or subcommittee, provided the event is reported as provided by these Rules. More than one lobbyist principal may provide food and beverage for such an event, but no lobbyist principal shall participate in more than one such event per calendar year for any committee or subcommittee. The reporting provision of this section shall not include legislators who are not members of the committee or subcommittee, nor shall it include legislative staff members who do not officially or regularly provide staff services for the committee or subcommittee.

Rule 5.16. Food and Beverage Provided by a Lobbyist Principal to a Legislative Committee or Subcommittee.

A lobbyist principal that employs or retains a legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist may provide food and beverage for any event held within the Capitol building to which all members of a committee or subcommittee of either House of the Legislature identified in the Rules or Journal of the respective House are invited and which is attended by a majority of members of the committee or subcommittee no more than once per calendar year for any such committee or subcommittee, provided the event is reported as provided by these Rules. More than one lobbyist principal may provide food and beverage for such an event, but no lobbyist principal shall participate in more than one such event per calendar year for any committee or subcommittee. The reporting provision of this section shall not include legislators who are not members of the committee or subcommittee, nor shall it include legislative staff members who do not officially or regularly provide staff services for the committee or subcommittee.

History

Promulgated by Ethics Commission January 10, 2014; effective upon Legislature's sine die adjournment May 23, 2014; operative January 1, 2015.

Amendment promulgated by Ethics Commission January 9, 2015; effective upon sine die adjournment of the Legislature May 22, 2015; operative May 22, 2015.

The 2015 amendment added the following sentence: "The reporting provision of this section shall not include legislators who are not members of the committee or subcommittee, nor shall it include legislative staff members who do not officially or regularly provide staff services for the committee or subcommittee."

Commission Comment

This Rule applies only to lobbyist principals that employ a legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist. The lobbyist principal may provide food and beverage for one meeting in any calendar year for a meeting of a committee or subcommittee of the Senate or House of Representatives. The meeting must be held within the State Capitol building. The committee or subcommittee must be identified as such in either the Rules of the respective House or in the official Journal of the respective House. To qualify, a majority of members of the committee or subcommittee must attend. For that reason, an attendance record should be maintained. The cost for food and beverage may be divided between multiple lobbyist principals for the same meeting, provided no lobbyist principal engages in this practice more than one time per calendar year per committee or subcommittee. The cost of food and beverage for such an event must be reported by the liaison or lobbyist. See Rule 5.21. The cost of food and beverage is not counted as part of the limits provided for liaisons and lobbyists in Rule 5.7.

Unlike events to which all members of the Legislature are invited, this exception is limited to members of the committee or subcommittee and legislative staff members who officially or regularly provide staff services for the committee or subcommittee. Other legislators or legislative staff must be reported by the lobbyist as recipients of individual gifts.

Lobbyist principals that share the cost of a meal provided at a meeting must share the cost with other lobbyist principals who are also sponsoring meals that will be reported as a lobbyist principal meal.

Staff Memorandum 2015-04: *There are no rules allowing a lobbyist principal to expend funds on a meal for an individual legislator; lobbyist principals may only expend funds for food and beverages at (1) events to which all the members of the Legislature are invited, (2) recognized caucus meetings, (3) legislative committee or subcommittee meetings, and (4) out-of-state events. Instead, a lobbyist must report any meals given to a legislator, regardless of the source of funds used to pay for the meal.*



Consideration, discussion, and possible action on proposed Staff Memorandum 2025-01 related to Rule 5.14



Rule 5.14. Food and Beverage Provided by a Lobbyist Principal to an Event to Which All Members of Legislature are Invited.

A lobbyist principal that employs or retains a legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist may provide food and beverage for any event to which all members of the Legislature are invited no more than once per calendar year, provided the event is reported as provided by these Rules. More than one lobbyist principal may provide food and beverage for such an event, but no lobbyist principal shall participate in more than one such event per calendar year.

Commission Comment

This Rule applies only to lobbyist principals that employ a legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist. The lobbyist principal may provide food and beverage for one event per calendar year to which all members of the Legislature are invited. The cost for food and beverage may be divided between multiple lobbyist principals for the same event, provided no lobbyist principal engages in this practice more than one time per calendar year. The cost of food and beverage for such an event must be reported by the liaison or lobbyist. See Rule 5.21. The cost of food and beverage is not counted as part of the limits provided for liaisons and lobbyists in Rule 5.7. Lobbyist principals that share the cost of a meal provided at one of these events must share the cost with other lobbyist principals who are also sponsoring meals that will be reported as a lobbyist principal meal.

Staff Memorandum 2015-04: There are no rules allowing a lobbyist principal to expend funds on a meal for an individual legislator; lobbyist principals may only expend funds for food and beverages at (1) events to which all the members of the Legislature are invited, (2) recognized caucus meetings, (3) legislative committee or subcommittee meetings, and (4) out-of-state events. Instead, a lobbyist must report any meals given to a legislator, regardless of the source of funds used to pay for the

Staff Memorandum 2025-01: When a lobbyist principal provides food and beverages for an event in which all members of the Legislature are invited, the cost that must be reported is the actual cost of the food and beverage provided.

Case Management System

CLIO



Rule 5.14. Food and Beverage Provided by a Lobbyist Principal to an Event to Which All Members of Legislature are Invited.

A lobbyist principal that employs or retains a legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist may provide food and beverage for any event to which all members of the Legislature are invited no more than once per calendar year, provided the event is reported as provided by these Rules. More than one lobbyist principal may provide food and beverage for such an event, but no lobbyist principal shall participate in more than one such event per calendar year.

Commission Comment

This Rule applies only to lobbyist principals that employ a legislative liaison or legislative lobbyist. The lobbyist principal may provide food and beverage for one event per calendar year to which all members of the Legislature are invited. The cost for food and beverage may be divided between multiple lobbyist principals for the same event, provided no lobbyist principal engages in this practice more than one time per calendar year. The cost of food and beverage for such an event must be reported by the liaison or lobbyist. See Rule 5.21. The cost of food and beverage is not counted as part of the limits provided for liaisons and lobbyists in Rule 5.7. Lobbyist principals that share the cost of a meal provided at one of these events must share the cost with other lobbyist principals who are also sponsoring meals that will be reported as a lobbyist principal meal.

Staff Memorandum 2015-04: There are no rules allowing a lobbyist principal to expend funds on a meal for an individual legislator; lobbyist principals may only expend funds for food and beverages at (1) events to which all the members of the Legislature are invited, (2) recognized caucus meetings, (3) legislative committee or subcommittee meetings, and (4) out-of-state events. Instead, a lobbyist must report any meals given to a legislator, regardless of the source of funds used to pay for the

Staff Memorandum 2025-01: When a lobbyist principal provides food and beverages for an event in which all members of the Legislature are invited, the cost that must be reported is the actual cost of the food and beverage provided.

Executive Director's Report



Budget

As of December 1, 2025

Business

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Dept</u>	<u>Bud Ref</u>	<u>Allocations</u>	<u>Pre Encumbered</u>	<u>Encumbered</u>	<u>Current Yr Exp</u>	<u>Prior Yr Exp</u>	<u>Allotment Budget</u>	<u>Available Cash</u>
29600	195	- General Appropriations								628,457.52
	19501	10	25	1,014,630.00	.00	.00	.00	1,014,630.00	.00	
	19502	10	26	1,014,630.00	.00	225.00	386,172.48	.00	628,232.52	
				2,029,260.00		225.00	386,172.48	1,014,630.00	628,232.52	
	200	- Revolving Fund								670,652.41
	20000	10	24	178,006.00	.00	41,501.74	.00	39,454.75	97,049.51	
	20000	10	25	277,481.00	.00	79,277.00	6,265.19	68,519.16	123,419.65	
	20000	10	26	72,722.00	.00	52,059.25	13,543.25	.00	7,119.50	
				528,209.00		172,837.99	19,808.44	107,973.91	227,588.66	
	210	- Political Subdivisions								244,395.00
	21000	10	26	199,943.00	.00	100,000.00	55,605.00	.00	44,338.00	
	21000	88	26	100,057.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	100,057.00	
				300,000.00		100,000.00	55,605.00		144,395.00	
	211	- Revolving Fund – Specifically for IT/Tech Related Expenses								356,565.05
	21100	10	26	1,500.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	1,500.00	
	21100	88	24	164,186.00	.00	3,995.66	.00	76,129.56	84,060.78	
	21100	88	25	231,540.00	.00	2,007.54	7,018.45	60,623.26	161,890.75	
	21100	88	26	151,544.00	2,856.00	36,373.98	78,532.84	.00	33,781.18	
				548,770.00	2,856.00	42,377.18	85,551.29	136,752.82	281,232.71	
	212	- Guardian Replacement Fund								1,394,485.22
	21200	88	25	1,200,000.00	.00	101,542.12	214,494.78	544,390.00	339,573.10	
	21200	88	26	1,015,000.00	.00	453,309.00	46,630.00	.00	515,061.00	
				2,215,000.00		554,851.12	261,124.78	544,390.00	854,634.10	
	Grand Totals			6,459,196.00	2,856.00	870,291.29	883,261.99	2,566,703.73	2,136,082.99	3,294,555.20



Budget

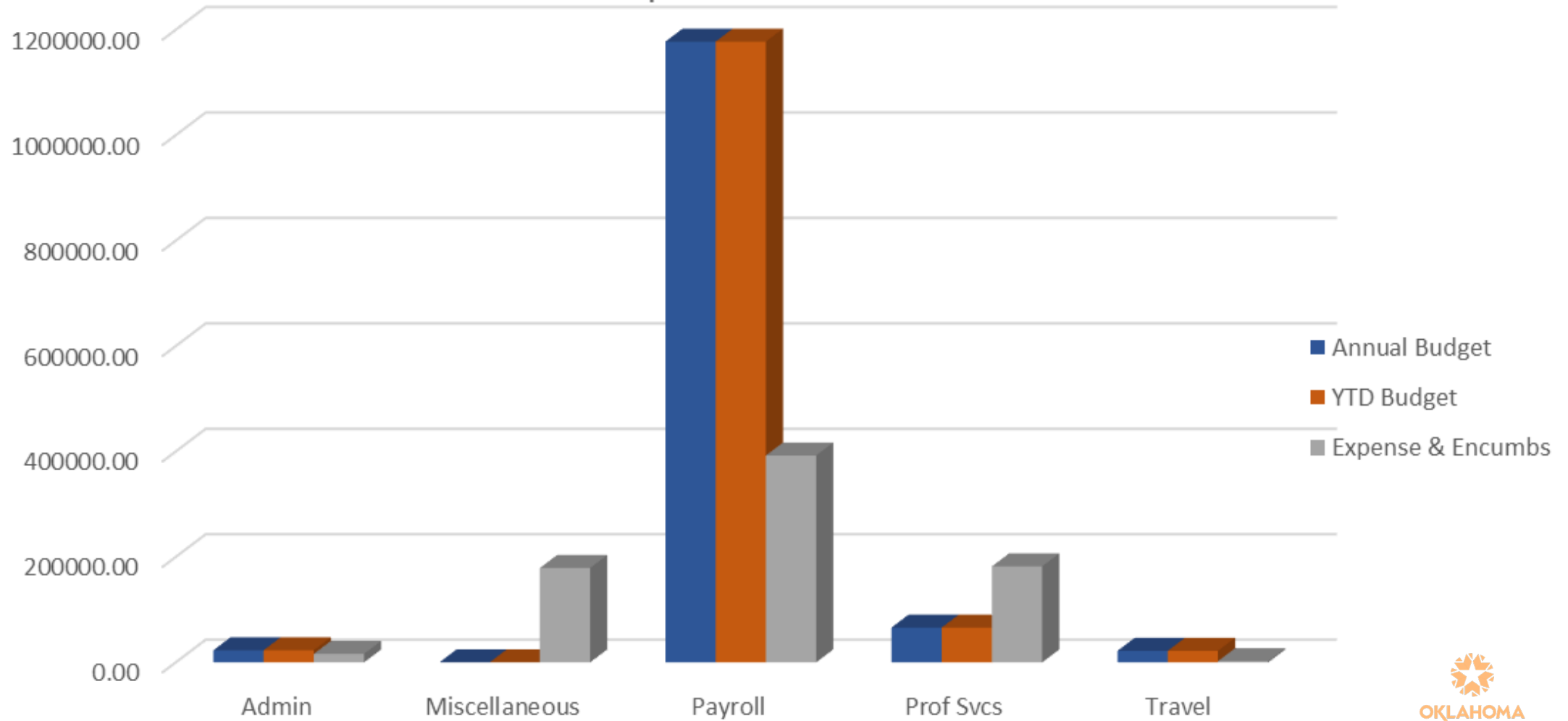
Actuals as of November 3, 2025

General Operations

Department: 1000010 Admin General Operations

Account	Annual Budget	YTD Budget	Expenses	Encumbrance	Pre-Encumbrance	Total Exp, Enc, Pre-Enc	Annual Variance	YTD Variance	Annual %	YTD %
511 Salary Expense	834,382	347,659	292,474.08	0.00	0.00	292,474.08	541,907.92	55,185.07	35.05	84.13
512 Insur.Prem-Hlth-Life,etc	147,054	61,273	28,352.56	1,500.00	0.00	29,852.56	117,201.44	31,419.94	20.30	48.72
513 FICA-Retirement Contributi	196,200	81,750	69,107.87	0.00	0.00	69,107.87	127,092.13	12,642.03	35.22	84.54
515 Professional Services	65,687	27,369	57,798.84	120,750.88	0.00	178,549.72	-112,862.72	-151,180.32	271.82	652.37
519 Inter/Intra Agy Pmt-Pers S	432	180	259.00	173.00	0.00	432.00	0.00	-252.00	100.00	240.00
521 Travel - Reimbursements	14,600	6,083	2,267.97	0.00	0.00	2,267.97	12,332.03	3,815.18	15.53	37.28
522 Travel - Agency Direct Pmt	7,400	3,083	510.21	0.00	0.00	510.21	6,889.79	2,573.04	6.89	16.55
531 Misc. Administrative Expen	16,415	6,839	2,210.88	10,252.94	0.00	12,463.82	3,951.18	-5,624.42	75.93	182.24
532 Rent Expense	700	292	701.44	0.00	0.00	701.44	-1.44	-409.84	100.21	240.55
534 Specialized Sup & Mat.Expe	0	0	438.38	0.00	0.00	438.38	-438.38	-438.38	~	~
536 General Operating Expenses	5,900	2,458	1,165.97	0.00	0.00	1,165.97	4,734.03	1,292.28	19.76	47.43
552 Scholar.,Tuition,Incentive	25	10	33.53	0.00	0.00	33.53	-8.53	-23.13	134.12	322.40
601 AFP Encumbrances	0	0	0.00	19,607.43	0.00	19,607.43	-19,607.43	-19,607.43	~	~
810 Req Only	0	0	0.00	162,299.80	0.00	162,299.80	-162,299.80	-162,299.80	~	~
	1,288,795	536,997	455,320.73	314,584.05	0.00	769,904.78	518,890.22	-232,907.78	59.74	143.37
Class Funding	Annual Budget	YTD Budget	Expenses	Encumbrance	Pre-Encumbrance	Total Exp, Enc, Pre-Enc	Annual Variance	YTD Variance	Annual %	YTD %
19502 GRF Duties	1,014,630	422,762	386,172.48	225.00	0.00	386,397.48	628,232.52	36,364.87	38.08	91.40
19601 GRF-Duties	0	0	0.00	57.00	0.00	57.00	-57.00	-57.00	~	~
20000 Ok Coun Campaign, Eth Rev	72,722	30,300	13,543.25	214,302.05	0.00	227,845.30	-155,123.30	-197,545.20	313.31	751.96
21000 Political Subdiv Enforcemt	199,943	83,310	55,605.00	100,000.00	0.00	155,605.00	44,338.00	-72,295.45	77.82	186.78
21100 Ethics Comm Online Filing	1,500	625	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	625.00	0.00	0.00
	1,288,795	536,997	455,320.73	314,584.05	0.00	769,904.78	518,890.22	-232,907.78	59.74	143.37
Totals for Division 10	1,288,795	536,997	455,320.73	314,584.05	0.00	769,904.78	518,890.22	-232,907.78	59.74	143.37

Admin General Operations Department 1000010





Budget

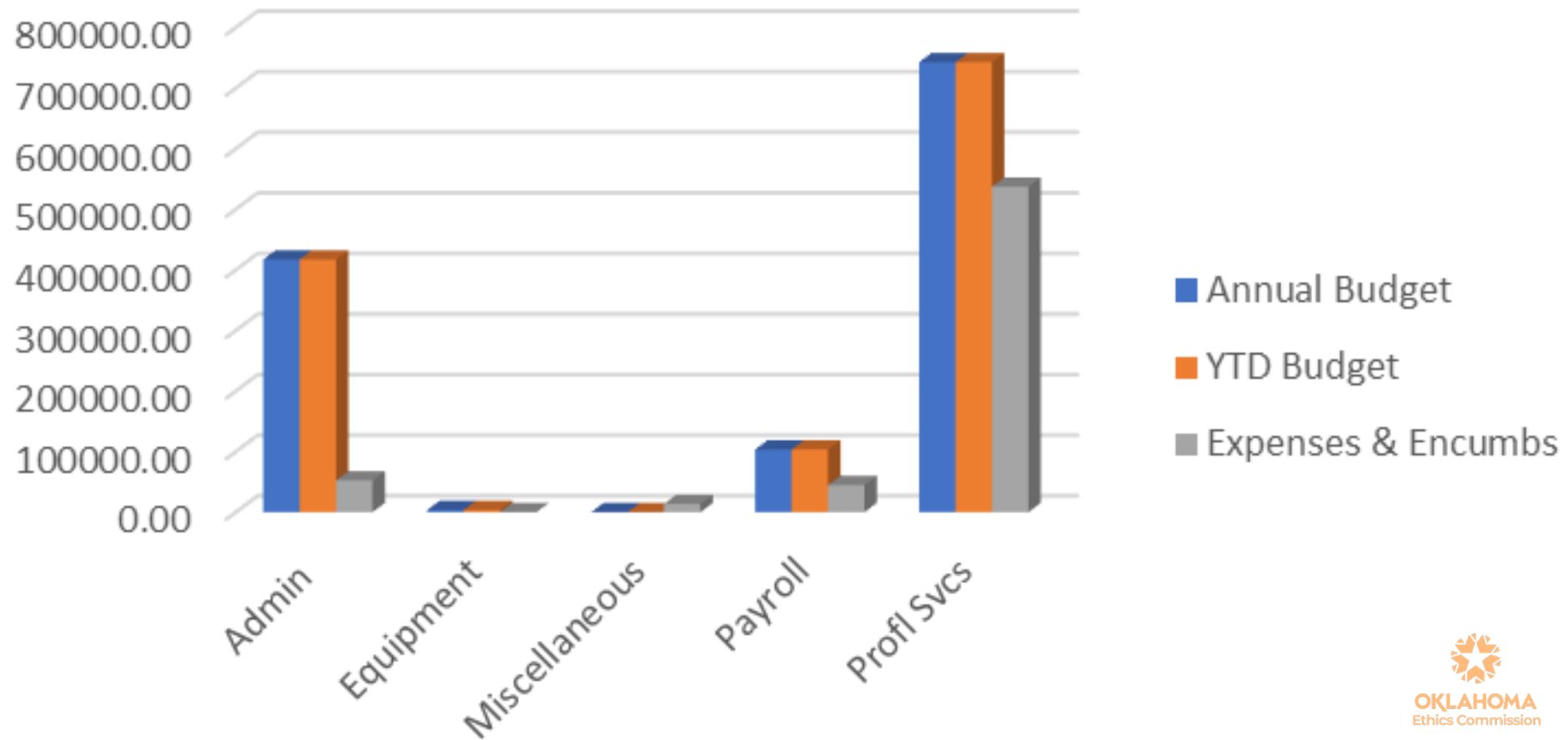
Actuals as of November 3, 2025

IS Services

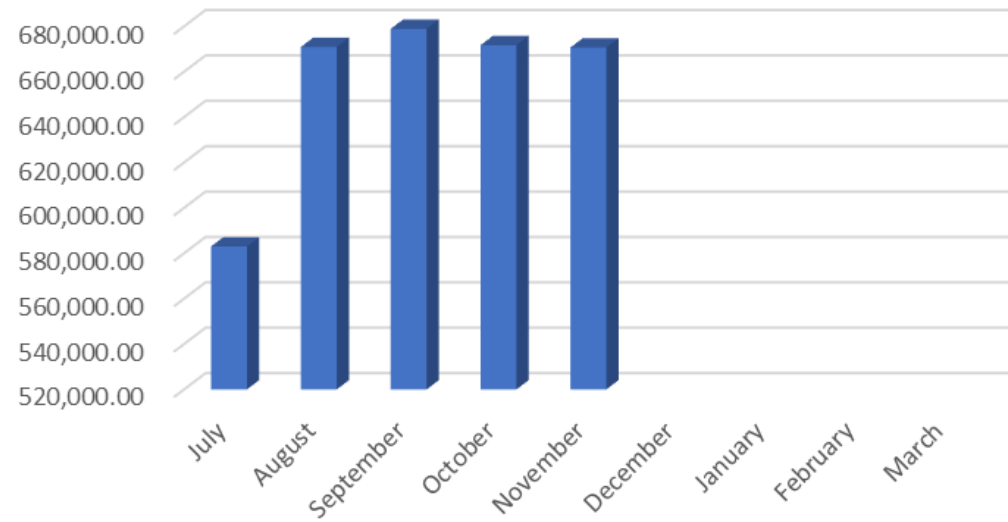
Department: 8800020 Administrative IS Services

Account	Annual Budget	YTD Budget	Expenses	Encumbrance	Pre-Encumbrance	Total Exp, Enc, Pre-Enc	Annual Variance	YTD Variance	Annual %	YTD %
511 Salary Expense	71,062	29,609	31,521.00	0.00	0.00	31,521.00	39,541.00	-1,911.85	44.36	106.46
512 Insur.Prem-Hlth-Life,etc	14,820	6,175	5,583.90	0.00	0.00	5,583.90	9,236.10	591.10	37.68	90.43
513 FICA-Retirement Contributi	17,524	7,302	7,524.68	0.00	0.00	7,524.68	9,999.32	-223.08	42.94	103.06
515 Professional Services	742,561	309,400	55,715.04	471,479.08	2,856.00	530,050.12	212,510.88	-220,649.77	71.38	171.32
531 Misc. Administrative Expen	296,434	123,514	3,189.81	9,860.26	0.00	13,050.07	283,383.93	110,464.03	4.40	10.57
532 Rent Expense	3,500	1,458	1,981.30	1,092.93	0.00	3,074.23	425.77	-1,615.93	87.84	210.81
533 Maintenance & Repair Expen	117,100	48,792	19,287.31	5,907.94	0.00	25,195.25	91,904.75	23,596.40	21.52	51.64
535 Production,Safety,Security	0	0	34.29	0.00	0.00	34.29	-34.29	-34.29	~	~
536 General Operating Expenses	0	0	325.51	414.00	0.00	739.51	-739.51	-739.51	~	~
541 Office Furniture & Equipme	3,600	1,500	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,600.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00
601 AFP Encumbrances	0	0	0.00	928.77	0.00	928.77	-928.77	-928.77	~	~
810 Req Only	0	0	0.00	10,000.00	12,819.90	22,819.90	-22,819.90	-22,819.90	~	~
	1,266,601	527,750	125,162.84	499,682.98	15,675.90	640,521.72	626,079.28	-112,771.57	50.57	121.37
Class Funding	Annual Budget	YTD Budget	Expenses	Encumbrance	Pre-Encumbrance	Total Exp, Enc, Pre-Enc	Annual Variance	YTD Variance	Annual %	YTD %
20000 Ok Coun Campaign, Eth Rev	0	0	0.00	0.00	12,819.90	12,819.90	-12,819.90	-12,819.90	~	~
21000 Political Subdiv Enforcemt	100,057	41,690	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,057.00	41,690.40	0.00	0.00
21100 Ethics Comm Online Filing	151,544	63,143	78,532.84	46,373.98	2,856.00	127,762.82	23,781.18	-64,619.67	84.31	202.34
21200 Ethics Com Fil Sys Replcmn	1,015,000	422,917	46,630.00	453,309.00	0.00	499,939.00	515,061.00	-77,022.40	49.26	118.21
	1,266,601	527,750	125,162.84	499,682.98	15,675.90	640,521.72	626,079.28	-112,771.57	50.57	121.37
Totals for Division 88	1,266,601	527,750	125,162.84	499,682.98	15,675.90	640,521.72	626,079.28	-112,771.57	50.57	121.37
Totals for Bus Unit 29600	2,555,396	1,064,747	580,483.57	814,267.03	15,675.90	1,410,426.50	1,144,969.50	-345,679.35	55.19	132.47

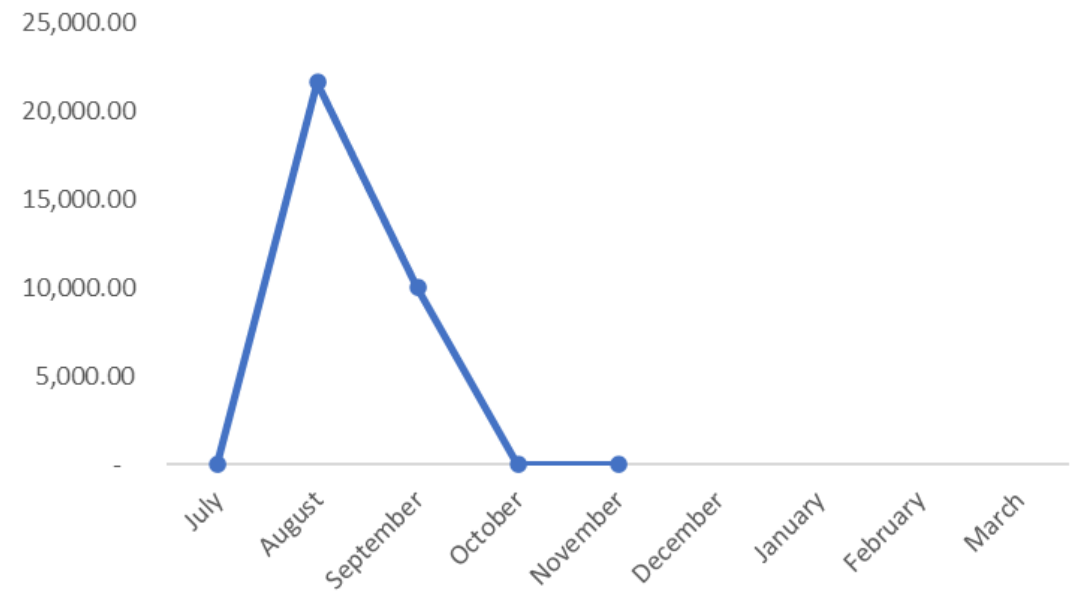
Information Services Department 8800020



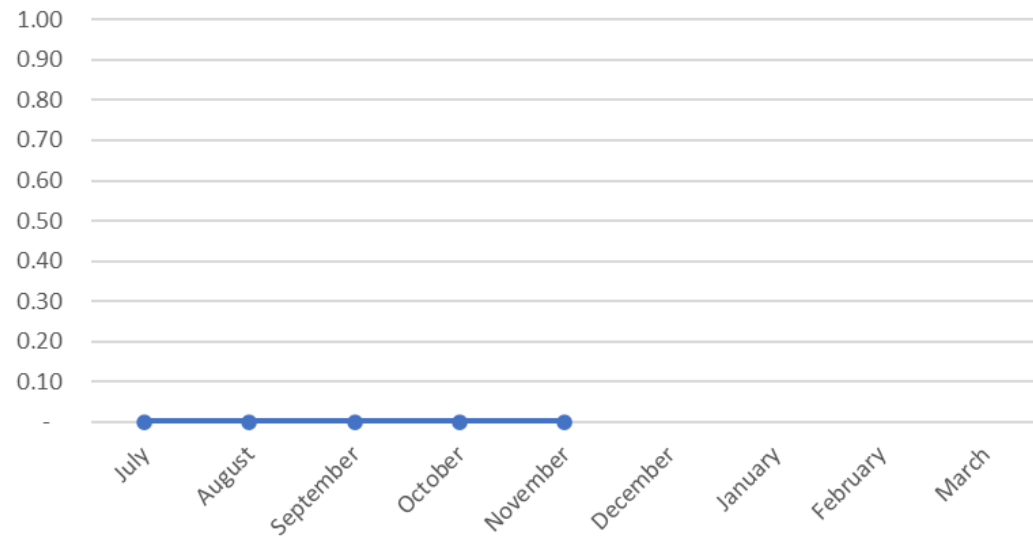
Cash Balance CF 200



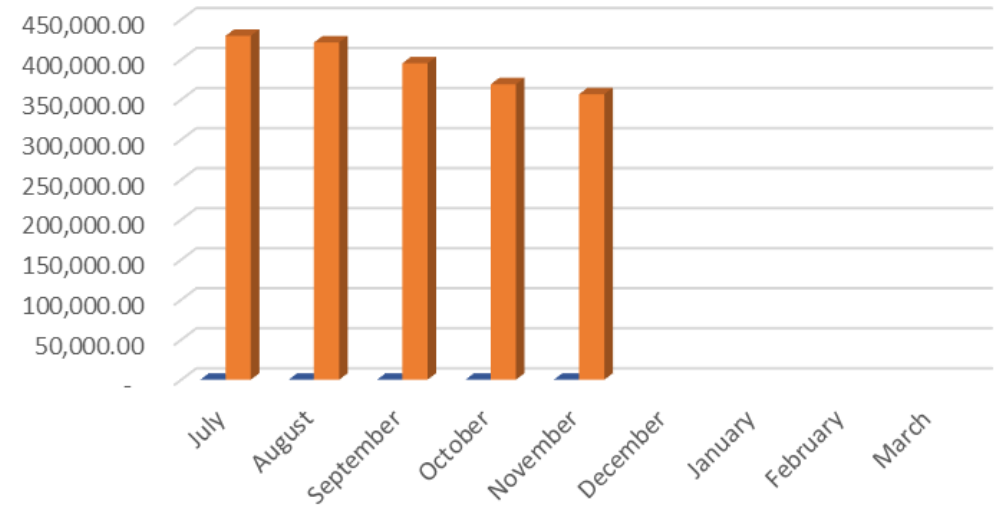
Class Fund 200 Revenue



Class Fund 211 Revenue

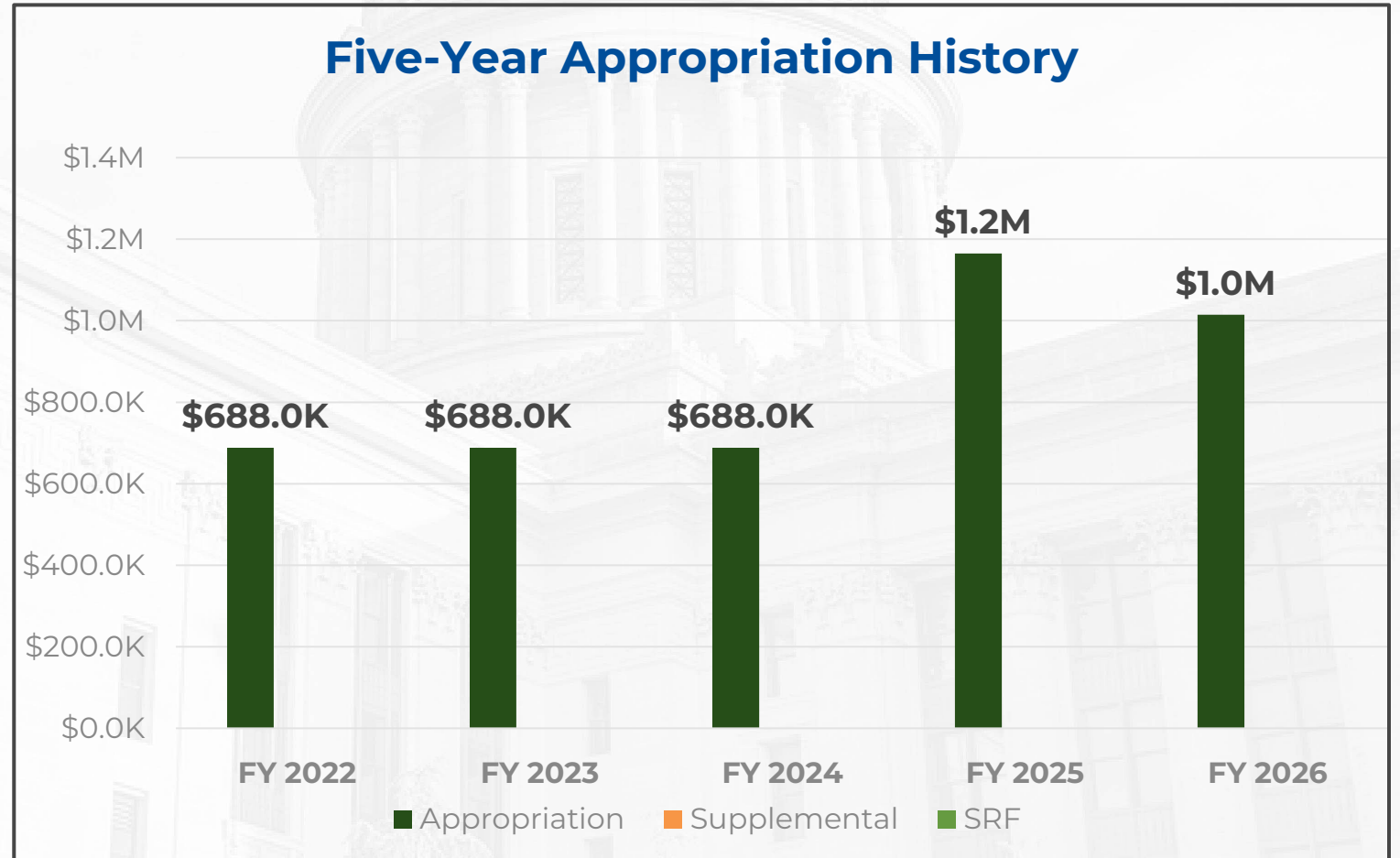


Cash Balance CF 211



Appropriation History

Fiscal Year	Legislated Appropriation (\$) (Includes supplementals and SRF/ARPA.)
FY 2022	687,957
FY 2023	687,957
FY 2024	687,957
FY 2025	1,164,630
FY 2026	1,014,630



**Includes Supplemental and Statewide Recovery Fund (ARPA) appropriations.*



Legislative

Legislative

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to state government; creating the Oklahoma Foreign Agents Registration Act; providing short title; providing legislative intent; defining terms; prescribing requirements to register as a foreign agent; assigning registration **and civil enforcement** duties to the Oklahoma Ethics Commission; prescribing transition provisions; providing exemptions; prescribing disclosure and recordkeeping requirements; prescribing **criminal** enforcement authority of the Attorney General; prohibiting contingent compensation contracts; prescribing penalties; providing for rulemaking by the Ethics Commission and Attorney General; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the *Oklahoma Foreign Agents Registration Act*.

B. The purpose of this act is to ensure transparency and accountability for political **activities** and advocacy activities **designed to influence public policy that are** conducted in Oklahoma on behalf of foreign countries of concern.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 13001 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in this act:

1. "Foreign principal" means:
 - a. a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party,
 - b. any entity organized under the laws of a foreign country or having its principal place of business in a foreign country, or
 - c. any person domiciled outside the United States who is not a United States citizen;

2. "Agent of a foreign principal" means any person who acts at the order, request, or under the control of a foreign principal and who engages in political activities, lobbying, fundraising, or other **political** advocacy within this state, including but not limited to publicity agents, public relations counsel, political consultants, or information service employees;
3. "Political activity" means any activity intended to influence the policies, actions, or decisions of state or local government or to shape public opinion on behalf of a foreign principal; and
4. "Country of concern" means any foreign country designated by the United States **Secretary of State government as a** ~~as~~ hostile **foreign adversary** or a Country of Particular Concern, **whether pursuant to 15 CFR § 791.4 or any other provision of law.**

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 13002 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. No person shall act as an agent of a foreign principal from a country of concern unless he or she has registered with the Oklahoma Ethics Commission.

B. Registration shall be filed within ten (10) days of becoming an agent and shall be updated annually and upon any material change.

C. Registration shall include:

1. Name and address of the registrant;
2. Identity of the foreign principal;
3. The nature of the relationship, including contracts or agreements;
4. A summary of activities undertaken or planned;
5. The amount and source of compensation;
6. A statement of ownership and control of the foreign principal, if an entity; and
7. Disclosure of political contributions made by the registrant during the preceding twelve (12) months.



Legislative

D. The Ethics Commission shall prescribe registration forms, maintain a public registry, and adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

E. The Ethics Commission shall have ~~no civil~~ enforcement authority under this act; ~~its duties are limited to registration, disclosure, and rulemaking related to filings in accordance with the penalties prescribed within the Ethics Rules.~~

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 13003 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Any person acting as an agent of a foreign principal from a country of concern on the effective date of this act shall, within sixty (60) days, register with the Ethics Commission and disclose activities and compensation received during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding registration.

B. Thereafter, all new agents shall register as provided in Section 3 of this act.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 13004 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The requirements of this act shall not apply to:

1. Accredited diplomatic or consular officers recognized by the United States Department of State;
2. Officials or employees of a foreign government whose duties are public and non-political; or
3. Attorneys engaged solely in legal representation in judicial or administrative proceedings.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 13005 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Any informational materials distributed in this state on behalf of a foreign principal from a country of concern shall clearly state:

"Distributed by [Name] on behalf of a foreign principal from a country of concern.

Registered with the Oklahoma Ethics Commission."

B. Agents shall retain copies of such materials for inspection for ~~threefour~~ (34) years.

C. Agents shall ~~regularly report file with to~~ the Ethics Commission ~~in a similar manner as other campaign finance reporting with a quarterly~~ list of all informational materials disseminated, identifying the date, medium, and general subject matter.

SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 13006 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Agents shall maintain records of all activities and payments related to the foreign principal from a country of concern for at least ~~threefour~~ (34) years and make such records available to the Attorney General upon request.

B. It shall be unlawful to willfully conceal, destroy, falsify, or obliterate any books or records required under this act.

SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 13007 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Attorney General shall have exclusive authority to investigate and enforce criminal violations of this act.

B. The Ethics Commission shall refer suspected criminal violations to the Attorney General. Nothing in this act prevents the Attorney General from initiating investigations independently.

C. The Attorney General may:

1. ~~Seek civil penalties up to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per violation;~~



Legislative

~~2. Seek injunctive relief, including prohibition from further acting as an unregistered agent; and~~

~~3. Pursue criminal penalties for willful violations, punishable by a fine of up to One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), imprisonment for up to five (5) years, or both.~~

D. It shall be unlawful for any contract for compensation between a foreign principal and an agent to provide for compensation contingent upon the success of political activities.

E. Failure to file a registration required by this act shall be considered a continuing violation until corrected.

F. The Attorney General shall have no authority to prescribe registration filings or forms; its duties are limited to criminal investigation and enforcement.

SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 13008 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Ethics Commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement the civil penalty, registration and disclosure provisions of this act.

B. The Attorney General may adopt rules necessary to implement the criminal enforcement provisions of this act.

SECTION 10. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

A. Any informational materials distributed in this state on behalf of a foreign principal from a country of concern shall clearly state:

"Distributed by [Name] on behalf of a foreign principal from a country of concern.

Registered with the Oklahoma Ethics Commission."

B. Agents shall retain copies of such materials for inspection for ~~threefour~~ (34) years.

C. Agents shall regularly report file with to the Ethics Commission in a similar manner as other campaign finance reporting with a ~~quarterly~~ list of all informational materials disseminated, identifying the date, medium, and general subject matter.

SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 13006 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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B. It shall be unlawful to willfully conceal, destroy, falsify, or obliterate any books or records required under this act.

SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 13007 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Attorney General shall have exclusive authority to investigate and enforce criminal violations of this act.

B. The Ethics Commission shall refer suspected criminal violations to the Attorney General. Nothing in this act prevents the Attorney General from initiating investigations independently.

C. The Attorney General may:

- ~~1. Seek civil penalties up to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per violation;~~



Annual Report – Calendar Year 2025

Message from the Executive Director

Lee Anne Bruce Boone, Executive Director

- This Annual Report is prepared first and foremost for the Oklahoma Ethics Commissioners, whose constitutional responsibility for oversight and stewardship guides the agency's work. It is also intended to provide clear, accessible information to the public and to state leadership regarding the Commission's performance, priorities, and value to the State of Oklahoma.
- Calendar Year 2025 was a consequential year for the Oklahoma Ethics Commission. Guided by the Commission's 2025–26 Strategic Plan, the agency advanced significant policy, operational, and education initiatives while navigating the complexities of modernizing a mission-critical technology system. Throughout the year, the Commission emphasized accuracy, fairness, and transparency—recognizing that public trust is strengthened not only by outcomes, but by the care taken in reaching them.
- This report highlights measurable progress toward strategic goals, documents responsible use of public resources, and provides Commissioners with a clear record of decisions, milestones, and challenges encountered during the year. It also serves as a foundation for evaluating priorities and performance in 2026 and beyond.



OKLAHOMA
Ethics Commission

Annual Report

Strategic Framework (2025–26)

The Commission's work during Calendar Year 2025 aligned with 3 core strategic pillars adopted by the Commission:

1. Promote Public Trust

2. Operational Efficiencies

3. Detect & Deter through Education & Compliance

Promote Public Trust

- Annual Reporting & Transparency
- Public Disclosure Policy
- Advisory Group Formation

Operational Efficiencies

- Sequencing & System Dependencies
- Risk-Based Filing Review & Audit Program
- Diversion Program Development & Expansion
- Political Subdivision Compliance & Enforcement Integration

Detect & Deter: Education & Compliance

- **Political Subdivision Inclusion Strategy**
- **Expanded Training and Public Guidance**

Key Performance Indicators

(Commission Oversight)

Strategic Area	KPI	Definition / Calculation	2026 Target	Rationale for Commissioners
Accountability & Governance	Strategic Initiative Completion Rate	Number of strategic initiatives reaching a Commission-approved governance milestone ÷ total initiatives scheduled for the year	≥ 80%	Treats lawful contract termination, transition planning, and procurement decisions as successful governance outcomes rather than failures
Organizational Capacity & Stewardship	Operational Stability Index	(1) Annual staff turnover rate AND (2) budget variance from appropriation	Turnover ≤ 18%; budget variance within ±3%	Reflects realistic stability expectations during vendor transition while preserving core agency capacity
Compliance, Oversight & Enforcement	Timely Intake of Complaints and Matters	Percentage of complaints and compliance matters triaged within 5 business days of receipt	≥ 90%	Demonstrates uninterrupted constitutional oversight independent of system vendor performance
Compliance, Oversight & Enforcement	Corrective / Diversion Resolution Rate	Matters resolved through diversion or corrective action ÷ total matters resolved	45%–60%	Confirms proportional enforcement and fairness during periods of technical disruption
Modernization & Continuity	System Continuity Assurance	Percentage of required constitutional functions maintained through interim systems or procedures	100% continuity	Centers Commission responsibility for filing access, public disclosure, data preservation, and enforcement authority
Public Trust, Education & Transparency	Education and Transition Support Output	Number of trainings, guidance releases, advisory meetings, and transition updates issued	≥ 18 outputs annually	Documents proactive notice, filer support, and transparency during transition

Financial Stewardship and Internal Capacity

- Continued responsible management of appropriated funds.
- Emphasis on staff retention, cross-training, and operational continuity.
- Strategic use of professional services to support technology and operational transformation without long-term cost growth.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Priorities include:

- Deployment of the case management system to enhance Commissioner oversight and data-driven decision-making.
- Continued expansion of political subdivision compliance and enforcement.
- Ongoing implementation and evaluation of diversion program outcomes and risk-based audit effectiveness.
- Continued emphasis on transparency through regular reporting and stakeholder engagement.



Guardian 2.0 Transition

Contracted Commitments (Vendor-Set)

Dec 18, 2024 — Project kickoff
Feb 3 & Feb 24, 2025 — Requirements & design signoffs due (not met)
June 16 & June 30, 2025 — UAT & data migration due (not met)
July 1, 2025 — Contracted go-live (not met)

Limited Beta & Transparency

Oct 28, 2025 — Vendor-proposed go-live (not met)
• Core reporting, data accuracy, workflow, authentication, disclosure, and validation tools incomplete
• Beta access only; no full filing or new registrations
Oct–Nov 2025 — Commission fulfilled all public records requests directly

Commission Mitigation & Escalation

Summer 2025 — Legacy system extension to preserve availability
Aug 18, 2025 — Formal written warning issued
Sept 2 & Oct 1, 2025 — Vendor-proposed go-live dates (not met)
Oct 23, 2025 — Contractual requirements reminder (SOW & Phase 1)
Oct 24, 2025 — OMES engaged for independent technical assessment

Final Determination & Action

Nov 25, 2025 — Formal notice of system failures and vendor non-compliance
Late 2025 — After extensive and sustained efforts with OMES, vendor unable to deliver compliant system
COMMISSION ACTION: Restore legacy Guardian system to immediately resume lawful filing and public access



Following the conclusion of a critical contractual milestone, **and after extensive and sustained efforts by Commission staff—working in coordination with OMES—to validate data, remediate deficiencies, and support the vendor’s performance**, the Commission has determined that the vendor could neither meet its contractual obligations nor deliver a compliant system within the required timeframe.

What the Public Should Know Now

- **Campaign finance transparency has not stopped.** While automated, real-time public access to newly filed reports has been limited since the October 31 third-quarter reporting deadline, campaign finance records remain available and have been provided upon request.
- **No filer is being penalized due to system issues.** The Ethics Commission has ensured that candidates, committees, and other filers are not subject to late-filing penalties or compliance consequences caused by system availability.
- **The Commission has taken continuous action.** The Ethics Commission has pursued extensive corrective steps over several months, including contractual enforcement, engagement of statewide IT expertise, and development of interim solutions to preserve public access.
- **An interim solution is ready.** The Commission has finalized a contingency approach to restore continuity of disclosure while longer-term system options are evaluated.
- **Accuracy and reliability remain the priority.** The Commission's approach emphasizes ensuring that campaign finance information is accurate, complete, and reliable before broad public release.
- **The Commission remains fully operational.** In addition to system-related work, the Ethics Commission continues to carry out all constitutional and statutory responsibilities, including compliance assistance, enforcement, advisory opinions, and rulemaking.





Ethics Commission restores established Guardian System to ensure lawful filing, transparency, and public access.

The decision reflects the Commission's responsibility to:

- Ensure immediate public access to campaign-finance information during an active election season.
- Protect filers from compliance risks beyond their control, including no penalties for delayed filings.
- Act as a responsible steward of public funds appropriated by the Legislature.
- Avoid further delays where statutory obligations cannot be met.

The Guardian system is now available for online filing and public access at guardian.ok.gov. All 3rd-quarter and 4th-quarter campaign-finance reports will be due Jan. 31. The Commission will not impose any penalties on filers during this transition and will provide filing guidance and support directly.

It's Back



Guardian.OK.Gov

guardiansupport
@ethics.ok.gov



**Experiencing
Issues?**

Request for waiver of Ethics Rule 5, Lobbyist Registration and Reporting, based upon a preexisting relationship pursuant to Rule 5.25.

W-25-01

Request by Raegan Conger for a waiver of Rules for preexisting relationship with Dan Patten.





OKLAHOMA
Ethics Commission



Adjournment



Next Regularly Scheduled
Commission Meeting
January 15, 2025 @10:00 a.m.
OK State Capitol, Rm. G-3

2026 Regularly Scheduled Ethics Commission Meetings

Start Time: 10:00am

Location: Oklahoma State Capitol, Rm. G-3

Thursday, January 15, 2026
Thursday, February 12, 2026
Thursday, March 12, 2026
Thursday, April 9, 2026
Thursday, May 14, 2026
Thursday, June 11, 2026

Thursday, July 9, 2026
Thursday, August 13, 2026
Thursday, September 10, 2026
Thursday, October 8, 2026
Thursday, November 12, 2026
Thursday, December 3, 2026



OKLAHOMA
Ethics Commission