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| Agency Name: | State Ethics Commission | | |
| Agency Code: | R520 | Section: | 110 |



**Fiscal Year FY 2025-2026
Agency Budget Plan**

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

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| OPERATING REQUESTS <i>(FORM B1)</i> | For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"): | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Requesting General Fund Appropriations. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Requesting Federal/Other Authorization. |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Not requesting any changes. |

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| NON-RECURRING REQUESTS <i>(FORM B2)</i> | For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"): | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization. |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Not requesting any changes. |

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| CAPITAL REQUESTS <i>(FORM C)</i> | For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"): | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Requesting funding for Capital Projects. |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Not requesting any changes. |

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| PROVISOS <i>(FORM D)</i> | For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"): | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references). |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Not requesting any proviso changes. |

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

| | <u>Name</u> | <u>Phone</u> | <u>Email</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| PRIMARY CONTACT: | Ami R. Franklin | (803) 253-4192 | ami@ethics.sc.gov |
| SECONDARY CONTACT: | Meghan Walker Dayson | (803) 253-4192 | mwalker@ethics.sc.gov |

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2025-2026 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

| | <u>Agency Director</u> | <u>Board or Commission Chair</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| SIGN/DATE: | Meghan Walker Dayson 9/24/2024 | Scott E. Frick 9/25/24 |
| TYPE/PRINT NAME: | Meghan W. Dayson | Scott E. Frick |

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

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**FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION
CONTINGENCY PLAN**

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| TITLE | Administration - Investigative Services |
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| AMOUNT | \$64,392 |
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What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

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| ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS | 1 FTE, Investigator III |
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How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

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| PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT | Program: Administration |
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What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

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| SUMMARY | <p>The State Ethics Commission is a small agency (consisting of 25 FTE's and 2 PTE's) that is able to serve South Carolinians because each employee has a multitude of responsibilities and are cross trained in the various functions of the agency. Any reduction in budget and/or staff would render this agency virtually unable to adequately perform its mission of enforcing the Ethics Reform Act.</p> |
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Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

The reduction of one FTE, Investigator III position would be a cost savings of approximately \$91,000 (salary & benefits).

Reduction of a law enforcement position would also approximately reduce:

- Vehicle - \$9,500
- Weapons & Ammunition - \$1,500
- Training - \$1,500
- Uniforms & Supplies - \$2,000
- Desk, Chair, Computer, Office Phone, Cell Phone - \$4,000

The agency plan would be to repurpose the savings by paying Other Operating Costs.

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

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FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

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| TITLE | Education/Training for Public Employees, Public Officeholders, and Public Members |
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

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| EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS | <p>The expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens should vary each year.</p> <p>Commission expects savings due to increased training opportunities for Public Employees, Public Officeholders, and Public Members which should result in a reduction in late filing penalties assessed and collected. Commission conducts training sessions throughout the year and training is offered to all newly elected officials after each election. A training video was also filmed in 2024 and is available on the Commission's YouTube page.</p> <p>These measures should reduce the number of late filing penalties assessed and collected.</p> |
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What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

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| FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST | Mark "X" for all that apply: | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Repeal or revision of regulations. |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other |

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| METHOD OF CALCULATION | Reduction in the number of cases x the average cost of enforcement |
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Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

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| REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES | The Commission does not plan to reduce fees or fines. The hope is that with more training opportunities individuals governed by the Commission will comply with the Ethics Act thereby reducing the number of late filing penalties issued each year. |
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Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

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| REDUCTION OF REGULATION | N/A |
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Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

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| | <p>Commission expects savings due to increased training opportunities for Public Employees, Public Officeholders, and Public Members which should result in a reduction in late filing penalties assessed and collected.</p> <p>This should increase the number of timely filed forms that the public can immediately access before filing deadlines resulting in more efficient transparency.</p> |
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SUMMARY

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?