

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Hon. Christine C. Quinn
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Committee on Finance

Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Chair
Committee on Governmental Operations



Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2013 Executive Budget

Campaign Finance Board

May 30, 2012

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Campaign Finance Board

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

Campaign Finance Board Financial Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	2011 Actual	2012 Adopted	2012 Exec. Plan	2013 Exec. Plan	Difference 2011–2012*
Spending					
Personal Services	\$6,075	\$6,944	\$6,945	\$7,075	\$131
Other Than Personal Services	3,130	3,556	3,556	3,292	(264)
Voter Guide				3,710	
Campaign Finance Fund	2,074	1,750	1,750	41,000	39,250
TOTAL	\$11,279	\$12,250	\$12,251	\$55,077	\$39,117
Funding					
City Funds	\$11,279	\$12,250	\$12,251	\$55,077	\$42,827
TOTAL	\$11,279	\$12,250	\$12,251	\$55,077	\$42,827
Full-time Positions	81	89	89	89	0

**The difference of Fiscal 2012 Adopted compared to Fiscal 2013 Executive Plan funding.*

In the Executive Plan, the CFB's budget for Fiscal 2013 totals \$55 million, all of which is City tax-levy funding. The total includes \$3.7 million for a Voter Guide and \$41 million to provide matching funds for participating candidates for the 2013 primary elections. This funding is included in the CFB's Fiscal 2013 budget based on the possibility that the 2013 primary election could be moved from September to June. If the primary election is not moved, the funds would not be necessary for Fiscal 2013 and would be returned to the City's General Fund and reallocated in Fiscal 2014.

The Budget Submission Process Following Charter Reform

The budget submission process for the Campaign Finance Board has changed significantly since Fiscal 1999. Following adoption of the Charter reform ballot proposal in the general election of 1998, the Campaign Finance Board's budget request is to be included, without change, in the Mayor's Executive Budget submission to the City Council. The Board's budget is submitted annually to the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council by March 10th. This year, an extender bill was passed by the Council giving the Board until March 27th to make its submission.

The CFB's budgetary needs change annually according to the election cycle. Driven by the legal requirement to give campaign matching funds to participating candidates, the agency requires

budgetary resources proportional to the number of candidates who participate in any given election cycle.

Voter Assistance Advisory Committee

The 2010 Charter Revision Commission proposed amending the New York City Charter to reconstitute the Voter Assistance Commission (VAC) within the CFB, commencing January 1, 2011. As part of implementing the new provisions of the Charter, VAC staff moved to the CFB as the new Voter Assistance Unit, and a new Voter Assistance Advisory Committee (VAAC) was created, comprised of nine members whose role is to advise the CFB on voter engagement.