



**Finance Division**  
**The Council of the City of New York**

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Report to the Committees on Finance and Governmental Operations  
on the Fiscal Year 2016 Executive Budget for the

**Campaign Finance Board**

June 2, 2015

**Executive Budget Summary**

- **CFB Budget.** According to the City Charter, the Campaign Finance Board's budget request is to be included, without change, in the Mayor's Executive Budget. The Board's proposed Fiscal 2016 Expense Budget totals \$14.5 million, including \$8.1 million for Personal Services funding to support 91 full-time positions and \$1 million for campaign matching funds.

<b>CFB Fiscal 2016 Operating Budget</b>	
	<b>Fiscal 2016</b>
Personal Services	\$8,140,985
Other Than Personal Service	4,860,650
Voter Guide	476,500
NYC Campaign Finance Fund	1,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,478,135</b>
Full-Time Positions	96

## CFB Overview

The New York City Campaign Finance Board was created in 1988 as an independent, nonpartisan city agency. The CFB has three primary mandates: administering the Campaign Finance Program, publishing the Voter Guide, and overseeing the Debate Program.

This report provides an overview of the Campaign Finance Board's Fiscal 2016 Budget.

CFB Financial Summary						
	FY13	FY14	FY15	Executive Plan		*Difference
<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Actual	Actual	Adopted	2015	2016	FY15 - FY16
<b>Spending</b>						
Personal Services	\$6,407	\$6,774	\$7,633	\$7,838	\$8,141	\$508
Other Than Personal Services	2,283	8,557	4,311	3,661	5,338	1,027
Campaign Finance Fund	1,000	38,200	1,000	1,000	1,000	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,690</b>	<b>\$53,531</b>	<b>\$12,943</b>	<b>\$12,499</b>	<b>\$14,478</b>	<b>\$1,535</b>
<b>Funding</b>						
City Funds	\$9,690	\$53,531	\$12,943	\$12,499	\$14,478	\$1,535
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,690</b>	<b>\$53,531</b>	<b>\$12,943</b>	<b>\$12,499</b>	<b>\$14,478</b>	<b>\$1,535</b>
<b>Full-time Positions</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>5</b>

*\*The difference of Fiscal 2015 Adopted Budget compared to Fiscal 2016 Executive Budget.*

In the Executive Plan, the CFB's budget for Fiscal 2016 totals \$14.5 million, including \$8.1 million for personal services to support 96 full-time positions. The Board relies entirely on City tax-levy funding. The Board's budget includes \$1 million to provide matching funds for participating candidates for elections held in Fiscal 2016.

The CFB's Fiscal 2016 Executive Budget reflects an increase of \$1.5 million when compared to its Fiscal 2015 Adopted Budget. The increase is due to additional audit and systems management staff as well as renovation expenses associated with the Board's new offices.

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.

## The Budget Submission Process Following Charter Reform

Following the adoption of the Charter reform proposal included in the 1998 general election, the Campaign Finance Board's budget request is to be included, without change, in the Mayor's Executive. The Board's budget is submitted annually to the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council by March 10<sup>th</sup>. This year, a bill was passed by the Council extending the date to April 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Voter Assistance Advisory Committee

The 2010 Charter Revision Commission amended 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.

**Campaign Matching Funds**

The CFB administers the Campaign Matching Funds program which provides eligible candidates \$6 for every \$1 contributed to an election campaign. The program applies only to contributions at or below \$175. For Fiscal 2016, \$1 million has been allocated for the matching funds program. In Fiscal 2014, the Board administered \$37 million in matching funds to eligible candidates during a heavy election year that saw many contested elections for City Office.