

# THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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Chair, Committee on Governmental Operations



## **Report to the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Governmental Operations on the Fiscal 2018 Executive Budget for Campaign Finance Board May 12, 2017**

### **Finance Division**

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## Executive Budget Summary

According to the City Charter, the Campaign Finance Board's (CFB or the Board) budget request is to be included, without change, in the Mayor's Executive Budget. The Board's proposed Fiscal 2018 Expense Budget totals \$56.7 million, including \$10.6 million for Personal Services (PS) funding to support 103 full-time positions and \$40.2 million for campaign matching funds.

<b>CFB Fiscal 2018 Operating Budget</b>	
	<b>Fiscal 2018</b>
Personal Services	\$10,556
Other Than Personal Service	5,898
Election Funding	40,202
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$56,656</b>
Full-Time Positions	103

## Campaign Finance Board 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 Matching Funds program; publishing the Voter Guide; and overseeing the Debate Program.

This report provides an overview of the Campaign Finance Board's Fiscal 2018 Budget.

<b>CFB Financial Plan Summary</b>						
<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	<b>2015 Actual</b>	<b>2016 Actual</b>	<b>2017 Adopted</b>	<b>Executive Plan</b>		<b>*Difference 2017 - 2018</b>
				<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	
<b>Spending</b>						
Personal Services	\$7,125	\$8,109	\$9,462	\$9,462	\$10,556	\$1,094
Other Than Personal Services	2,523	3,472	5,714	5,743	5,898	184
NYC Campaign Finance Fund	1,000	(3,696)	1,000	1,000	40,202	39,202
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,648</b>	<b>\$7,885</b>	<b>\$16,176</b>	<b>\$16,205</b>	<b>\$56,656</b>	<b>\$40,480</b>
<b>Funding</b>						
City Funds	\$10,648	\$14,481	\$16,176	\$16,205	\$56,656	\$40,480
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,648</b>	<b>\$14,481</b>	<b>\$16,176</b>	<b>\$16,205</b>	<b>\$56,656</b>	<b>\$40,480</b>
<b>Budgeted Headcount</b>						
Full-Time Positions - Civilian	87	90	96	96	103	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>7</b>

*\*The difference of Fiscal 2017 Adopted Budget compared to Fiscal 2018 Executive Budget.*

In the Fiscal 2018 Executive Plan, the CFB's budget for Fiscal 2018 totals \$56.7 million, including \$10.6 million for personal services to support 103 full-time positions. The CFB's Fiscal 2018 budget reflects an increase of \$1.1 million in personal services funding to support seven new positions and \$184,000 in additional Other Than Personal Services (OTPS) at the request of the CFB. The Board relies entirely on City tax-levy funding.

The Board's budget includes \$40.2 million to provide matching funds for participating candidates for elections held in Fiscal 2018, an increase of \$39.2 million since the Fiscal 2017 Adopted Budget. 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 large increase in funding for the Campaign Matching Funds program since the Fiscal 2017 Adopted Budget represents the fact that there will be a large number of city elections in Fiscal 2018, including mayoral elections, and that there are therefore expected to be many more election candidates making use of matching public campaign funds.

### **Campaign Matching Funds**

The CFB administers the Campaign Matching Funds program, which provides eligible candidates for elected city offices (the Mayoralty, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough Presidency, and City Council) matching public funds for private donations received. Each private donation a candidate receives will be matched, six-to-one, with public funding, up to a maximum donation value of \$175. For example, if a candidate receives a private donation of \$500, \$175 of that \$500 dollars will be matched, six-to-one, with public funds. That equates to \$1,050 in public funds on top of the \$500 private donation the candidate received.

Candidates who participate in the Campaign Matching Funds program can use public funding to cover 55% of their expenditure limit.<sup>1</sup> This expenditure limit, which only applies to candidates who participate in the program, varies depending on which elected office a candidate is running for, as well as the number of elections the candidate has contested in an election year (i.e. primaries, general elections, or both).

For Fiscal 2018, \$40.2 million has been allocated for the matching funds program. In Fiscal 2014, the Board administered \$38.3 million in matching funds to eligible candidates during a similarly heavy election year that saw many contested elections for city office.

### **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 to be submitted annually to the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council by March 10<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.

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<sup>1</sup> Public funding can represent more than 55% of a candidate's actual expenditure, as long as actual expenditures are below the candidate's expenditure limit.