

# The Agency

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## Rhode Island Ethics Commission

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### Agency Operations

The Rhode Island Ethics Commission came into existence on July 25, 1987, when its members were appointed pursuant to Title 36, Chapter 14 of the Rhode Island General Laws. The Commission formulates policies and regulations relating to the conduct of public officials and employees; investigates and adjudicates complaints alleging violations of the Code of Ethics; maintains files on more than 6,000 Financial Disclosure Statements per year; issues advisory opinions to public officials and employees at their request regarding the application of the Code of Ethics to a specific situation, and educates public officials, employees and members of the public as to the requirements of the Code of Ethics and the functions of the Commission.

The staff of the Commission is headed by an Executive Director/Chief Prosecutor, who is hired by the Commission. The Commission's operations are funded solely with state general revenues.

### Agency Objectives

Ensure that public officials and employees adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct, respect the public trust, avoid the appearance of impropriety, and not use their position for private gain or advantage.

Respond efficiently and thoroughly to public inquiries regarding requirements of the Code of Ethics for public officials and employees.

Thoroughly investigate complaints alleging violations of the provisions of the Code of Ethics in a timely manner.

Expand the use of technology in all aspects of the Commission's operations and ensure greater public access to information and more effective use of investigative and informational resources.

Provide educational and informational seminars, programs and publications for public officials and employees and the public-at-large regarding codes of conduct for public servants and the workings of the Ethics Commission.

### Statutory History

Title 36 Chapter 14 of the Rhode Island General Laws establishes the Ethics Commission, sets forth the legislative provisions of the Code of Ethics and defines the Commission's advisory, investigative and adjudicative powers.

# The Budget

## Rhode Island Ethics Commission

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
<b>Expenditures By Object</b>				
Personnel	797,836	993,415	1,099,741	1,378,721
Operating Supplies and Expenses	169,883	157,732	162,195	156,275
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal: Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$967,719</b>	<b>\$1,151,147</b>	<b>\$1,261,936</b>	<b>\$1,534,996</b>
Capital Purchases and Equipment	1,515	4,973	11,295	8,295
Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$969,234</b>	<b>\$1,156,120</b>	<b>\$1,273,231</b>	<b>\$1,543,291</b>
<b>Expenditures By Funds</b>				
General Revenue	969,234	1,156,120	1,273,231	1,543,291
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$969,234</b>	<b>\$1,156,120</b>	<b>\$1,273,231</b>	<b>\$1,543,291</b>
<b>FTE Authorization</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>14.0</b>
<b>Agency Measures</b>				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	-	-	-	-
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	55.5%	58.0%	58.0%	58.0%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	-	-	-	-
<b>Program Measures</b>				
Percentage of Investigations Completed within 180 Days of Filing	93.0%	100.0%	90.0%	90.0%
The Percentage of Advisory Opinion Requests Responded to within 30 Days of Receipt	26.0%	49.0%	50.0%	66.0%