

2015 Budget Issue Paper

Department:	Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission			
BIP Title:	Fund temporary position to help with the transition to district elections			
BIP Number:	ETH-300			
Budget program(s) affected:				
Estimated \$ Expenditure change:	GF \$		Other \$	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
	\$112,000			
Estimated \$ Revenue change:	GF \$		Other \$	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Regular positions affected:	No. of Positions		Total FTE Change	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Other departments affected:				
Capital/Operating budget:	Operating			

Do not modify the numbered paragraph headings – these are required for our database.

(A) How does this action accomplish the Mayor's Race and Social Justice Initiative? How did you determine the reasoning for your response? With the cost of running for a district seat expected to be lower than the cost of running Citywide, district elections may attract people to run for office who were previously excluded from the political process because they had less access to capital. These people may require additional assistance in complying with the City's elections code, and it is essential that the Commission have the resources to assist these candidates.

(B) Please identify any unintended consequences from this proposal. N/A

(1) Summary of BIP including service level impacts (100 words or less): Fund a temporary position to help the Commission through the 2015 election cycle, when all nine City Council positions will be on the ballot.

(2) Detailed explanation: With the passage of Charter Amendment 19 in November, 2013, the City is transitioning to a system under which seven councilmembers will be elected by district with two others elected citywide. In 2015, all nine Council positions will be on the ballot. With an average of **18.5** City Council candidates over the past six election cycles, it is reasonable to expect approximately **37** candidates to vie for office in 2015. That exceeds the total number of candidate campaigns the Commission historically monitors – which includes candidates for Mayor and City Attorney – by almost 60 percent.

If that many candidates do emerge, the Commission would like to be in a position to move expeditiously to bring on a term-limited employee to help the Commission to provide the excellent service to campaigns and to the public that we now provide. We would estimate paying that individual no more than the top pay available to a campaign finance auditor, which under the City's pay scale is \$38.48 per hour. Fully loaded, that translates into just under \$112,000 for a one-year appointment.

If the increase is not as sharp as projected, the Commission would look to bring on a term-limited employee part-time, and return any unspent funds to the General Fund. If the Commission determines that no additional staffing is justified, it would return all of the additional funding to the General Fund.

Budget Issue Papers are due to the City Budget Office by May 16, 2014.

Please contact your CBO Analyst with any questions.

If at all possible, BIPs should not exceed one page in length (front & back)

(3) Anticipated outcome of change: N/A

(4) Department workforce change (regular positions to be added, abrogated, reduced in FTE or reassigned to different programs). Include titles when known: N/A

(5) Is funding for BIP one-time or ongoing (if ongoing, describe any material changes in future costs). Are there any O&M implications (if so, describe): One-time. After the 2015 election cycle, the City will be on a cycle where the number of candidates on the ballot will alternate between four and seven every other year.