

# Rhode Island Ethics Commission

FY 2017 Revised  
FY 2018 Recommended  
Staff Presentation  
March 30, 2017

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# Background

- Prescription and publication of rules and regulations associated with state Code of Ethics
- Jurisdiction over three branches of state government and municipal and local government bodies
- Maintains all required filings made by elected and appointed officials
  - Including Financial Disclosure Statements

# Summary by Category

| <i>General Revenue</i>       | <b>Salaries/<br/>Benefits</b> | <b>Contract.<br/>Services</b> | <b>Operations</b> | <b>Total</b>       |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>FY 2017<br/>Enacted</b>   | \$1,452,796                   | 27,000                        | 173,587           | <b>\$1,653,383</b> |
| <b>FY 2017<br/>Gov. Rev.</b> | \$1,422,523                   | 35,000                        | 174,087           | <b>\$1,631,610</b> |
| <b>Change to<br/>Enacted</b> | \$(30,273)                    | 8,000                         | 500               | <b>(\$21,773)</b>  |
| <b>FY 2018<br/>Gov. Rec.</b> | \$1,457,159                   | 32,001                        | 176,713           | <b>\$1,665,873</b> |
| <b>Chang to<br/>Enacted</b>  | \$4,363                       | 5,001                         | 3,126             | <b>\$12,490</b>    |

# Target Issues

- Budget Office provided a general revenue target of \$1.5 million
  - Current service adjustments of \$7,610
  - 8.0% target reduction of \$0.1 million
- Constrained request is consistent with the target
  - Achieved through staff reductions
  - Governor recommends \$129,599 more than target

# Personnel

| <b>Full-Time Positions</b>     | <b>FTEs</b> | <b>Change to Enacted</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Enacted Authorized             | 12.0        | -                        |
| FY 2017 Rev. Request           | 12.0        | -                        |
| FY 2018 Request                | 12.0        | -                        |
| FY 2018 Governor               | 12.0        | -                        |
| FY 2016 Average Filled         | 11.5        | (0.5)                    |
| <b>Filled as of March 18th</b> | <b>12.0</b> | <b>-</b>                 |

# Personnel

## FY 2017 Revised

- \$30,273 less than enacted
- Staff Attorney and administrative turnover
- Statewide benefit savings

## FY 2018 Recommended

- \$1,457,159
  - \$4,363 more than enacted
  - Statewide benefit savings

# Statewide Savings

- Assessment to salaries that funds workers' comp., unemployment & unused leave
  - Lowered from enacted based on experience
    - Savings of \$1.2 million in FY 2017
    - Savings of \$1.5 million in FY 2018
- Medical benefit cost growth
  - Lower than initial estimates
    - Savings of \$2.6 million in FY 2018
- Total impact to Commission
  - \$2,325 in FY 2017; \$6,689 in FY 2018

# Contracted Services

Contracts for legal, information technology & stenography services

FY 2017 Revised

- \$8,000 more than enacted
  - Includes \$4,170 more for legal services & \$3,600 more for stenography

FY 2018 Recommended

- \$32,001; \$5,001 more than enacted
  - Includes \$4,726 for legal services



# Operations

FY 2017 Revised and FY 2018: \$0.2 million

- Office space lease
  - Enacted level is \$101,458
  - Governor recommends actual rent expenses of \$102,500 in revised and FY 2018
- Other operating expenses
  - \$500 more than enacted for FY 2017
  - \$74,213 in FY 2018 - \$3,126 more than enacted

# Expenditure History

| Total                  | FY 2013            | FY 2014            | FY 2015            | FY 2016            |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Initial Request</i> | \$1,686,950        | \$1,592,744        | \$1,590,919        | \$1,548,121        |
| Enacted                | 1,557,881          | 1,577,204          | \$1,581,205        | \$1,664,876        |
| <i>Revised Request</i> | 1,553,890          | \$1,582,966        | \$1,623,695        | \$1,644,842        |
| <b>Final</b>           | <b>1,530,853</b>   | <b>\$1,575,940</b> | <b>\$1,618,883</b> | <b>\$1,611,119</b> |
| <b>Actual</b>          | <b>1,500,568</b>   | <b>\$1,541,741</b> | <b>\$1,579,038</b> | <b>\$1,546,331</b> |
| <b>Difference</b>      | <b>\$ (30,285)</b> | <b>\$ (34,199)</b> | <b>(\$39,845)</b>  | <b>(\$64,788)</b>  |

# Online Disclosure Filings

- Online financial disclosure filings began in 2012
  - Implemented for cost savings and greater efficiency

| <i>(Filings for prior year)</i> | <b>CY 2013</b> | <b>CY 2014</b> | <b>CY 2015</b> | <b>CY 2016</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Online Filings                  | 2,785          | 3,116          | 3,079          | 3,410          |
| Total Filings                   | 4,083          | 4,197          | 4,141          | 4,310          |
| % Filed Online                  | 68.2%          | 74.3%          | 74.4%          | 79.2%          |

# Access to Public Records

- Public may request access to records
  - Financial statements, recusal forms, advisory opinions, request letters, and complaints

| <i>FY 2016 Timeliness</i>       | <b>Q1</b>   | <b>Q2</b>    | <b>Q3</b>    | <b>Q4</b>    | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Requests                        | 24          | 22           | 26           | 129          | 201          |
| Responses within 24 hrs         | 24          | 21           | 24           | 123          | 192          |
| <b>% Responses within 24hrs</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>95.0%</b> | <b>92.0%</b> | <b>95.0%</b> | <b>95.0%</b> |

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