

Budget Brief – Judicial Conduct Commission

NUMBER CFGO-07-12

SUMMARY

The Judicial Conduct Commission is a quasi-independent agency that investigates and resolves complaints against Utah judges. The executive director manages claims, assigns investigators, and recommends prosecution of judges when necessary. The commission dismisses approximately eighty-five percent of all claims, resolves ten percent by stipulation, and conducts formal hearings for five percent of all claims.

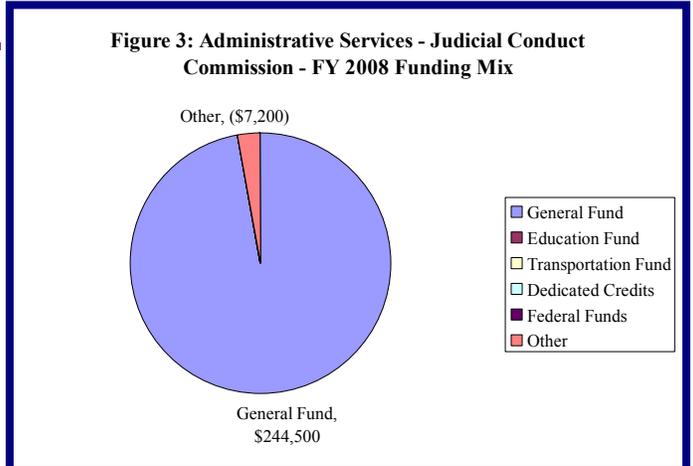
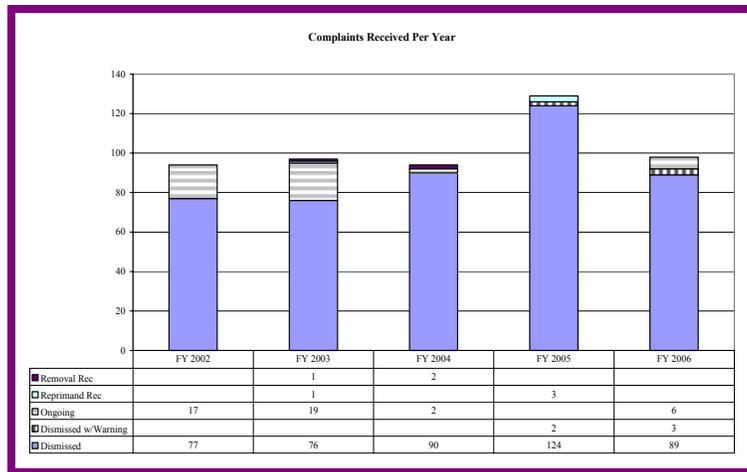
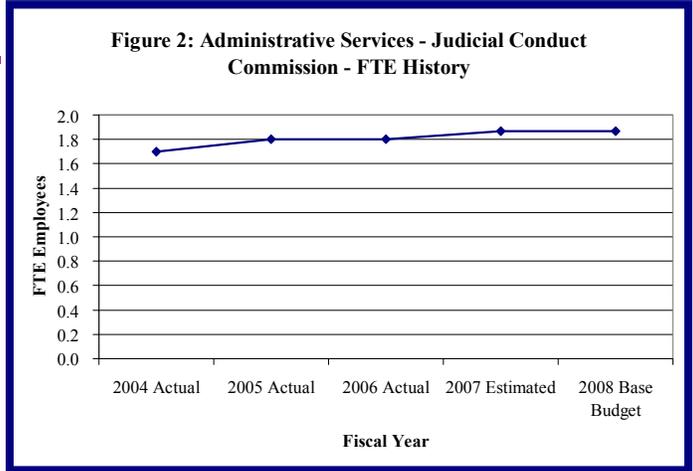
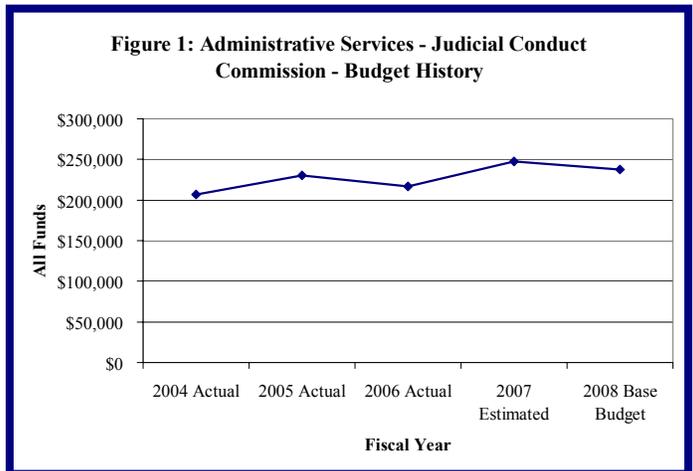
Judicial Conduct Commission Membership			
Legislators	Judges	Attorneys	Public
Sen. Gene Davis	Hon. Russell Bench	Ruth Lybbert, Chair	Rod Orton, Vice-Chair
Sen. Michael Waddoups	Hon. Darwin Hansen	Ronald Russell	Elaine Englehardt, PhD
Rep. Neal Hendrickson			Flora Ogan
Rep. Gordon Snow			

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Analyst recommends the Legislature appropriate the Judicial Conduct Commission’s base budget in FY 2008.

ACCOUNTABILITY DETAIL

The commission is required to file an annual report to the Legislature. The following data come from their FY 2006 report.



BUDGET DETAIL

Current Expense in this budget is used to hire outside investigators and temporary employees based on case load.

Budget Recommendation for FY 2008

The Analyst recommends a base FY 2008 appropriation of \$237,300, with \$244,500 from the General Fund and (\$7,200) from carry-forward balances.

Intent Language

The Analyst recommends the Legislature continue using the following intent language which was approved in Senate Bill 4, 2006 General Session:

It is the intent of the Legislature that funds for the Judicial Conduct Commission shall not lapse and that those funds shall be used to hire temporary contractors on as as-needed basis.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Analyst recommends the Legislature adopt:

1. A total FY 2008 base appropriation of \$237,300 for the Judicial Conduct Commission.
2. Intent language making this appropriation nonlapsing for temporary contractors as needed.

BUDGET DETAIL TABLE

Administrative Services - Judicial Conduct Commission						
	FY 2006	FY 2007		FY 2007		FY 2008*
Sources of Finance	Actual	Appropriated	Changes	Revised	Changes	Base Budget
General Fund	229,200	244,500	0	244,500	0	244,500
General Fund, One-time	0	(600)	0	(600)	600	0
Beginning Nonlapsing	41,600	39,100	14,900	54,000	(3,700)	50,300
Closing Nonlapsing	(54,000)	(35,400)	(14,900)	(50,300)	(7,200)	(57,500)
Total	\$216,800	\$247,600	\$0	\$247,600	(\$10,300)	\$237,300
Programs						
Judicial Conduct Commission	216,800	247,600	0	247,600	(10,300)	237,300
Total	\$216,800	\$247,600	\$0	\$247,600	(\$10,300)	\$237,300
Categories of Expenditure						
Personal Services	174,700	192,900	(1,400)	191,500	700	192,200
In-State Travel	7,100	6,300	(2,300)	4,000	1,000	5,000
Out of State Travel	2,100	5,300	(2,300)	3,000	1,000	4,000
Current Expense	25,400	38,300	2,900	41,200	(11,000)	30,200
DP Current Expense	2,300	4,800	3,100	7,900	(2,000)	5,900
Capital Outlay	5,200	0	0	0	0	0
Total	\$216,800	\$247,600	\$0	\$247,600	(\$10,300)	\$237,300
Other Data						
Budgeted FTE	1.9	1.9	0.0	1.9	0.0	1.9
Actual FTE	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

*Does not include amounts in excess of subcommittee's state fund allocation that may be recommended by the Fiscal Analyst.