

ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION (APOC) AGENCY OVERVIEW



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APOC'S MISSION

“To encourage the public's confidence in their elected and appointed officials by administering Alaska's disclosure statutes and publishing financial information regarding the activities of election campaigns, public officials, lobbyists and lobbyist employers.”

WHAT APOC DOES

- Publish financial disclosure data
 - Campaign – candidate, group, and independent expenditure
 - Public Official – executive, judicial, elected municipal, state boards & commissions
 - Legislative – incoming, annual, outgoing
 - Lobbyist and Employers of Lobbyists
- Provide direct service to the general public and filers
 - Respond to inquiries – walk-in, telephone, email
 - Assist filers in completing forms – walk-in, telephone, email
 - Research non-typical inquiries to provide guidance on best practices
 - Respond to public records requests
- Conduct routine audits of reports
 - Notify filers of possible issues
 - Assist filers with corrections

WHAT APOC DOES

- Provide training and outreach
 - In-person and webinar presentations allow interaction and fact-specific questions
- Notify filers of assessed civil penalties for late-filed reports
 - Assist filers through appeal process
 - Draft recommendations for Commission action
- Issue advisory opinions
 - Interpret disclosure laws and apply to specific fact scenarios
 - Drafts are issued within 7 days
- Adjudicate complaints
 - Conduct investigations to collect facts to determine if violations have occurred
 - Draft investigation reports with recommendations for Commission consideration
 - Investigation reports are issued within 30 days

APOC'S BUDGET

APOC	FY2015 Mgmt Plan	FY2016 Mgmt Plan	FY2017 Mgmt Plan	FY2018 Governor	% Change From FY15
UGF	1,395.2	790.5	790.5	806.6	-42%
DGF	120.0	240.0*	242.6*	245.3*	104.4%
OTHER	--	--	--	--	--
Total	1,515.2	1,030.5*	1,033.1*	1,051.9*	-30.5%
Uncollectible	--	120.0	122.6	125.3	--
Net Total	1,515.2	910.5	910.5	926.6	-38.8%

***only 120,000 of this amount is collectible as the agency does not have statutory authority to increase current or establish new fees.**

APOC'S CHALLENGES

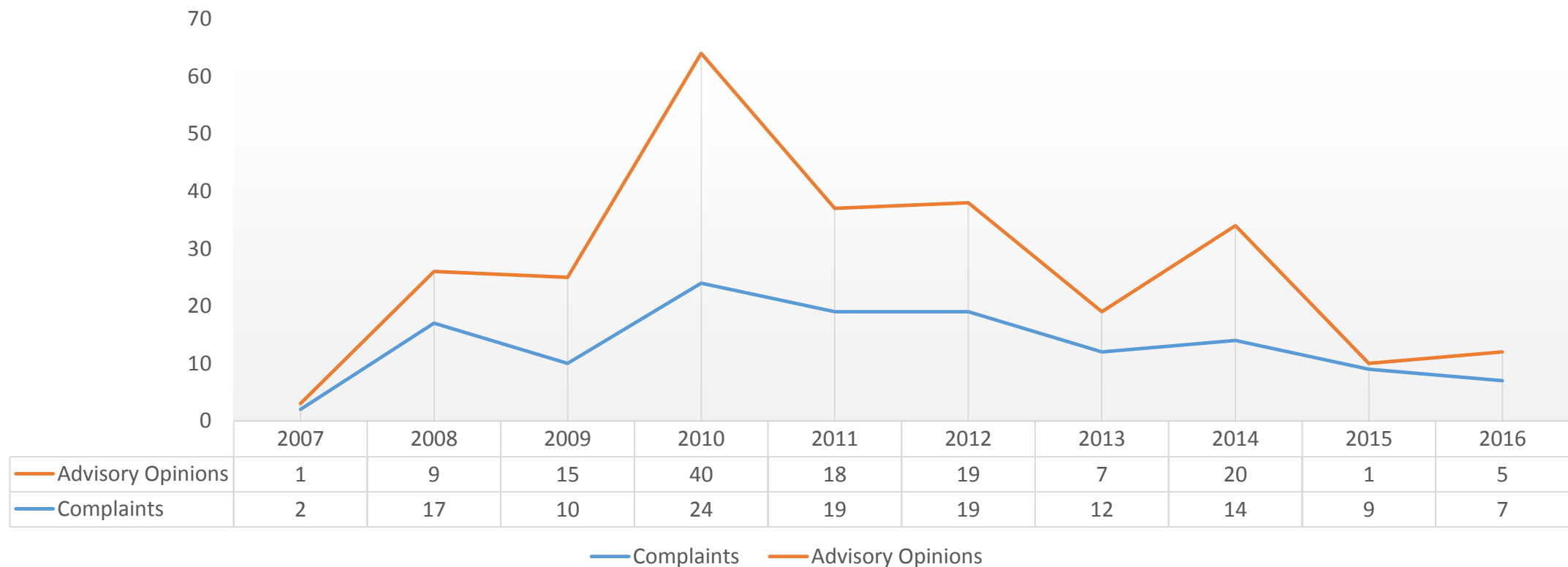
- Meeting statutory mandates with reduced personnel
 - Assisting all persons in complying with reporting requirements
 - Notifying all delinquent filers of missing reports
 - Assessing civil penalties and assisting filers through the appeal process
 - Examining, investigating, and comparing all reports
 - Issuing timely advisory opinions (7 days)
 - Conducting thorough investigations and issuing timely reports for complaint matters (30 days)
- Further budget reductions will result in debilitating layoffs
 - Personnel costs account for 80% of budget
 - Of the 8 remaining PCNs, 2 are vacant
 - Recruitment efforts for the analyst/programmer underway – critical to stabilize filing program
 - Budget does not support filling the other vacancy at this time

APOC'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continued focus on proactive measures to assist filers
 - Prioritization of direct public service
 - Nearly 2,000 hours responding to inquiries and providing filer assistance
 - Continued auditing efforts
 - Over 1,000 hours auditing reports
 - Continued training efforts
 - Over 200 hours providing training and outreach
 - Adopted regulations related to civil penalty assessments
 - Allows staff to assess penalties at amounts other than maximum
 - Revised mitigation criteria enabling further reductions of penalties

APOC'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fewer Complaints and Advisory Opinions



APOC'S FUTURE

- Auditing hours sharply decline in FY17
 - Less auditing prevents proactive efforts to assist filers with issues
 - Less auditing leads to more complaints and fines
- Training hours continue to decline in FY17
 - Less training leads to more common mistakes that could be avoided
 - More mistakes results in less public transparency
- HB 91 proposes to change APOC's ability to collect fees
 - Could help defray the state's costs through additional registration fees and tax on lobbying income

Thank you!

Visit doa.alaska.gov/apoc

For more information about our agency.



Questions?