

Florida Board of Governors General Office 2026-2027 Legislative Budget Request

Funding of \$12.7 M is requested to support seventy-one (71) authorized positions and associated operating expenses for the Board General Office. The operating expenses cover the costs associated with data collection and management, Board meeting expenses, travel expenses, office supplies, legislative implementation, and other Board initiatives.

A description of each new initiative is provided.

| 2026-2027 Legislative Budget Request | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| | | Total |
| 1 | Salaries and Benefits (66 Positions) | \$9,097,433 |
| 2 | Other Operating Expenses | \$2,762,013 |
| 3 | 2025-2026 Base Budget | \$11,859,446 |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | 2026-2027 Initiatives: | |
| 6 | Intellectual Survey (Restore Nonrecurring) | \$300,000 |
| 7 | Two New Positions | \$568,732 |
| 8 | Restore 3 Positions eliminated in 2025-26 | \$0 |
| 9 | | |
| 10 | Total 2026-2027 Budget Request (71 Positions) | \$12,728,178 |

Florida Board of Governors General Office 2025-2026 Legislative Budget Request Initiatives

1. Intellectual Survey - \$300,000

Section 1001.706(13), Florida Statute, requires the Board to conduct an annual assessment of the intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity at each institution. The Board of Governors is required to select or create an objective, nonpartisan, and statistically valid survey to be used by each state university which considers the extent to which competing ideas and perspectives are presented and members of the university community, including students, faculty, and staff, feel free to express their beliefs and viewpoints on campus and in the classroom. The Board of Governors is required to annually compile and publish the assessments by December 31 of each year. \$300,000 in nonrecurring general revenue was appropriated in the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act for the Intellectual Survey. These funds were equally divided between the state universities and the Florida College System institutions. The Board is requesting this funding to be appropriated again in the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

2. Two New Positions - \$568,732

- a. **Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs** - Currently, the Office of Academic & Student Affairs reports to a single Vice Chancellor. Statutory changes over the last few years have led to a workload increase for this office. Separating this office into two units (Office of Academic Affairs and Office of Student Affairs), each led by a Vice Chancellor reporting to the Chancellor, will help with the implementation of statutory changes, ensure issues are handled timely, and that appropriate staffing is available for the future.
- b. **Deputy General Counsel** - Statutory changes over the last few years have led to a plethora of lawsuits. Currently, the Board has one General Counsel who also functions as the Board's Corporate Secretary. An additional general counsel will assist in managing the various lawsuits and other legal issues that arise.

3. Restore 3 Positions eliminated in 2025-2026- \$0

The 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act reduced the Board office positions by 3, no dollars or rate were taken with the reduction. The Board of Governors is a very efficient agency with only 66 positions that are currently 92% filled. The restoration of these positions will

allow the Board Office to provide improved efficiency and productivity. Based on the most recent data, the table below shows a breakdown of central office staff and FTE students for the 10 largest states by fall undergraduates.

| State | Staff | FTE Students FY 24 | FTE Students Per Staff |
|-------|-------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| AZ | 50 | 221,887 | 4,438 |
| IN | 66 | 179,013 | 2,712 |
| FL | 66 | 299,049 | 4,531 |
| OH | 69 | 250,602 | 3,632 |
| NY | 152 | 297,457 | 1,957 |
| NC | 222 | 217,197 | 978 |
| TX | 304 | 576,878 | 1,898 |
| GA | 599 | 284,195 | 474 |
| CA | 777 | 667,542 | 859 |
| MI | N/A | | |