Office of the People's Counsel (DJ0)

The mission of the Office of the People's Counsel (OPC) is to be the advocate for utility consumers of natural gas, electric and telephone services in the District of Columbia before District and federal decision-making bodies.

Agency Director	**Elizabeth A. Noel**
Proposed Operating Budget ($ in thousands)	**$3,020**

Fast Facts

- The proposed FY 2001 operating budget is $3,020,021, an increase of $196,804 over the FY 2000 budget. There are 28 full-time equivalents (FTEs) supported by this budget.
- In FY 2000, OPC will increase community meetings and those hosted by OPC.
- During FY 2000, the agency enhanced its core competency in the areas of consumer protection, community education and outreach, and universal service issues.

FY 2001 Proposed Budget by Control Center

The basic unit of budgetary and financial control in the District's financial management system is a control center. The Office of the People's Counsel has one control center that serves as the major component of the agency's budget.

FY 2001 Proposed Budget by Control Center

(Dollars in Thousands)

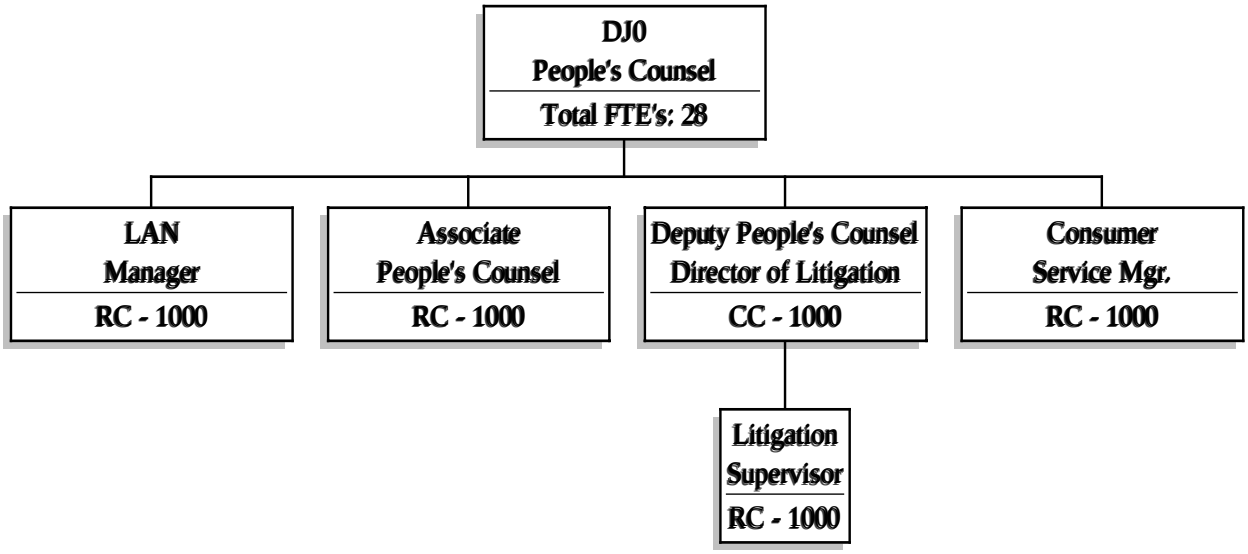
Office of the People's Counsel

Control Center	Proposed FY 2001 Budget
0010 ADVOCATE FOR UTILITY CONSUMERS	3,020
DJ0 Office of the People's Counsel	3,020

Agency Overview and Organization

The Office achieves its mission by advocating for utility consumers of natural gas, electric, and telephone services in the District. The agency is party to all utility-related proceedings before the Public Service Commission (PSC) and represents the interests of District ratepayers before federal regulatory agencies and commissions with the right to appeal PSC decisions directly to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

The Office is also empowered to represent no-fault automobile insurance consumers if the Commissioner of Insurance holds rate hearings. Other duties of the Office of the People's Counsel include: assisting individual consumers in disputes with utility companies about billings and services; providing technical assistance and consumer education to the Consumer Utility Board and other community advocacy groups; and participating in proceedings regarding the installation and removal of public pay telephones.



FY 2001 Proposed Operating Budget

The Office of the People's Counsel's Operating Budget is composed of two categories: (1) Personal Services (PS), and (2) Nonpersonal Services (NPS).

Within the PS budget category are several object classes of expenditure such as regular pay, other pay, additional gross pay, and fringe benefits. Within the NPS budget category are several object classes of expenditure such as supplies and materials, utilities, communications, rent, other services and charges, contractual services, subsidies and transfers, equipment and equipment rental.

Authorized spending levels present the dollars and related full-time equivalents (FTE) by revenue type. The Office of the People's Counsel's revenue type is Other (charitable contributions, fees from fines, etc.).

FY 2001 Proposed Operating Budget

(Dollars in Thousands)

Office of the People's Counsel

Object Class	Actual FY 1999	Approved FY 2000	Proposed FY 2001	Variance
Regular Pay -Cont. Full Time	1,207	1,428	1,599	171
Additional Gross Pay	11	0	0	0
Fringe Benefits	186	233	259	26
Subtotal for: Personal Services (PS)	1,404	1,661	1,858	197
Supplies and Materials	38	33	33	0
Utilities	0	1	1	0
Telephone, Telegraph, Telegram	41	31	31	0
Rentals - Land and Structures	579	595	595	0
Other Services and Charges	215	374	374	0
Contractual Services - Other	-35	0	0	0
Equipment and Equipment Rental	112	128	128	0
Subtotal for: Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	950	1,162	1,162	0
Total Expenditures:	2,354	2,823	3,020	197

Authorized Spending Levels by Revenue Type:	FTEs	Dollars	FTEs	Dollars	FTEs	Dollars	FTEs	Dollars
Local	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	22	2,354	28	2,823	28	3,020	0	197
Total:	22	2,354	28	2,823	28	3,020	0	197

Agency Funding Summary

The proposed FY 2001 operating budget *for all funding sources* is $3,020,021, an increase of $196,804 or 7.0 percent, over FY 2000 approved budget. The Office of the People's Counsel receives funding from other revenue sources. There are 28 FTEs supported by this agency.

- **Other.** The proposed *other* revenue budget is $3,020,021, an increase of $196,804 over the FY 2000 budget. The entire increase is in personal services. There are 28 FTEs supported by this source.

  The change in personal services is comprised of:

  – $57,631 is an increase for the 6 percent pay raise for non-union employees

  – $19,354 is an increase for step increases

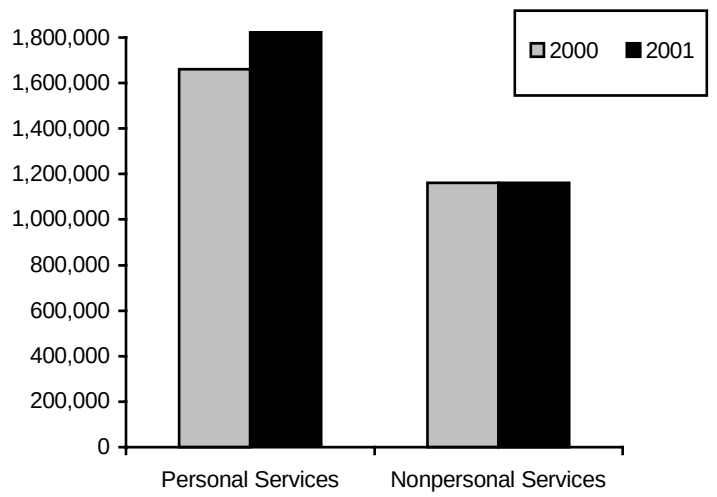
  – $84,081 is a statutory increase for the Attorney Retention Allowance (ARA) for seven of the agency's attorneys

  – $35,738 is an increase to account for one vacancy savings

Figure 1

FY 2001 Proposed Budget Includes an Increase for PS

Personal Services increased by 11.8 percent, from $1.6 million in FY 2000 to $1.8 million in FY 2001.



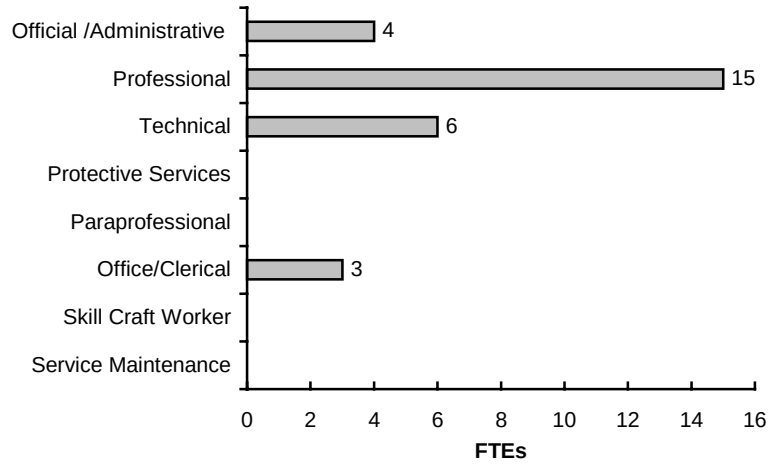
Occupational Classification Codes

Occupational Classification Codes (OCC) are used by federal agencies like the Bureau of Labor and Census Bureau, as a way of classifying workers into eight occupational major categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, or disseminating data. The Office of the People's Counsel workforce is divided among four occupational classification codes.

Agency FTEs by Occupational Classification Code

OC Code	FTEs in FY 2001
Official /Administrative	4
Professional	15
Technical	6
Protective Services	0
Paraprofessional	0
Office/Clerical	3
Skill Craft Worker	0
Service Maintenance	0
Total	**28**

FTE Analysis

Agency FTEs by Occupational Classification Code

The Office of the People's Counsel is a service agency. Of the total FTEs, 52 percent are Professional.