

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Source of Funds	FY11 Adjusted Base	FY12 Recommended	% Change Over FY11	FY13 Recommended	% Change Over FY12
GPR	2,437,600	2,627,000	7.8	2,664,700	1.4
PR-O	524,200	538,900	2.8	538,900	0.0
SEG-F	1,454,200	1,452,000	-0.2	1,452,000	0.0
SEG-O	742,600	100,100	-86.5	742,600	641.9
TOTAL	5,158,600	4,718,000	-8.5	5,398,200	14.4

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

Source of Funds	FY11 Adjusted Base	FY12 Recommended	FTE Change From FY11	FY13 Recommended	FTE Change From FY12
GPR	14.30	14.30	0.00	14.30	0.00
PR-O	3.45	3.45	0.00	3.45	0.00
TOTAL	17.75	17.75	0.00	17.75	0.00

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The board is comprised of six members, each of whom must have formerly been elected to and served as a judge of a court of record in Wisconsin. Members are appointed to six-year terms by the Governor from nominations submitted by a nominating committee called the Government Accountability Candidate Committee consisting of four current Court of Appeals judges selected randomly by the Supreme Court Chief Justice. Members are required to be nonpartisan. The new agency is unique to the United States.

The director and general counsel serves as the agency head and the chief election officer of the state. The board staff also is nonpartisan. The agency is organized into two divisions: Elections, and Ethics and Accountability. The board is responsible for the administration and enforcement of campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobbying laws.

MISSION

The mission of the board is to enhance representative democracy by ensuring the integrity of the electoral process and further Wisconsin's tradition of clean and open government through its administration of Wisconsin's elections and ethics codes, campaign finance and lobbying laws, and dissemination of information to the public.

PROGRAMS, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Note: Goals, objectives and activities have been modified.

Program 1: Administration of Elections, Ethics and Lobbying Laws

Goal: Ensure open, fair and transparent elections, by cultivating public confidence in the integrity of the electoral process.

Objective/Activity: Provide educational, training and informational resources to elections officials and to Wisconsin electorate, the general public.

Goal: Make readily available to voters complete information as to who is supporting or opposing a candidate or cause and to what extent, whether directly or indirectly. The board makes the following information available on the Internet and in its office: list of reports filed, summary of data reports, information about late campaign activity and detailed campaign finance report information.

Objective/Activity: Provide educational, training and informational resources to candidates, committees and treasurers on the requirements of campaign finance laws and on using the board's electronic filing system (CFIS). Enter campaign finance report data received on paper on the day of receipt, and prepare and post reports on Web site within 24 hours of receipt.

Goal: Identify interests influencing government and identify conflicting interests.

Objective/Activity: Identify for the public the businesses, organizations and individuals attempting to influence governmental decisions, the issues in which they have an interest, and other pertinent information; and provide information about governmental officials' financial interests to confirm for the public the absence of conflicting interests or to identify conflicts meriting attention. Provide for the regular update and enhancement of an interactive Web site, which permits anyone with Internet access capabilities to search for and view data relating to lobbyists, the organizations that employ them, the issues on which they are lobbying, lobbying activity, and expenditures for current and past sessions.

Goal: Enforce statutory requirements. This goal fosters the continued high standards of ethical conduct by state government officials, lobbyists and lobbying organizations through independent investigation, and reassures the public that the State of Wisconsin is equipped to redress conduct that falls short of statutorily established standards.

Objective/Activity: Investigate possible violations of the ethics code, lobbying law and campaign finance law, and seek appropriate remedies or exoneration as circumstances warrant.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

2009 AND 2010 GOALS AND ACTUALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2009	Actual 2009	Goal 2010	Actual 2010
1.	Monitor the number of contacts the public makes.	5,000 contacts	624,221 contacts ¹	8,000 contacts	278,168 contacts ²
1.	Monitor public satisfaction through media coverage (news articles and editorial pages).	100 articles	Surveys conducted ³	200 articles	Surveys conducted ³

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2009	Actual 2009	Goal 2010	Actual 2010
1.	Consult with local elections partners to determine voter satisfaction with Wisconsin's electoral processes.	4 consultations	12 consultations ⁴	4 consultations	12 consultations ^{3,5}
1.	Maintain data and records on the number of educational outreach activities, training and technical assistance provided to local elections partners and the general public.	75	191 ⁶	100	181 ⁷
1.	Number of contacts relating to requests for campaign finance information by Web site hits to campaign finance section.	25,000	41,026	40,000	39,125
1.	Customer satisfaction.	Oral and written communications indicate lobbying organizations and officials will be satisfied with reporting mechanisms	Comments from lobbyists and lobbying organizations have been uniformly positive	Oral and written communications indicate lobbying organizations and officials will be satisfied with reporting mechanisms	Comments from lobbyists and lobbying organizations have been uniformly positive
1.	Customer usage.	Web site usage among legislators, executive branch and citizens will remain high	Web site hits continue to demonstrate high usage (3,381,624 hits to site)	Web site usage among legislators, executive branch and citizens will remain high	Web site hits continue to demonstrate high usage (3,785,534 hits to site)
1.	Impact.	The number and depth of publicity, analysis and commentary on information related to lobbying and financial interests of state officials will remain high	Interest remains high	The number and depth of publicity, analysis and commentary on information related to lobbying and financial interests of state officials will remain high	Interest remains high

Note: Based on fiscal year.

¹The number includes a 4-year voter record maintenance mailing, returned post cards, as well as regular contact to and from the public.

²The number includes the mailings to voters as part of the Retroactive HAVA Check process, responses from voters, returned letters, as well as regular contact to and from the public.

³The Government Accountability Board Surveys of Clerk's Assessment of Customer Service Provided.

In early 2010, board staff conducted an on-line survey on when the board should extend operation hours before, during and after elections. Of the board's 1,923 clerk customers and local official partners, 185 did not have E-mail accounts at that time (currently 175 clerks do not have E-mail accounts). Of the 1,738 who inherited the survey on-line, 790 or 45.5% responded, and favorably.

The board has conducted yet another on-line survey regarding the board's communication protocol, clerks' satisfaction with the board's services during the February 16, 2010, Spring Primary and April 6, 2010, Spring Election, and suggestions on how the board could improve services to clerks as we approach the 2010 Fall Election Cycle. The 175 clerks who do not have E-mail accounts were sent paper copies of the survey. The deadline for returning the survey was Monday, August 23, 2010, and 717 surveys (or 37%) were returned. The results are being analyzed, and a preliminary review indicates the responses are favorable.

⁴The University of Wisconsin-Madison's Political Science Department's Study (*Wisconsin Voter Experience in the November 2008 General Election*), April 2009.

Respondents in Wisconsin and in other states were polled immediately following the November 4, 2008, General and Presidential Election and were asked about their means of voting, problems they faced and other evaluation of their experience. Compared to voters in other Big Ten states and the rest of the nation, no matter what form in which Wisconsin's electors cast their votes, i.e. in person on Election Day, in person before Election Day or the casting of their ballot by mail, their voting experience and level of satisfaction was "the most satisfied."

According to the University of Wisconsin-Madison study, compared to other states, Wisconsin residents were:

- Able to vote quickly and without incident.
- More satisfied, experienced fewer problems and expressed more confidence that their votes were counted fairly.
- More likely to cast their ballots early in person and much less likely to vote absentee by mail.
- More likely to register at the polls.
- Quite confident that their ballots were counted as they intended.
- Extremely satisfied with their voting experience.

Additionally,

- Very few Wisconsin voters encountered problems with their registration.
- Voting in Wisconsin took less time than in other states, with three-quarters of Wisconsin voters who cast their ballots at the polls took less than ten minutes to vote.

⁵The University of Wisconsin-Madison's Political Science Department's Study of the Agency's New Election Data Collection and Voter Participation Management System.

As part of a 2009 independent study of the board's election data collection system supported with a competitively-awarded grant made to the board by the U. S. Election Assistance Commission to improve election data collection and voter participation statistics, the University of Wisconsin, Department of Political Science professors surveyed Wisconsin's 1,923 county and municipal clerks on a variety of topics and 1,388 surveys were completed, a response rate of 72%. The results were presented to the board in 2010. Respondents gave the agency high marks for services provided by the board.

⁶7,050 local election officials received classroom training.

⁷6,150 local election officials received classroom training.

2011, 2012 AND 2013 GOALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2011	Goal 2012	Goal 2013
1.	Monitor the number of contacts the public makes.	100,000 contacts	130,000 contacts	100,000 contacts
1.	Monitor public satisfaction through media coverage (news articles and editorial pages). ¹	6 articles	12 articles	6 articles
1.	Consult with local elections partners to determine voter satisfaction with Wisconsin's electoral processes.	2 consultations	3 consultations	2 consultations
1.	Maintain data and records on the number of educational outreach activities, training and technical assistance provided to local elections partners and the general public.	210 ²	220 ³	210 ²
1.	Number of contacts relating to requests for campaign finance information by Web site hits to campaign finance section.	70,000	50,000	55,000
1.	Customer satisfaction.	Oral and written communications indicate lobbying organizations and officials will be satisfied with reporting mechanisms	Oral and written communications indicate lobbying organizations and officials will be satisfied with reporting mechanisms	Oral and written communications indicate lobbying organizations and officials will be satisfied with reporting mechanisms
1.	Customer usage.	Web site usage among legislators, executive branch and citizens will remain high	Web site usage among legislators, executive branch and citizens will remain high	Web site usage among legislators, executive branch and citizens will remain high

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2011	Goal 2012	Goal 2013
1.	Impact.	The number and depth of publicity, analysis and commentary on information related to lobbying and financial interests of state officials will remain high	The number and depth of publicity, analysis and commentary on information related to lobbying and financial interests of state officials will remain high	The number and depth of publicity, analysis and commentary on information related to lobbying and financial interests of state officials will remain high

Note: Based on fiscal year.

¹Mailing to electors for the voter records maintenance. Contact expected with about 400,000 voters.

²7,000 local election officials projected to receive training and technical support.

³7,500 local election officials projected to receive training and technical support.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increase Employee Contributions to Pension and Health Insurance
2. Budget Efficiencies
3. Increase Spending Authority for Lobbying Application
4. Restore Board Member Per Diems
5. Reestimate Voter Registration Sales
6. Reestimate Spending Authority in Wisconsin Election Campaign Fund
7. Campaign Finance Information System
8. Modification of the Democracy Trust Fund
9. Standard Budget Adjustments

ITEMS NOT APPROVED

10. Federally Funded Permanent FTEs
11. Contract Sunshine Study
12. Add Communications Specialist Advanced Position
13. Joint Study of On-Line Voter Registration
14. Change State Statutes to allow DOT to Share Motor Vehicle Data
15. Upgrade Help Desk Communication Resources

Table 1
Department Budget Summary by Funding Source (in thousands of dollars)

	ACTUAL FY10	ADJUSTED BASE FY11	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY12	FY13	FY12	FY13
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	\$2,211.5	\$2,437.6	\$2,961.6	\$2,847.8	\$2,627.0	\$2,664.7
State Operations	2,173.8	2,345.8	2,869.8	2,756.0	2,544.4	2,582.1
Local Assistance	37.7	91.8	91.8	91.8	82.6	82.6
FEDERAL REVENUE (1)	\$2,949.1	\$1,454.2	\$2,430.5	\$2,756.8	\$1,452.0	\$1,452.0
State Operations	2,949.1	1,454.2	2,430.5	2,756.8	1,452.0	1,452.0
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	\$499.3	\$524.2	\$602.9	\$611.5	\$538.9	\$538.9
State Operations	499.3	524.2	602.9	611.5	538.9	538.9
SEGREGATED REVENUE (3)	\$207.9	\$742.6	\$100.1	\$742.6	\$100.1	\$742.6
State Operations	207.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Aids to Ind. & Org.	0.0	742.5	100.0	742.5	100.0	742.5
TOTALS - ANNUAL	\$5,867.8	\$5,158.6	\$6,095.1	\$6,958.7	\$4,718.0	\$5,398.2
State Operations	5,830.1	4,324.3	5,903.3	6,124.4	4,535.4	4,573.1
Local Assistance	37.7	91.8	91.8	91.8	82.6	82.6
Aids to Ind. & Org.	0.0	742.5	100.0	742.5	100.0	742.5

(1) Includes Program Revenue-Federal and Segregated Revenue-Federal

(2) Includes Program Revenue-Service and Program Revenue-Other

(3) Includes Segregated Revenue-Service, Segregated Revenue-Other and Segregated Revenue-Local

Table 2
Department Position Summary by Program (in FTE positions) (4)

	ADJUSTED BASE FY11	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY12	FY13	FY12	FY13
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	14.30	14.30	14.30	14.30	14.30
FEDERAL REVENUE (1)	0.00	21.50	21.50	0.00	0.00
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	3.45	3.95	3.95	3.45	3.45
TOTALS - ANNUAL	17.75	39.75	39.75	17.75	17.75

(1) Includes Program Revenue-Federal and Segregated Revenue-Federal

(2) Includes Program Revenue-Service and Program Revenue-Other

(3) Includes Segregated Revenue-Service, Segregated Revenue-Other and Segregated Revenue-Local

(4) All positions are State Operations unless otherwise specified

**Table 3
Department Budget Summary by Program (in thousands of dollars)**

	ACTUAL FY10	ADJUSTED BASE FY11	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY12	FY13	FY12	FY13
1. Administration of elections, ethics, and lobbying laws	\$5,867.8	\$5,158.6	\$6,095.1	\$6,958.7	\$4,718.0	\$5,398.2
TOTALS	\$5,867.8	\$5,158.6	\$6,095.1	\$6,958.7	\$4,718.0	\$5,398.2

**Table 4
Department Position Summary by Program (in FTE positions) (4)**

	ADJUSTED BASE FY11	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY12	FY13	FY12	FY13
1. Administration of elections, ethics, and lobbying laws	17.75	39.75	39.75	17.75	17.75
TOTALS	17.75	39.75	39.75	17.75	17.75

(4) All positions are State Operations unless otherwise specified

1. Increase Employee Contributions to Pension and Health Insurance

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY12		FY13		FY12		FY13	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	-70,500	0.00	-70,500	0.00
PR-O	0	0.00	0	0.00	-16,700	0.00	-16,700	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	-87,200	0.00	-87,200	0.00

The Governor recommends increasing state employee contributions towards pension and health insurance costs. Employees will generally pay 50 percent of the total required retirement contribution, which for calendar year 2011 equals 5.8 percent of salary. The Governor further recommends increasing employee contributions for health insurance from approximately 6 percent of the premium to 12.6 percent of the premium. These modifications are necessary to bring state employee compensation in line with private sector employment and reduce compensation costs.

2. Budget Efficiencies

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY12		FY13		FY12		FY13	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	-112,600	0.00	-112,600	0.00
PR-O	0	0.00	0	0.00	-21,900	0.00	-21,900	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	-134,500	0.00	-134,500	0.00

The Governor recommends reducing funding, excluding salary and fringe benefits, in most GPR and PR appropriations by 10 percent to create additional efficiencies and balance the budget.

3. Increase Spending Authority for Lobbying Application

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY12		FY13		FY12		FY13	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
PR-O	121,200	0.00	121,200	0.00	121,200	0.00	121,200	0.00
TOTAL	121,200	0.00	121,200	0.00	121,200	0.00	121,200	0.00

The Governor recommends increasing expenditure authority in each year for maintenance of the board's Web-based lobbying application.

4. Restore Board Member Per Diems

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY12		FY13		FY12		FY13	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	28,300	0.00	28,300	0.00	28,300	0.00	28,300	0.00
TOTAL	28,300	0.00	28,300	0.00	28,300	0.00	28,300	0.00

The Governor recommends increasing expenditure authority for board member per diems.

5. Reestimate Voter Registration Sales

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY12		FY13		FY12		FY13	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
PR-O	-77,900	0.00	-77,900	0.00	-77,900	0.00	-77,900	0.00
TOTAL	-77,900	0.00	-77,900	0.00	-77,900	0.00	-77,900	0.00

The Governor recommends adjusting the board's base budget to reflect a reestimate of revenue from sales of voter registration rolls.

6. Reestimate Spending Authority in Wisconsin Election Campaign Fund

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY12		FY13		FY12		FY13	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
SEG-O	-642,500	0.00	0	0.00	-642,500	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL	-642,500	0.00	0	0.00	-642,500	0.00	0	0.00

The Governor recommends adjusting the board's base budget to reflect a reestimate of expenditures from the Wisconsin Election Campaign Fund.

7. Campaign Finance Information System

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY12		FY13		FY12		FY13	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	242,700	0.00	276,800	0.00	242,700	0.00	276,800	0.00
TOTAL	242,700	0.00	276,800	0.00	242,700	0.00	276,800	0.00

The Governor recommends increasing funding for maintenance and master lease agreements for the campaign finance information system.

8. Modification of the Democracy Trust Fund

The Governor recommends modifying current law to: (a) require that the democracy campaign fund be funded by voluntary contributions on individuals' state tax returns; (b) limit the amount of funding available for public campaigns to the amount of money in the fund; (c) permit two-thirds of the available funds to be used for judicial races; and (d) eliminate sum sufficient matching grants paid out of the general fund. See Miscellaneous Appropriations, Item #5.

9. Standard Budget Adjustments

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY12		FY13		FY12		FY13	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	101,500	0.00	105,100	0.00	101,500	0.00	105,100	0.00
SEG-F	-2,200	0.00	-2,200	0.00	-2,200	0.00	-2,200	0.00
PR-O	10,000	0.00	10,000	0.00	10,000	0.00	10,000	0.00
TOTAL	109,300	0.00	112,900	0.00	109,300	0.00	112,900	0.00

The Governor recommends adjusting the board's base budget for: (a) full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (\$60,400 in each year); (b) reclassifications and semiautomatic pay progression (\$8,400 in FY12 and \$12,000 in FY13); and (c) full funding of lease and directed moves costs (\$40,500 in each year).

ITEMS NOT APPROVED

The following requests are not included in the Governor's budget recommendations for the Government Accountability Board.

Decision Item	Source of Funds	FY12		FY13	
		Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
10. Federally Funded Permanent FTEs	SEG-F	953,000	21.00	1,270,700	21.00
11. Contract Sunshine Study	GPR	100,000	0.00	0	0.00
12. Add Communications Specialist	SEG-F	25,500	0.50	34,100	0.50
Advanced Position	PR-O	25,400	0.50	34,000	0.50
13. Joint Study of On-Line Voter Registration	GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00
14. Change State Statutes to Allow DOT to Share Motor Vehicle Data	GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00
15. Upgrade Help Desk Communication Resources	GPR	51,500	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL OF ITEMS NOT APPROVED	GPR	151,500	0.00	0	0.00
	SEG-F	978,500	21.50	1,304,800	21.50
	PR-O	25,400	0.50	34,000	0.50