

ETHICS COMMISSION

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Source of Funds	FY17 Adjusted Base	FY18 Recommended	% Change Over FY17	FY19 Recommended	% Change Over FY18
GPR	874,000	831,200	-4.9	833,600	0.3
PR-O	551,800	499,100	-9.6	492,000	-1.4
TOTAL	1,425,800	1,330,300	-6.7	1,325,600	-0.4

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

Source of Funds	FY17 Adjusted Base	FY18 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY17	FY19 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY18
GPR	4.55	4.55	0.00	4.55	0.00
PR-O	3.45	3.45	0.00	3.45	0.00
TOTAL	8.00	8.00	0.00	8.00	0.00

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The commission is comprised of six members, who serve for five-year terms. One member is appointed by the Senate majority leader; one is appointed by the Senate minority leader; one is appointed by the speaker of the Assembly; one is appointed by the Assembly minority leader; and two are individuals who formerly served as judges for a court of record in this state, who were elected to the positions in which they served, and who are nominated by the Governor with the advice and consent of a majority of the members of the Senate. The transition plan from the Government Accountability Board to the commission put forth by the Department of Administration established a rotational term schedule of the commissioners. The commission elects a chair and vice-chair from its members by a majority vote.

The administrator serves as the agency head, and is responsible for the daily operations of the commission. The commission staff is nonpartisan. The commission administers and enforces Wisconsin law pertaining to campaign finance, lobbying and ethics.

Commission activities are arranged by five general functions: general administration; assistance to state public officials, candidates, lobbyists, principals, political committees and officeholders; assistance to local governments; education and training; and enforcement. Within these functional areas, the commission develops policy, issues formal opinions, promulgates administrative rules, prescribes procedures and forms, audits disclosure reports, carries out investigations, conducts hearings and reviews appeals, brings civil actions to assess forfeitures, and addresses other related activities.

Ethics Commission

MISSION

The mission of the commission is to enhance representative democracy by furthering Wisconsin's tradition of clean and open government through its administration of Wisconsin's campaign finance, lobbying and ethics laws, and through the dissemination of information to the public.

PROGRAMS, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Note: Goals, objectives and activities have been modified due to the split of the Government Accountability Board into the Elections Commission and Ethics Commission.

Program 1: Ethics, Campaign Finance and Lobbying Regulation

Goal: Further Wisconsin's tradition of clean and open government.

Objective/Activity: Ensure the accessibility of public information regarding campaign finance, lobbying and ethics reports filed with the commission, as well as actions taken by the commission, by leveraging available technology, creating instructional materials, and providing assistance to candidates, committees, treasurers, lobbyists, principals, state and local officials, and the public.

Goal: Facilitate compliance with the requirements of Wisconsin's campaign finance laws, and ensure reported information is readily accessible to the public.

Objective/Activity: Maintain the Wisconsin Campaign Finance Information System; provide training materials and assistance to committees, candidates and treasurers; promptly make reported information publicly available; and conduct timely audits of the system in order to ensure compliance with Wisconsin's campaign finance laws.

Goal: Identify interests influencing legislative activities.

Objective/Activity: Facilitate the registration and reporting requirements codified in Chapter 13, Subchapter III of Wisconsin Statutes regarding lobbying principals, lobbyists and state agency legislative liaisons; provide training materials and assistance to lobbyists, principals and state agency legislative liaisons; allow the public to readily access information regarding who is lobbying, the organizations employing lobbyists, the issues on which they are lobbying, as well their activities and expenditures.

Goal: Provide information to the public on the financial interests of candidates and state officials.

Objective/Activity: Facilitate and enforce the financial disclosure reporting requirements of the Wisconsin statutes, make the information available for public inspection, and notify candidates and state officials of requests for their information.

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 merit.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

2015 AND 2016 GOALS AND ACTUALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure¹	Goal 2015	Actual 2015	Goal 2016	Actual 2016
1.	Number of contacts relating to requests for campaign finance information by Web site hits to campaign finance section.	80,000	103,020	80,000	88,409
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 (300,000+ page views)	Web site usage among legislators, executive branch and citizens will remain high	Web site hits continue to demonstrate high usage (300,000+ page views)
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 Government Accountability Board was constantly in the news	The number and depth of publicity, analysis and commentary on information related to lobbying and financial interests of state officials will remain high	The Government Accountability Board was constantly in the news

Note: Based on fiscal year.

¹The performance measures were previously associated with the Government Accountability Board.

Ethics Commission

2017, 2018 AND 2019 GOALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2017¹	Goal 2018	Goal 2019
1.	Percentage of fees received by electronic payment methods.	50%	65%	80%
1.	Percentage of campaign finance registrations completed electronically.	50%	55%	60%
1.	Percentage of campaign finance reports filed electronically.	50%	55%	60%
1.	Percentage of campaign finance reports filed on or before the required date.	99%	99%	99%
1.	Percentage of lobbyist time reports completed on or before the required date.	99%	99%	99%
1.	Percentage of registered principals completing their Statements of Lobbying Activities and Expenditures on or before the required date.	99%	99%	99%
1.	Percentage of required Statements of Economic Interest filed on or before the required date.	99%	99%	99%

Note: Based on fiscal year.

¹The performance measures and goals for 2017 have been modified and no longer reflect the measures established by the Government Accountability Board.

ETHICS COMMISSION

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Reduction in Commissioner per Diems
2. Decrease in Materials and Services Expenditure Authority
3. Standard Budget Adjustments

ITEMS NOT APPROVED

4. Statutory Language Change

Ethics Commission

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

	ACTUAL FY16	ADJUSTED BASE FY17	AGENCY REQUEST FY18	AGENCY REQUEST FY19	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY18	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY19
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	\$0.0	\$874.0	\$838.7	\$841.1	\$831.2	\$833.6
State Operations	0.0	874.0	838.7	841.1	831.2	833.6
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	\$0.0	\$551.8	\$499.1	\$492.0	\$499.1	\$492.0
State Operations	0.0	551.8	499.1	492.0	499.1	492.0
TOTALS - ANNUAL	\$0.0	\$1,425.8	\$1,337.8	\$1,333.1	\$1,330.3	\$1,325.6
State Operations	0.0	1,425.8	1,337.8	1,333.1	1,330.3	1,325.6

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

**Table 2
Department Position Summary by Funding Source (in FTE positions) (4)**

	ADJUSTED BASE FY17	AGENCY REQUEST FY18	AGENCY REQUEST FY19	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY18	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY19
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45
TOTALS - ANNUAL	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00

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

(4) All positions are State Operations unless otherwise specified

Ethics Commission

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

	ACTUAL FY16	ADJUSTED BASE FY17	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
1. Ethics, campaign finance and lobbying regulation	\$0.0	\$1,425.8	\$1,337.8	\$1,333.1	\$1,330.3	\$1,325.6
TOTALS	\$0.0	\$1,425.8	\$1,337.8	\$1,333.1	\$1,330.3	\$1,325.6

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

	ADJUSTED BASE FY17	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY18	FY19	FY18	FY19
1. Ethics, campaign finance and lobbying regulation	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
TOTALS	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00

(4) All positions are State Operations unless otherwise specified

Ethics Commission

1. Reduction in Commissioner per Diems

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY18		FY19		FY18		FY19	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	-7,500	0.00	-7,500	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	-7,500	0.00	-7,500	0.00

The Governor recommends reducing commissioner meeting per diem allocations from \$454.11 per day to \$50 per meeting to align with the statutory per diems of other state boards and commissions and because ethics commissioners are no longer required to be retired judges. Under the Government Accountability Board, board members were required to be retired judges and received a daily per diem equal to the amount paid to a reserve judge sitting in a circuit court.

2. Decrease in Materials and Services Expenditure Authority

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY18		FY19		FY18		FY19	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
PR-O	-7,000	0.00	-7,000	0.00	-7,000	0.00	-7,000	0.00
TOTAL	-7,000	0.00	-7,000	0.00	-7,000	0.00	-7,000	0.00

The Governor recommends decreasing expenditure authority in the commission's materials and services program revenue appropriation to reflect declining revenues.

3. Standard Budget Adjustments

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY18		FY19		FY18		FY19	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	-35,300	0.00	-32,900	0.00	-35,300	0.00	-32,900	0.00
PR-O	-45,700	0.00	-52,800	0.00	-45,700	0.00	-52,800	0.00
TOTAL	-81,000	0.00	-85,700	0.00	-81,000	0.00	-85,700	0.00

The Governor recommends adjusting the commission's base budget for: (a) full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (-\$71,000 in each year); (b) reclassifications and semiautomatic pay progression (\$2,200 in FY18 and \$2,900 in FY19); and (c) full funding of lease and directed move costs (-\$12,200 in FY18 and -\$17,600 in FY19).

Ethics Commission

ITEMS NOT APPROVED

The following requests are not included in the Governor's budget recommendations for the Ethics Commission.

Decision Item	Source of Funds	FY18		FY19	
		Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
4. Statutory Language Change	PR-O	0	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL OF ITEMS NOT APPROVED	PR-O	0	0.00	0	0.00

Ethics Commission