

# JUDICIAL COMMISSION

## GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Source of Funds	FY25 Adjusted Base	FY26 Recommended	% Change Over FY25	FY27 Recommended	% Change Over FY26
GPR	363,500	379,300	4.3	379,600	0.1
TOTAL	363,500	379,300	4.3	379,600	0.1

## FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

Source of Funds	FY25 Adjusted Base	FY26 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY25	FY27 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY26
GPR	2.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00
TOTAL	2.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The commission investigates and prosecutes allegations of misconduct or disability on the part of Wisconsin judges and court commissioners. A judge's or court commissioner's conduct is measured primarily by Supreme Court Rule, Chapter 60, Wisconsin Code of Judicial Conduct. The nine-member commission consists of five members who are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate and four members who are appointed by the Supreme Court.

The commission, through its executive director, receives and responds to numerous inquiries from judges, attorneys, court commissioners and other citizens on the issue of judicial conduct. The commission does not issue advisory opinions, but the executive director does respond to requests for informal guidance from judges and court commissioners on the propriety of contemplated conduct. In 2022 and 2023, a total of 355 requests for informal guidance were received and responded to by the executive director.

## MISSION

The mission of the commission is to hold Wisconsin judges and court commissioners accountable for violations of the Wisconsin Code of Judicial Conduct while maintaining the independence of the judiciary, which is necessary for the proper functioning of a democracy. The commission also strives to strengthen the Wisconsin judiciary and the public's confidence in it by creating a greater awareness, on the part of both the judiciary and the public, of what constitutes proper and improper judicial conduct.

## Judicial Commission

### PROGRAMS, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

#### Program 1: Judicial Conduct

Goal: Respond in an appropriate and timely manner to increasing caseload with minimal staff.

Goal: Participate in judicial education programs by providing ethics presentations to reduce the incidence of judicial misconduct.

Goal: Increase awareness among judges and court commissioners concerning ethical issues by providing informal guidance.

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

#### 2023 AND 2024 GOALS AND ACTUALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2023	Actual 2023	Goal 2024	Actual 2024 <sup>1</sup>
1.	Complaints (and other initial inquiries) received.	500	664	500	332
1.	Investigations pending.	25	19	25	14
1.	Requests for advice (informal guidance).	250	161	250	91

Note: Based on calendar year.

<sup>1</sup>Actuals for 2024 are based on calendar year through July 1, 2024.

#### 2025, 2026 AND 2027 GOALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2025	Goal 2026	Goal 2027
1.	Complaints (and other initial inquiries) received.	500	500	500
1.	Investigations pending.	25	25	25
1.	Requests for advice (informal guidance).	250	250	250

Note: Based on calendar year.

**JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

**GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Standard Budget Adjustments

**Judicial Commission**

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

	ACTUAL FY24	ADJUSTED BASE FY25	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	\$332.3	\$363.5	\$379.3	\$379.6	\$379.3	\$379.6
State Operations	332.3	363.5	379.3	379.6	379.3	379.6
TOTALS - ANNUAL	\$332.3	\$363.5	\$379.3	\$379.6	\$379.3	\$379.6
State Operations	332.3	363.5	379.3	379.6	379.3	379.6

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

	ADJUSTED BASE FY25	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
State Operations	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
TOTALS - ANNUAL	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
State Operations	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00

**Judicial Commission**

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

	ACTUAL FY24	ADJUSTED BASE FY25	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
1. Judicial conduct	\$332.3	\$363.5	\$379.3	\$379.6	\$379.3	\$379.6
TOTALS	\$332.3	\$363.5	\$379.3	\$379.6	\$379.3	\$379.6

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

	ADJUSTED BASE FY25	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY26	FY27	FY26	FY27
1. Judicial conduct	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
TOTALS	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00

**Judicial Commission**

**1. Standard Budget Adjustments**

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY26		FY27		FY26		FY27	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	15,800	0.00	16,100	0.00	15,800	0.00	16,100	0.00
TOTAL	15,800	0.00	16,100	0.00	15,800	0.00	16,100	0.00

The Governor recommends adjusting the commission's base budget for: (a) full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (\$17,400 in each year); and (b) full funding of lease and directed moves costs (-\$1,600 in FY26 and -\$1,300 in FY27).