State of Wisconsin

Elections Commission

Agency Budget Request
2027 – 2029 Biennium
September 15, 2026

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Wisconsin Elections Commission

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September 15, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Blumenfeld, Secretary
Department of Administration
101 East Wilson Street, 10th Floor
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Secretary Blumenfeld:

Enclosed is the 2027-2029 budget submission for the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC). The WEC has included eleven decision items for consideration by the Executive Office as it prepares the executive budget for submission to the Legislature. These decision items will ensure statutorily required agency programs and operations can continue into the next biennium.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission is a national leader in election administration and election security initiatives that require long term sustained planning and support of our state. The agency budget request is designed to enable the Elections Commission to carry out its legislative mandates to maintain the integrity of the electoral process and provide complete, accurate and timely information and guidance to local election officials, candidates, voters, and the public.

Two major decision items in WEC's request are:

1) Add 13.0 FTE. Administering elections is a year-round responsibility requiring specialized knowledge, extensive planning, and increasingly complex technology. WEC must also respond to changing legal and cybersecurity requirements. As these responsibilities have grown, permanent staffing levels have not increased at the same pace, leaving less capacity to take on new requirements and major projects while maintaining core operations.

   Temporary staff provide valuable short-term capacity but cannot fully replace the institutional knowledge and continuity of permanent employees. Election administration requires an understanding of election law, agency procedures, technology systems, and how those requirements are implemented by local election officials. Developing that expertise takes time, and turnover requires permanent staff to repeatedly devote resources to onboarding, training, and supervision.

   Cybersecurity also makes continuity increasingly important. Protecting election systems is not solely an IT function; it depends on staff throughout the agency understanding the systems, information, and election processes they support. Permanent employees develop that institutional knowledge over time, while reliance on short-term personnel creates additional work associated with system access, training, oversight, and offboarding.

2) WisVote 2.0 Upgrade. WisVote, Wisconsin's statewide voter registration system, is approaching the end of Microsoft platform support. WEC must complete the transition to WisVote 2.0 before extended support expires in January 2029 to avoid the cybersecurity, operational, and supportability risks associated with unsupported technology, while continuing to securely operate and maintain the existing system through the 2028 presidential election cycle.

   WisVote 2.0 will provide a modern, supportable application architecture that enables WEC to continue protecting Wisconsin's statewide voter registration database as technology and cybersecurity threats evolve.

Also enclosed are the agency's Act 201 exercise and calculations. Please note that we can comply with the Act 201 directive only by significantly impacting the Commission's program responsibilities. We believe it is not advisable to reduce current GPR spending by the required 5% goal because each of our initiatives ultimately ensures the accurate and consistent administration of elections throughout the state, including the state-level tasks completed by our staff, our training of local election officials, and the information and assistance we provide to voters.

We look forward to working with your agency, the Executive Office, and the Legislature throughout the budget process. If you have any specific questions concerning the Wisconsin Elections Commission's budget request, please contact Sharrie Hauge at 266-0404. I can also be reached at 266-8175. Thank you for your assistance and support.

Wisconsin Elections Commission

Meagan L.M. Wolfe

Meagan Wolfe
Administrator

Enclosure

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Elections Commission is comprised of six members, who serve for 5-year terms. One member is appointed by the senate majority leader; one appointed by the senate minority leader; one appointed by the speaker of the assembly; one appointed by the assembly minority leader; and two are members who formerly served as county or municipal clerks and who are nominated by the governor with the advice and consent of a majority of the members of the senate. A detailed description of the appointment of Commissioners is provided in WIS. STAT. §15.61. The Elections Commission and 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 Commission Administrator serves as the agency head and the chief election officer of the state. The Commission staff is required to be non-partisan. The agency has a staff of 25.75 GPR, 3.00 PR and 7.25 SEGF full-time employees.

The Commission administers and enforces Wisconsin law pertaining to elections (Wisconsin Chapters 5 to 10 and 12). The mission of the Commission is to enhance representative democracy by ensuring the integrity of Wisconsin's electoral process through the administration of Wisconsin's elections laws and the dissemination of information, guidance and services to local election officials, candidates, policymakers, voters and the public, utilizing both staff expertise and technology solutions.

Commission activities fit into four general functions: general administration; education, training and assistance to local election officials, candidates, and officeholders; voter education and outreach; and complaint resolution. Within these functional areas, the Commission implements legislative changes and initiatives, develops policy, issues formal opinions and guidance, promulgates administrative rules, prescribes procedures and forms, carries out investigations, responds to inquiries from local election officials, candidates and the public, and completes related activities.

The Commission has four general program areas which are described below:

State Election Administration

The Agency ensures compliance with federal and state election laws. Commission staff evaluates nomination papers and other documents to recommend to the Commission as to whether state and federal candidates qualify for ballot access. Agency staff completes testing of electronic voting systems and makes recommendations regarding Commission approval of such systems, conducts accessibility audits of polling places, and certifies state and federal election results in Wisconsin. Commission staff also develops and maintains the statewide voter registration system (WisVote) as well as other election management IT systems and applications. Staff also prepares reports and documentation to assist the Commission in making decisions related to election administration at its regular meetings and works with the Legislature in its development of election-related legislation. In recent years the Commission has increased its focus on elections security and protecting state and local elections systems.

Support for Local Election Officials

Elections in Wisconsin are conducted by 1,922 local clerks at the town, village, city and county levels. Commission staff provides education, training, and administrative and technical support to local election officials, on both a cyclical and daily basis. Courses and classes for election officials on both election administration responsibilities and tasks involving the security and administration of the statewide voter registration system are available on the Internet through an extensive webinar series and through the agency's online learning center. The Agency also offers in-person presentations to various professional associations and other groups. The Agency prepares detailed manuals to assist local election officials in carrying out their election–related responsibilities. Ongoing support to local clerks includes review of ballot formats, providing election forms, and answering inquiries regarding voting equipment and election procedures, as well as completing tasks in WisVote such as printing poll books, tracking ballot issuance and voter participation, updating voter registration records; maintaining candidate lists and polling place locations, and producing various reports for clerks. Local election officials rely on the WisVote application and Agency staff support to conduct all federal, state and local elections.

Voter Information

Agency staff conducts extensive voter outreach regarding election procedures, voter registration and voting requirements. Agency staff maintains and updates the MyVote Wisconsin website (http://myvote.wi.gov), which is linked to the agency website (http://elections.wi.gov/), which enables voters to check their voter registration status, and locate polling place and ballot information. Data available on the MyVote Wisconsin site is drawn from the statewide voter registration system, WisVote. The MyVote Wisconsin site enables voters to click on a link, complete and print a voter registration application and mail it to their municipal clerk. The information completed by the voter is saved in the WisVote system to expedite the voter's registration. The MyVote site houses the state's online voter registration system. The site also provides a secure method for military and overseas voters to apply for an absentee ballot and have it delivered to them electronically. Additional resources are available to voters and the public on the agency's website. The agency also assists members of the public with obtaining valid photo identification for voting.

Voter and Election Data

Through maintenance of WisVote, the agency's Election Data Collection System, and the Canvass Reporting System, agency staff collects and analyzes election and voter data, and compiles information for required reports to the federal government and state policymakers. Agency staff also makes the data available to the public and research organizations through its BADGER Voters website (https://badgervoters.wi.gov) as well as on the agency's main website. Agency staff creates reports to comply with federal statutes and federal grant requirements.

MISSION

The mission of the commission is to enhance representative democracy by ensuring the integrity of Wisconsin's electoral process through the administration of Wisconsin's elections laws and the dissemination of information, guidance and services to local election officials, candidates, policymakers, voters and the public, utilizing both staff expertise and technology solutions.

PROGRAMS, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Program 1: Administration of Elections

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

Objective/Activity: Administer state-level election responsibilities and provide educational, training and customer service resources to local elections officials, candidates, voters and the general public.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

2025 AND 2026 GOALS AND ACTUALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2025	Actual 2025	Goal 2026	Actual 2026
1.	Monitor the number of contacts the public makes to WEC.	10,000,000	17,714,742	1,500,000	9,940,104
1.	Percentage of sworn complaints resolved within 90 days of submission.	70%	61.22%	70%	75.47%
1.	Conduct training events and maintain training resources for local elections partners and the general public.	170	142	170	178
1.	Percentage of candidates receiving nomination paper review results within two business days of filing.	100%	100%	100%	100%

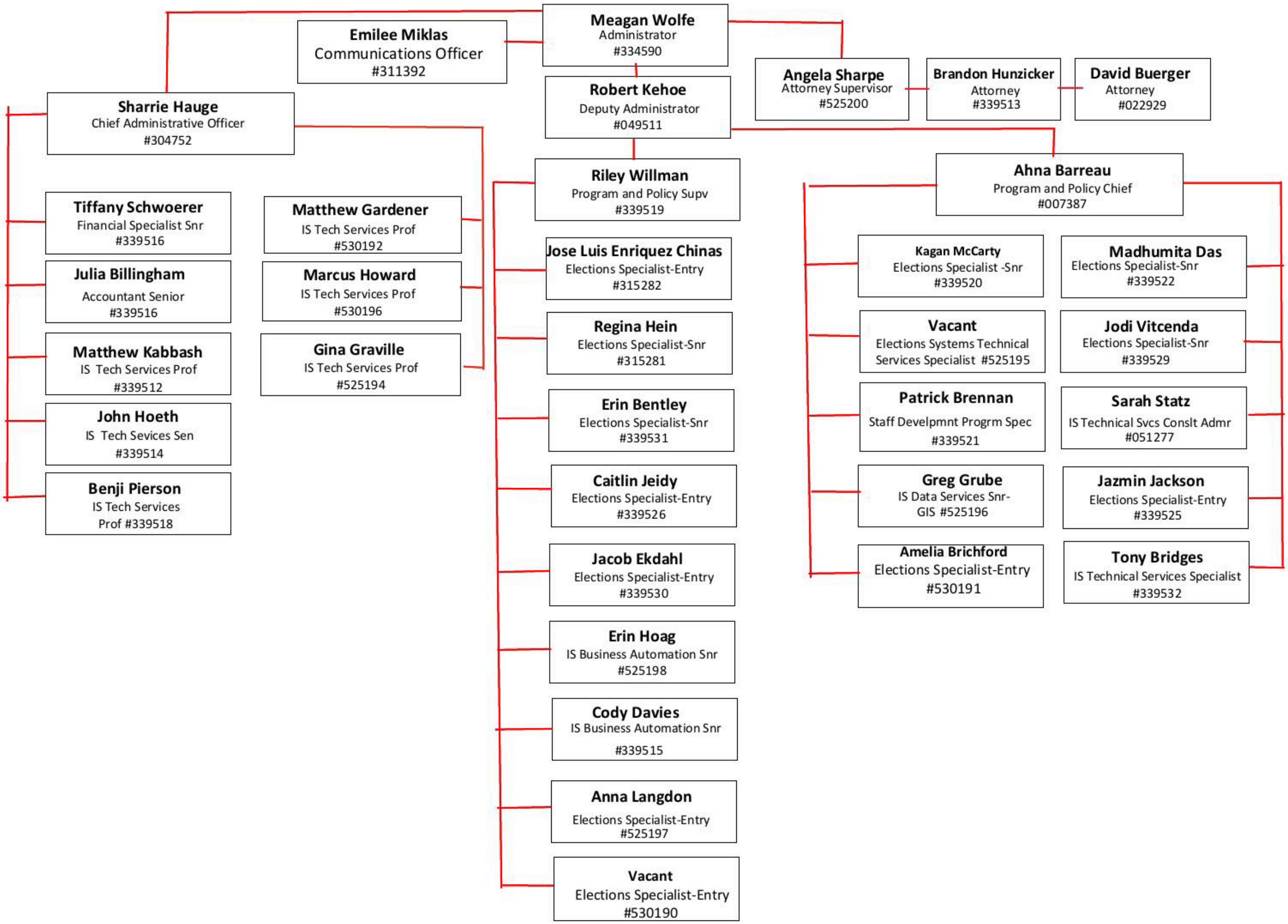
Note: Based on fiscal year.

2027, 2028 AND 2029 GOALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2027	Goal 2028	Goal 2029
1.	Monitor the number of contacts the public makes to WEC.	18,000,000	10,000,000	18,000,000
1.	Percentage of sworn complaints resolved within 90 days of submission.	70%	70%	70%
1.	Conduct training events and maintain training resources for local elections partners and the general public.	170	170	170
1.	Percentage of candidates receiving nomination paper review results within two business days of filing.	100%	100%	100%

Note: Based on fiscal year.

WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION



Agency Total by Fund Source

		ANNUAL SUMMARY						BIENNIAL SUMMARY			
Source of Funds		**Prior Year Total**	**Adjusted Base**	**1st Year Total**	**2nd Year Total**	**1st Year FTE**	**2nd Year FTE**	**Base Year Doubled (BYD)**	**Biennial Request**	**Change From (BYD)**	**Change From BYD %**
GPR	S	$5,218,639	$5,493,400	$6,955,100	$7,413,000	38.75	38.75	$10,986,800	$14,368,100	$3,381,300	30.80%
Total		$5,218,639	$5,493,400	$6,955,100	$7,413,000	38.75	38.75	$10,986,800	$14,368,100	$3,381,300	30.80%
PR	S	$516,045	$479,500	$2,456,700	$2,372,700	3.00	3.00	$959,000	$4,829,400	$3,870,400	403.60%
Total		$516,045	$479,500	$2,456,700	$2,372,700	3.00	3.00	$959,000	$4,829,400	$3,870,400	403.60%
SEG	S	$0	$100	$100	$100	0.00	0.00	$200	$200	$0	0.00%
Total		$0	$100	$100	$100	0.00	0.00	$200	$200	$0	0.00%
SEG Federal	S	$1,671,017	$1,250,100	$1,301,100	$1,322,300	7.25	7.25	$2,500,200	$2,623,400	$123,200	4.90%
Total		$1,671,017	$1,250,100	$1,301,100	$1,322,300	7.25	7.25	$2,500,200	$2,623,400	$123,200	4.90%
Grand Total		$7,405,701	$7,223,100	$10,713,000	$11,108,100	49.00	49.00	$14,446,200	$21,821,100	$7,374,900	51.10%

Agency Total by Program

		ANNUAL SUMMARY					BIENNIAL SUMMARY			
Source of Funds	**Prior Year Total**	**Adjusted Base**	**1st Year Total**	**2nd Year Total**	**1st Year FTE**	**2nd Year FTE**	**Base Year Doubled (BYD)**	**Biennial Request**	**Change From (BYD)**	**Change From BYD %**
01 Administration of elections										
Non Federal										
GPR	**$5,218,639**	**$5,493,400**	**$6,955,100**	**$7,413,000**	**38.75**	**38.75**	**$10,986,800**	**$14,368,100**	**$3,381,300**	**30.78%**
S	$5,218,639	$5,493,400	$6,955,100	$7,413,000	38.75	38.75	$10,986,800	$14,368,100	$3,381,300	30.78%
PR	**$516,045**	**$479,500**	**$2,456,700**	**$2,372,700**	**3.00**	**3.00**	**$959,000**	**$4,829,400**	**$3,870,400**	**403.59%**
S	$516,045	$479,500	$2,456,700	$2,372,700	3.00	3.00	$959,000	$4,829,400	$3,870,400	403.59%
SEG	**$0**	**$100**	**$100**	**$100**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**$200**	**$200**	**$0**	**0.00%**
S	$0	$100	$100	$100	0.00	0.00	$200	$200	$0	0.00%
Total - Non Federal	**$5,734,684**	**$5,973,000**	**$9,411,900**	**$9,785,800**	**41.75**	**41.75**	**$11,946,000**	**$19,197,700**	**$7,251,700**	**60.70%**
S	$5,734,684	$5,973,000	$9,411,900	$9,785,800	41.75	41.75	$11,946,000	$19,197,700	$7,251,700	60.70%
Federal										
SEG	**$1,671,017**	**$1,250,100**	**$1,301,100**	**$1,322,300**	**7.25**	**7.25**	**$2,500,200**	**$2,623,400**	**$123,200**	**4.93%**
S	$1,671,017	$1,250,100	$1,301,100	$1,322,300	7.25	7.25	$2,500,200	$2,623,400	$123,200	4.93%
Total - Federal	**$1,671,017**	**$1,250,100**	**$1,301,100**	**$1,322,300**	**7.25**	**7.25**	**$2,500,200**	**$2,623,400**	**$123,200**	**4.93%**
S	$1,671,017	$1,250,100	$1,301,100	$1,322,300	7.25	7.25	$2,500,200	$2,623,400	$123,200	4.93%

Agency Total by Program

PGM 01 Total		**$7,405,701**	**$7,223,100**	**$10,713,000**	**$11,108,100**	**49.00**	**49.00**	**$14,446,200**	**$21,821,100**	**$7,374,900**	**51.05%**
GPR		**$5,218,639**	**$5,493,400**	**$6,955,100**	**$7,413,000**	**38.75**	**38.75**	**$10,986,800**	**$14,368,100**	**$3,381,300**	**30.78%**
	S	$5,218,639	$5,493,400	$6,955,100	$7,413,000	38.75	38.75	$10,986,800	$14,368,100	$3,381,300	30.78%
PR		**$516,045**	**$479,500**	**$2,456,700**	**$2,372,700**	**3.00**	**3.00**	**$959,000**	**$4,829,400**	**$3,870,400**	**403.59%**
	S	$516,045	$479,500	$2,456,700	$2,372,700	3.00	3.00	$959,000	$4,829,400	$3,870,400	403.59%
SEG		**$1,671,017**	**$1,250,200**	**$1,301,200**	**$1,322,400**	**7.25**	**7.25**	**$2,500,400**	**$2,623,600**	**$123,200**	**4.93%**
	S	$1,671,017	$1,250,200	$1,301,200	$1,322,400	7.25	7.25	$2,500,400	$2,623,600	$123,200	4.93%
TOTAL 01		**$7,405,701**	**$7,223,100**	**$10,713,000**	**$11,108,100**	**49.00**	**49.00**	**$14,446,200**	**$21,821,100**	**$7,374,900**	**51.05%**
	S	$7,405,701	$7,223,100	$10,713,000	$11,108,100	49.00	49.00	$14,446,200	$21,821,100	$7,374,900	51.05%

AGENCY TOTAL	$7,405,701	$7,223,100	$10,713,000	$11,108,100	49.00	49.00	$14,446,200	$21,821,100	$7,374,900	51.05%

Agency Total by Decision Item

Decision Item	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level	$7,223,100	$7,223,100	36.00	36.00
3003 Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits	$129,400	$129,400	0.00	0.00
3005 Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression	$95,200	$116,400	0.00	0.00
3010 Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs	$14,700	$14,700	0.00	0.00
3011 Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation	$0	$0	0.00	0.00
4001 Request for 13 Permanent FTE	$739,100	$985,300	13.00	13.00
4003 Limited Term Employees and Temporary Services	$400,300	$530,700	0.00	0.00
4005 Funding for Software to Track Election Related Questions, Comments and Concerns	$56,000	$56,000	0.00	0.00
4006 Funding for Address Validation and Geocoding Services	$28,000	$28,000	0.00	0.00
4007 Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation	$89,000	$5,000	0.00	0.00
4008 Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)	$0	$81,300	0.00	0.00
4009 Funding for Commissioner Per Diems and Meeting Expenses	$13,800	$13,800	0.00	0.00
7901 Funding for the Statewide Voter Registration System Upgrade to WisVote 2.0	$1,875,300	$1,875,300	0.00	0.00
7910 DOA Central Services Adjustments	$49,100	$49,100	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	**$10,713,000**	**$11,108,100**	**49.00**	**49.00**

Program Revenue

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

SubProgram: -

Numeric Appropriation: 21 - Materials and services

Revenue and Expenditures	Prior Year Actuals	Base Year Estimate	1st Year Estimate	2nd Year Estimate
Opening Balance	**$66,477**	**$25,000**	**$101,000**	**$25,000**
Revenue	$8,275	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Clerk Conference Fees	$0	$75,000	$12,000	$75,000
Total Revenue	**$74,752**	**$102,000**	**$115,000**	**$102,000**
Expenditures	**$49,845**	**$1,000**	**$0**	**$0**
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level	$0	$0	$1,000	$1,000
4007 Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation	$0	$0	$89,000	$5,000
Total Expenditures	**$49,845**	**$1,000**	**$90,000**	**$6,000**
Closing Balance	**$24,907**	**$101,000**	**$25,000**	**$96,000**

Program Revenue

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

SubProgram: -

Numeric Appropriation: 25 - Election security and maint

Revenue and Expenditures	Prior Year Actuals	Base Year Estimate	1st Year Estimate	2nd Year Estimate
Opening Balance	**$3,362,620**	**$3,459,700**	**$3,639,700**	**$1,803,900**
Sale of Voter Lists	$484,956	$950,000	$450,000	$950,000
Interest Revenue	$78,282	$80,000	$75,000	$60,000
Total Revenue	**$3,925,858**	**$4,489,700**	**$4,164,700**	**$2,813,900**
Expenditures	**$466,200**	**$850,000**	**$0**	**$0**
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level	$0	$0	$478,500	$478,500
3003 Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits	$0	$0	$7,000	$7,000
7901 Funding for the Statewide Voter Registration System Upgrade to WisVote 2.0	$0	$0	$1,875,300	$1,875,300
Total Expenditures	**$466,200**	**$850,000**	**$2,360,800**	**$2,360,800**
Closing Balance	**$3,459,658**	**$3,639,700**	**$1,803,900**	**$453,100**

Segregated Funds Revenue and Balances Statement

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

SubProgram: -

Numeric Appropriation: 60 - Election administration

Statutory Fund: 220 - ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Revenue and Expenditures	Prior Year Actuals	Base Year Estimate	1st Year Estimate	2nd Year Estimate
Opening Balance	$100	$100	$100	$100
Total Revenue	$100	$100	$100	$100
Expenditures	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total Expenditures	$0	$0	$0	$0
Closing Balance	$100	$100	$100	$100

Segregated Funds Revenue and Balances Statement

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

SubProgram: -

Numeric Appropriation: 82 - Elections Security

Statutory Fund: 220 - ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Revenue and Expenditures	Prior Year Actuals	Base Year Estimate	1st Year Estimate	2nd Year Estimate
Opening Balance	**$5,325,084**	**$3,814,000**	**$2,523,000**	**$1,306,700**
Interest	$109,908	$90,000	$75,000	$50,000
2026 Election Security Grant	$0	$819,000	$0	$0
WEM Election Security Subgrant	$50,000	$0	$0	$0
Total Revenue	**$5,484,992**	**$4,723,000**	**$2,598,000**	**$1,356,700**
Expenditures	**$1,671,017**	**$2,200,000**	**$0**	**$0**
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level	$0	$0	$1,250,100	$1,250,100
3003 Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits	$0	$0	$13,200	$13,200
4005 Funding for Software to Track Election Related Questions, Comments and Concerns	$0	$0	$28,000	$28,000
Total Expenditures	**$1,671,017**	**$2,200,000**	**$1,291,300**	**$1,291,300**
Closing Balance	**$3,813,975**	**$2,523,000**	**$1,306,700**	**$65,400**

Decision Item (DIN): 2000 - Adjusted Base Funding Level

NARRATIVE

Adjusted Base Funding Level

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 2000 - Adjusted Base Funding Level

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$2,807,600	$2,807,600
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	$38,400	$38,400
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$2,400	$2,400
05	Fringe Benefits	$972,100	$972,100
06	Supplies and Services	$3,397,800	$3,397,800
07	Permanent Property	$4,800	$4,800
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$7,223,100**	**$7,223,100**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	34.00	34.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	2.00	2.00

Decision Item by Numeric

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

Decision Item (DIN): 2000 - Adjusted Base Funding Level

Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
01 - General program ops; GPR	$5,385,800	$5,385,800	25.75	25.75
05 - Investigations	$25,000	$25,000	0.00	0.00
09 - County and municipal clerk training	$82,600	$82,600	0.00	0.00
21 - Materials and services	$1,000	$1,000	0.00	0.00
25 - Election security and maint	$478,500	$478,500	3.00	3.00
60 - Election administration	$100	$100	0.00	0.00
82 - Elections Security	$1,250,100	$1,250,100	7.25	7.25
Program Sub Total	**$7,223,100**	**$7,223,100**	**36.00**	**36.00**
DIN 2000 - Adjusted Base Funding Level Total	**$7,223,100**	**$7,223,100**	**36.00**	**36.00**
Agency Total	**$7,223,100**	**$7,223,100**	**36.00**	**36.00**

Decision Item by Fund Source

Decision Item (DIN): 2000 - Adjusted Base Funding Level

Source of Funds	Type	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
SEG Federal	S	$1,250,100	$1,250,100	7.25	7.25
GPR	S	$5,493,400	$5,493,400	25.75	25.75
PR	S	$479,500	$479,500	3.00	3.00
SEG	S	$100	$100	0.00	0.00
DIN 2000 - Adjusted Base Funding Level Total		**$7,223,100**	**$7,223,100**	**36.00**	**36.00**
Agency Total		**$7,223,100**	**$7,223,100**	**36.00**	**36.00**

Decision Item (DIN): 3003 - Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits

NARRATIVE

Standard Budget Adjustment - Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 3003 - Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$57,500	$57,500
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	$0	$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$0	$0
05	Fringe Benefits	$71,900	$71,900
06	Supplies and Services	$0	$0
07	Permanent Property	$0	$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$129,400**	**$129,400**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

Decision Item (DIN): 3003 - Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits

Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
01 - General program ops; GPR	$121,500	$121,500	0.00	0.00
25 - Election security and maint	($1,600)	($1,600)	0.00	0.00
82 - Elections Security	$9,500	$9,500	0.00	0.00
Program Sub Total	**$129,400**	**$129,400**	**0.00**	**0.00**
DIN 3003 - Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits Total	**$129,400**	**$129,400**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total	**$129,400**	**$129,400**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item by Fund Source

Decision Item (DIN): 3003 - Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits

Source of Funds	Type	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
GPR	S	$121,500	$121,500	0.00	0.00
PR	S	($1,600)	($1,600)	0.00	0.00
SEG Federal	S	$9,500	$9,500	0.00	0.00
DIN 3003 - Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits Total		**$129,400**	**$129,400**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total		**$129,400**	**$129,400**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item (DIN): 3005 - Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression

NARRATIVE

Standard Budget Adjustment - Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 3005 - Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$81,600	$99,800
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	$0	$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$0	$0
05	Fringe Benefits	$13,600	$16,600
06	Supplies and Services	$0	$0
07	Permanent Property	$0	$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$95,200**	**$116,400**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

Decision Item (DIN): 3005 - Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression

Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
01 - General program ops; GPR	$66,000	$66,000	0.00	0.00
25 - Election security and maint	$15,300	$15,300	0.00	0.00
82 - Elections Security	$13,900	$35,100	0.00	0.00
Program Sub Total	**$95,200**	**$116,400**	**0.00**	**0.00**
DIN 3005 - Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression Total	**$95,200**	**$116,400**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total	**$95,200**	**$116,400**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item by Fund Source

Decision Item (DIN): 3005 - Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression

Source of Funds	Type	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
GPR	S	$66,000	$66,000	0.00	0.00
PR	S	$15,300	$15,300	0.00	0.00
SEG Federal	S	$13,900	$35,100	0.00	0.00
DIN 3005 - Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression Total		**$95,200**	**$116,400**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total		**$95,200**	**$116,400**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item (DIN): 3010 - Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs

NARRATIVE

Standard Budget Adjustment - Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 3010 - Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$0	$0
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	$0	$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$0	$0
05	Fringe Benefits	$0	$0
06	Supplies and Services	$14,700	$14,700
07	Permanent Property	$0	$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$14,700**	**$14,700**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

Decision Item (DIN): 3010 - Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs

Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
01 - General program ops; GPR	$15,900	$15,900	0.00	0.00
25 - Election security and maint	($800)	($800)	0.00	0.00
82 - Elections Security	($400)	($400)	0.00	0.00
Program Sub Total	**$14,700**	**$14,700**	**0.00**	**0.00**
DIN 3010 - Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs Total	**$14,700**	**$14,700**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total	**$14,700**	**$14,700**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item by Fund Source

Decision Item (DIN): 3010 - Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs

Source of Funds	Type	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
GPR	S	$15,900	$15,900	0.00	0.00
PR	S	($800)	($800)	0.00	0.00
SEG Federal	S	($400)	($400)	0.00	0.00
DIN 3010 - Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs Total		**$14,700**	**$14,700**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total		**$14,700**	**$14,700**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item (DIN): 3011 - Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation

NARRATIVE

Standard Budget Adjustment - Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 3011 - Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$38,400	$38,400
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	($38,400)	($38,400)
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$0	$0
05	Fringe Benefits	$0	$0
06	Supplies and Services	$0	$0
07	Permanent Property	$0	$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$0**	**$0**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

Decision Item (DIN): 3011 - Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation

Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
01 - General program ops; GPR	$0	$0	0.00	0.00
Program Sub Total	**$0**	**$0**	**0.00**	**0.00**
DIN 3011 - Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation Total	**$0**	**$0**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total	**$0**	**$0**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item by Fund Source

Decision Item (DIN): 3011 - Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation

Source of Funds	Type	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
GPR	S	$0	$0	0.00	0.00
DIN 3011 - Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation Total		**$0**	**$0**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total		**$0**	**$0**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item (DIN): 4001 - Request for 13 Permanent FTE

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests $739,100 GPR in FY28 and $985,300 GPR in FY29 for 13.0 FTE. The objective is to enable the agency to administer and enforce Wisconsin law pertaining to elections (Wisconsin Statute Chapters 5 to 10 and 12) as well as provide the required operational support the increased election-related responsibilities imposed on the agency by new state and federal requirements.

DIN 4001 –Issue Paper

Add Program Staff for the Wisconsin Elections Commission

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) requests $739,100 GPR in FY28 and $985,300 GPR in FY29 for 13.0 FTE. The objective is to enable the agency to administer and enforce Wisconsin law pertaining to elections (Wisconsin Statute Chapters 5 to 10 and 12) as well as provide the required operational support the increased election-related responsibilities imposed on the agency by new state and federal requirements.

Background

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) is one of the smallest state agencies, with 36.00 full-time employees responsible for administering and supporting a broad range of statewide election functions. Agency staff include management, Elections Specialists focused on election administration and the statewide voter registration system, trainers, legal counsel, a public information officer, and information technology and administrative support staff.

Every task and initiative of the WEC is ultimately intended to serve Wisconsin voters, local election officials, candidates, and elected officials. Under state and federal law, the Commission is responsible for functions that include developing and maintaining the statewide electronic voter registration system, training and assisting local election officials, providing voter education and outreach, approving electronic voting systems, supporting polling place accessibility requirements, certifying candidates for ballot access, and certifying election results. WEC also collects and reports voter and election data and provides required reports to the Legislature and federal agencies.

These responsibilities are particularly significant because Wisconsin has a highly decentralized system of election administration. WEC staff provide training, guidance, and technical and operational support to election officials across 1,851 municipalities and 72 counties. Consistent statewide training and support are critical to helping local election officials administer elections securely and consistently. Staff must also develop, maintain, and support multiple election technology applications, including WisVote, the statewide voter registration and election management system; MyVote Wisconsin, its public-facing counterpart; and Badger Books, Wisconsin's electronic poll book system. The table below illustrates several of the constituent services WEC staff provide as part of this statewide support.

Figure 1. — WEC Constituent Services Statistics

Metrics	2023-2025 Biennium	2025-2027 Biennium
Telephone calls	44,569	53,751
Zendesk tickets (Emails)	84,240	96,148
Filed lawsuits	50	37
Complaints & Ballot Access challenges	179	202
Public records requests	294	207
Live training events	133	52
Recorded training offerings	28	46

The Commission's workload is also shaped by Wisconsin's four-year election cycle. Two regular elections are conducted each spring, with two additional regular elections in the summer and fall of even-numbered years, culminating every four years in the Presidential and General Election. The two-year legislative session creates additional demands on agency resources as staff participate in the development and review of election-related legislation, provide information and testimony to the

Legislature, implement enacted legislation, and develop the tools, training, and guidance necessary for local election officials to carry out new requirements.

In recent years, the scope and complexity of these responsibilities have continued to grow. In addition to administering elections and supporting local election officials, WEC must devote increasing staff capacity to protecting the security and resilience of the agency's election technology systems, data, and operations. Cybersecurity is not limited to the work of information technology staff; maintaining secure election systems requires coordination across the agency, including policy and procedure development, staff and local election official training, incident preparedness and response, legal and compliance review, communications, system testing, and ongoing operational support. As cybersecurity requirements and threats continue to evolve, these responsibilities create additional workload across multiple WEC teams while existing election administration responsibilities remain.

These demands are further compounded by the significant volume of election-related litigation WEC has experienced since 2020, including during years without a major statewide election. There are currently 31 active lawsuits, at least half of which were filed after January 2025. Responding to this litigation requires staff time and resources in addition to the Commission's ongoing election administration responsibilities. Existing staff have also worked overtime to meet critical deadlines and complete priority projects.

As new responsibilities and un-resourced tasks are added, the capacity of the agency's 36.00 FTE positions is increasingly strained. As outlined in the table below, the scope and volume of work assigned to existing staff have continued to grow without corresponding increases in staffing.

As new responsibilities and un-resourced tasks are added, the capacity of the agency's 36.00 FTE positions is increasingly strained. The constituent service statistics above demonstrate the substantial volume of ongoing support provided by agency staff, while responsibilities related to cybersecurity, litigation, technology modernization, legislative changes, and other emerging needs must be absorbed alongside this existing workload.

Issue

Administering elections is a year-round responsibility requiring specialized knowledge, extensive planning, and increasingly complex technology. WEC must also respond to changing legal and cybersecurity requirements. As these responsibilities have grown, permanent staffing levels have not increased at the same pace, leaving less capacity to take on new requirements and major projects while maintaining core operations.

WEC has repeatedly requested additional permanent GPR-funded positions through the biennial budget process. When those positions have not been funded, the agency has relied on temporary services, limited-term employees (LTEs), overtime, and other staffing arrangements to meet workload demands. During the 2024 election cycle, WEC also entered into interagency agreements that provided five Department of Revenue employees. Similar assistance was unavailable during the 2026 election cycle because other agencies were managing their own workload demands.

Temporary staff provide valuable short-term capacity but cannot fully replace the institutional knowledge and continuity of permanent employees. Election administration requires an understanding of election law, agency procedures, technology systems, and how those requirements are implemented by local election officials. Developing that expertise takes time, and turnover requires permanent staff to repeatedly devote resources to onboarding, training, and supervision.

Cybersecurity makes continuity increasingly important. Protecting election systems is not solely an IT function; it depends on staff throughout the agency understanding the systems, information, and election processes they support. Permanent employees develop that institutional knowledge over time, while reliance on short-term personnel creates additional work associated with system access, training, oversight, and offboarding.

Additional permanent staffing would therefore address more than peak election workload. It would allow WEC to retain expertise, distribute responsibilities more sustainably, and absorb new work without continually shifting existing staff away from core operations.

WEC and Local Election Officials

Wisconsin's decentralized election structure creates a continuing need for substantial state-level support. Approximately two-thirds of municipal clerks serve in a part-time capacity, and many have other primary employment. Turnover also remains significant, with 337 municipal clerk positions turning over in FY2025 and 224 in FY2026.

This creates recurring workload for WEC as new local election officials require training, system access, technical assistance, and ongoing election administration support. WisVote account administration provides one measurable example. In FY2026, WEC created 486 accounts, requiring approximately 243 staff hours at 30 minutes per account. Deactivating another 464 accounts at approximately 15 minutes each required 116 hours. Together, these functions alone accounted for approximately 359 staff hours.

Figure 2. — Workload on Staff for WisVote Accounts

Fiscal Year	WV Accounts Made	WV Accounts Deactivated
2024	412	390
2025	510	431
2026	486	464

Account administration also has a cybersecurity component. Because WisVote contains sensitive voter and election information, WEC must ensure users receive appropriate access and that access is removed when no longer needed. The workload reflected above therefore represents both ongoing support for local election officials and an important responsibility for protecting the statewide system.

Major Initiatives and Ongoing Responsibilities

In addition to its ongoing election administration responsibilities, WEC staff must implement major projects and new requirements that require significant staff time and specialized expertise. These initiatives do not replace existing responsibilities but must be completed alongside them, limiting the capacity available for day-to-day operations.

One example is the development of *Election Law and Administration in Wisconsin* (ELAW), WEC's first comprehensive election administration manual for local clerks. Over 13 months, staff reviewed and consolidated 11 separate guides into a centralized, accessible 18-part resource containing thousands of indexed sections. This substantial project was completed while staff continued supporting elections and local election officials.

WEC has also devoted significant staff resources to improving the accessibility and usability of its digital services in response to the Department of Justice's 2024 Title II requirements. Following a 2026 extension, the applicable compliance date for state entities is April 26, 2027, and covered web content and mobile applications must generally conform to WCAG 2.1 Level AA.

In addition to WisVote, MyVote, and Badger Books, WEC maintains its public-facing agency website and ElectEd, its online election training platform. Together, these systems require ongoing maintenance and improvement to remain reliable, accessible, and responsive to the needs of voters, local election officials, and agency staff.

Badger Books demonstrates how growth in an existing program can significantly affect staffing needs. Since its launch in 2017, participation has grown to 384 jurisdictions, increasing both the volume and complexity of support required from WEC staff. Supporting the program increasingly requires Elections staff to troubleshoot hardware, software, device configuration, and networking issues in addition to their election administration responsibilities. As day-to-day support has increased, less capacity is available to strategically evaluate and improve the program.

Figure 3. — Badger Book Growth

General Election Year	Number of Badger Book Users
2020	70
2022	136
2024	305
2026	384

WEC continues to evaluate improvements to Badger Books, including a hardware pilot that may provide more accessible and cost-effective options for municipalities. As participation grows, sufficient staff capacity is needed to support current users while also planning for the program's long-term sustainability.

While continuing to maintain WEC's existing systems, the agency has been undertaking the most significant modernization of WisVote since its implementation. The technology underlying the current WisVote application is approaching the end of its supported lifecycle, requiring WEC to rebuild the application on a modern .NET platform to ensure Wisconsin's statewide voter registration and election management system remains reliable and supportable.

WisVote 2.0 is not a routine software upgrade. WEC must rebuild the application while preserving the functionality relied upon by state and local election officials and keeping the existing system operational throughout development. The project requires significant involvement across the agency as Elections staff help translate election processes and legal requirements into the new system, participate in design and testing, and prepare users for the transition, while IT staff maintain the current system and develop its replacement.

Underlying all these technology responsibilities is a changing cybersecurity landscape. Whether maintaining MyVote and other public-facing websites, supporting the continued growth of Badger Books, operating the current WisVote system, or developing WisVote 2.0, WEC must continually evaluate and adapt how its systems and data are protected. As technology and cybersecurity threats evolve, maintaining these systems requires sustained staff capacity and expertise to ensure they remain secure and reliable while continuing to meet the needs of voters and local election officials.

These responsibilities demonstrate that WEC's technology workload is not limited to individual projects or election cycles. The systems developed and supported by the agency require ongoing maintenance, improvement, and security, creating a long-term need for sufficient permanent staff capacity.

Conclusion

To fulfill all the agency's statutory obligations and to work on the critical projects of the agency, the Commission's request needs.

3.0 FTE to support the WEC's election applications, WisVote, and its upgrade to WisVote 2.0, MyVote, Badger Books.

Figure 4. — WisVote Outreach & Improvements

Number Of Active Users	2898
Municipalities Supported (WisVote self-providers)	839
2026 YTD System Transactions (Registration Changes + Absentee Requests)	1,214,484
Incidents Or Enhancement Requests	250

The requested 3.0 FTE would establish dedicated Business Analyst, Data Services, and Elections Specialist capacity to support WEC's election applications and the transition to WisVote 2.0. Together, these positions would strengthen WEC's technical expertise while providing the program and user-facing capacity necessary to maintain and improve its systems.

The Business Analyst and Data Services positions would bring specialized IT knowledge to functions currently distributed among existing staff. The Business Analyst would strengthen requirements development, system analysis, testing, and change management, while the Data Services position would provide dedicated expertise in data integrity, integration, and data exchanges. Building this expertise internally would also strengthen WEC's ability to incorporate DET security standards and cybersecurity considerations into the ongoing management of its applications and data. DET's statewide security standards require agencies to implement appropriate controls and processes for their information systems, including increasingly specific requirements related to system and application security.

The additional Elections Specialist would complement these technical positions by providing dedicated capacity for the user-facing side of WEC's applications, including clerk support, training, testing, and implementation. Shifting more of this work to dedicated program staff would allow the Business Analyst, Data Services staff, and other technical employees to focus their specialized expertise on system analysis, data, application lifecycle, and security responsibilities.

This division of responsibilities is increasingly important as WEC's technology workload grows. In an average year, staff support approximately 250 system issues and updates in addition to maintaining existing applications. WisVote 2.0 will add significant workload while the current WisVote system, MyVote, Badger Books, and other agency applications must continue to operate and improve.

Moving WisVote from a vendor-supported platform to a custom-developed application will also place greater responsibility on WEC for maintaining and securing the system throughout its lifecycle. These positions would provide the specialized technical and program capacity necessary to support that transition, keep pace with evolving DET security requirements and cybersecurity risks, and maintain reliable election technology without continually drawing existing staff away from their primary responsibilities.

2.0 Elections Specialist FTE to focus on the development of training materials and creation of elections forms.

The requested 2.0 FTE would provide the staffing necessary to support the ongoing development, maintenance, and implementation of election forms and training materials used by Wisconsin's election officials. These positions would include an FTE Election Specialist dedicated to creating, updating, and maintaining the agency's election forms to ensure continued statutory compliance, and an FTE Elections Specialist dedicated to manuals, training curriculum, webinars, online learning modules, and other educational resources that support the administration of elections across the state.

Wisconsin election forms require continual review and revision to reflect changes in state and federal law, administrative rules, court decisions, Commission policies, and election best practices. In addition to routine maintenance, staff must respond quickly to legislative changes and emerging issues to ensure local election officials have accurate guidance well in advance of election deadlines. This FTE Elections Specialist would ensure that the agency's forms and documents provide consistent unified guidance and that all necessary updates are made promptly.

The FTE Election Specialist dedicated to training materials would develop and update election administration manuals and poll worker resources, create and deliver webinars and instructor-led trainings, develop online learning content, respond to feedback from local election officials, and ensure educational materials remain current throughout each election cycle. They would also support implementation of new initiatives and provide timely communications and guidance to Wisconsin's municipal and county clerks.

Elections in Wisconsin are conducted at the local level in 1,851 municipalities by their clerks. Approximately two-thirds of municipal clerks serve in a part-time capacity, and many have other primary employment, and there is turnover in about one-quarter of municipal clerk positions annually (337 in FY25 and 224 in FY26), it is imperative to have dedicated elections administration training resources and forms management.

Together, these positions would improve the consistency and quality of election forms and training materials, provide dedicated capacity to address ongoing statutory and procedural changes, reduce the risk of outdated or inconsistent guidance, and ensure Wisconsin's more than 1,851 municipal clerks and 72 county clerks receive the timely resources needed to administer elections accurately and uniformly throughout the state.

2.0 Legal FTE to focus on providing legal advice, administrative rule making and case management.

One Attorney FTE would assist in the expansion of three major underdeveloped areas: 1) expanded administrative rulemaking; 2) legislative agenda/proposals; 3) large-scale projects to support clerks and standardize elections across the state (i.e. manual revisions, toolkits, etc.).

First, expanding the agency's administrative code would provide greater assistance to local election officials, who could rely on provisions that carry the force of law, instead of guidance memos that could easily be rescinded or changed.

Second, the agency has not produced a legislative agenda or proposal in several years due to competing priorities and lack of capacity. The agency is often asked to review proposed legislation, and as election law subject matter experts, we could create a more robust partnership with the Legislature so they can consider what works in our current statutes and, more importantly, what could use a twenty-first century upgrade.

Third, one of our most important responsibilities is providing training and resources to local election officials. Our FTE attorneys were the driving forces behind the agency's new, 900-plus page manual, ELAW, and there are many other resources we could provide for clerks, such as toolkits, sample forms and documents, and deep dive explainers on complicated areas of election law such as canvass, recounts, and recalls.

With our current staffing levels, we are stretched to capacity for keeping pace with demand. An additional FTE attorney would change the equation of simply surviving each election cycle, to gaining the capacity to drive meaningful improvements in election law and administration in Wisconsin.

The second FTE position would be a Paralegal who would provide case management of the Commission's litigation matters, draft administrative rulemaking materials, and process public records requests. Attorneys currently spend dozens of hours on legal administrative work (like saving litigation filings, summarizing cases, and drafting materials), all of which could be done by an experienced, trained paralegal.

1.0 FTE to maintain the agency's website and work with the agency Public Information Officer on internal and external communications.

This position would bring technical expertise to our website by updating content, fixing errors, monitoring performance, and ensuring accessibility compliance. This position would also be key to assisting the Public Information Office in managing media relations, including responses to state, local, and national media.

Figure 5. — MyVote & ElectEd Website Contacts

	2025	2026
Website Contacts (My Vote)	22,102,027	9,696,037
Website Contacts (Elect Ed)	829,675	244,067

5.0 Help Desk support FTE to focus on informational, technical assistance and customer service support.

The additional five FTE would primarily work on first-line calls, tickets, account access, and routine procedural triage so experienced staff can spend more time on complex WisVote, election-administration, security, data, training, and escalation work.

Help Desk demand is cyclical, multifaceted, and increasingly technical. During FY24 through FY26, the Help Desk handled a median of 138 telephone calls and Zendesk tickets per staffed weekday. On recurring busy days demand reached between 228-350 interactions. Workload also varies sharply across the election cycle, averaging approximately 80 interactions on baseline days, increasing upwards of 338 interactions the week leading up to the election and 1,100 on Election Day.

Figure 6. — Help Desk Zendesk Tickets/Email and Calls

Fiscal Year	Zendesk Tickets/Email	Calls*	Total
2024	41,827	16,086	57,913
2025	59,180	39,889	99,069
2026	36,968	13,862	50,830

**Length of calls can range from one minute to 45 minutes in duration.*

Typical telephone coverage consists of six call-active staff, many of whom also perform specialized work with other teams including WisVote, election-administration, public records, publication creation, graphic design, website maintenance, security, data analysis, training, and account-management responsibilities.

Help Desk staff are also responsible for account access into WisVote and Elect Ed. Staff estimate that each account takes an average of 30 minutes to create new users and up to 15 minutes to fully deactivate users. The account creation process requires WEC account administrators to verify that users have been approved by a jurisdiction's chief election official and have completed the required training before processing may begin. To ensure WEC's systems are securely insulated, WEC staff replicate the process across multiple platforms (Active Directory, WisVote, WisVote Sandbox, ElectEd, Lyris, and among others). Processing new users from Active Directory could take an additional 5 minutes in each system to create.

Table 1. — FY 2024-2026 Account Status Changes

FY	WV Accounts Created	WV Accounts Deactivated	Account Activation Hours	Account Deactivation Hours	Total Account Hours
2024	**412**	**390**	**206**	**97.5**	**303.5**
2025	**510**	**431**	**255**	**107.75**	**362.75**
2026	**486***	**464**	**243**	**116****	**359**

**To create 486 users that is equivalent to 6 weeks of full-time work or roughly 10% of an annual position.*
***To deactivate 116 users that is equivalent to 2.9 weeks of full-time work.*

Five additional positions would establish a dedicated first-line unit for telephone and ticket triage, password and access assistance, account intake, basic navigation, and established troubleshooting procedures. Based on observed workload rates, five positions would approximately double typical first-line coverage and provide sufficient capacity for busy days, while allowing experienced staff to focus on complex cases and specialized agency responsibilities. Election-week surge support would remain necessary, but permanent first-line capacity would reduce backlogs, interruptions to specialized work, and reliance on temporary staffing, overtime, and cross-agency reassignment.

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 4001 - Request for 13 Permanent FTE

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$541,700	$722,200
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	$0	$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$0	$0
05	Fringe Benefits	$197,400	$263,100
06	Supplies and Services	$0	$0
07	Permanent Property	$0	$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$739,100**	**$985,300**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	13.00	13.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

Decision Item (DIN): 4001 - Request for 13 Permanent FTE

Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
01 - General program ops; GPR	$739,100	$985,300	13.00	13.00
Program Sub Total	**$739,100**	**$985,300**	**13.00**	**13.00**
DIN 4001 - Request for 13 Permanent FTE Total	**$739,100**	**$985,300**	**13.00**	**13.00**
Agency Total	**$739,100**	**$985,300**	**13.00**	**13.00**

Decision Item by Fund Source

Decision Item (DIN): 4001 - Request for 13 Permanent FTE

Source of Funds	Type	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
GPR	S	$739,100	$985,300	13.00	13.00
DIN 4001 - Request for 13 Permanent FTE Total		**$739,100**	**$985,300**	**13.00**	**13.00**
Agency Total		**$739,100**	**$985,300**	**13.00**	**13.00**

Decision Item (DIN): 4002 - Sustain Sub-Grant Programs for Local Election Offices

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) asks the Legislature to address the increasing financial needs of Wisconsin's cities, villages, and towns by either (1) providing funding for the WEC to award state grants to local jurisdictions, or (2) providing funding directly to municipalities in support of their election requirements.

DIN 4002 - Issue Paper
Funding for Local Election Offices

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) asks the Legislature to address the increasing financial needs of Wisconsin's cities, villages, and towns by either (1) providing funding for the WEC to award state grants to local jurisdictions, or (2) providing funding directly to municipalities in support of their election requirements.

Background

Over the past ten years, federal funding for Wisconsin elections has sharply declined. Over the same period, demands for local election officials have increased and voting equipment has aged. This combination of factors produces a significant challenge for county and municipal officials seeking to ensure fair, accurate, and secure elections. Without additional funding from either state or federal government, local election offices face a growing risk of disruptions on Election Day.

The most common ballot tabulator in Wisconsin, the DS200 by Elections Systems & Software (ES&S), is more than 16 years old. The next most common tabulator, the ImageCast Evolution, is similarly long in the tooth. Regular updates help keep voting equipment current, but the underlying hardware and software remain dated. In addition, national standards for safe and secure voting equipment continue to advance. The latest standard is VVSG (Voluntary Voting System Guideline) 2.0 and VVSG 2.1 is under development. To date, not a single jurisdiction in Wisconsin owns equipment that is compliant with VVSG 2.0. Few, if any, municipalities have funds available to purchase all-new voting equipment.

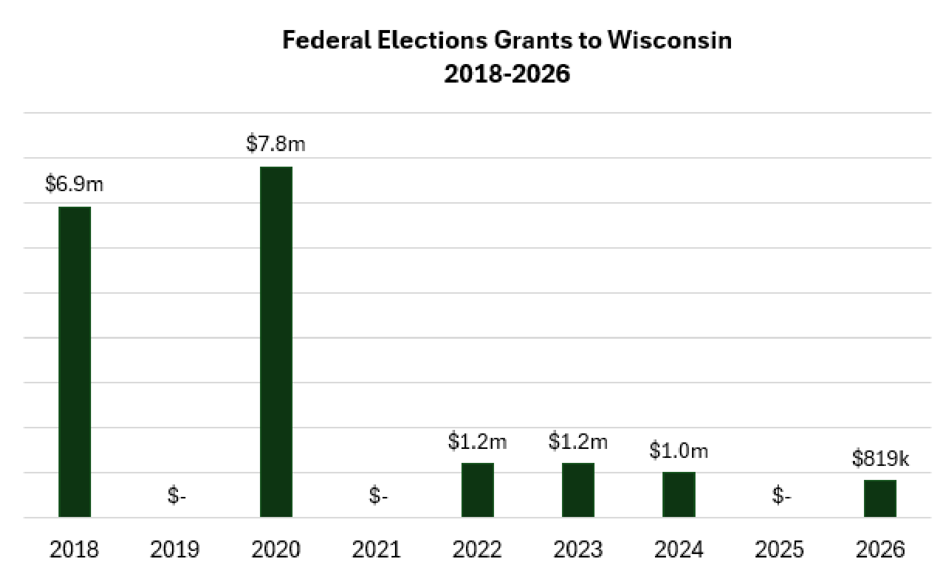
Increased concerns about the security and integrity of elections present further demands on local election offices. Many voters would like to see more robust post-election audits, more rigorous pre-election testing, and increased scrutiny of voter registration records. In Wisconsin, there are also efforts to implement more uniform support for in-person absentee voting (also known as early voting). Each of these tasks requires time and staff. If local election offices are to do more work, they must have the funding to support more staff-hours.

Finally, the increased demands described above come at a time when federal funding for elections continues to decline, see *Figure 1. Federal Elections Grants to Wisconsin (HAVA Section 101, Section 251, Election Security)*.

In the three years leading up to the 2020 General Election, the federal government provided Wisconsin with over $14 million for elections, <u>not</u> including CARES Act funds. Since 2020, Wisconsin has averaged less than $1 million in federal elections funding each year. Divided between 1,851 municipalities, and 72 counties, $1 million isn't enough for each jurisdiction to purchase even one tabulator, or to pay for staff overtime incurred in a single election.

More importantly, because there is no ongoing appropriation, Wisconsin is not assured of any federal election funding going forward. The discretion to appropriate funds each year rests entirely with Congress. Local governments are therefore challenged to plan for ever-increasing demands without any assurance that funds will be available.

Figure 1. Federal Elections Grants to Wisconsin (HAVA Section 101, Section 251, Election Security)



Issue

Wisconsin's highly decentralized election structure means that municipalities must fund nearly all aspects of their elections, with limited support from the counties. While most other states provide state funds to support the local electoral processes, the State of Wisconsin does not award any GPR to local governmental units to help prepare for or conduct elections. Recognizing this, the Wisconsin Elections Commission has passed most federal election funds directly to counties and municipalities through subgrants. In the absence of federal funding, the Wisconsin Elections Commission cannot provide any fiscal support to Wisconsin counties or municipalities.

When federal funds are allocated to the Commission, staff perform a deliberate process to analyze potential uses for the money, based on the agency's statutory responsibilities, federal requirements, and available resources. Staff first evaluate proposals that permit funds to be passed directly to Wisconsin counties and municipalities. This is consistent with the Commission's past practice of distributing most federal funds directly to counties and municipalities.

Figure 2. Subgrants Approved by the WEC 2018-2026

County & Municipal Subgrants Approved by the Wisconsin Elections Commission 2018-2026	**Funds Authorized**
2019 Election Security Subgrant for Municipalities	$1,100,000
2020 HTTPS Election Security Subgrant for Counties	$36,000
2020 Election Security Subgrant for Counties	$3,875,658
2020 Election Security Subgrant for Municipalities	$1,206,000
2022-23 Election Security .gov Domain Subgrant	$1,000,000
2022-23 Election Security .gov Domain Subgrant	$400,000
2023 Accessible Voting Equipment Subgrant for Municipalities	$350,000
2023 Envelope Redesign Subgrant	$600,000
2026 Elections Security Subgrant for Municipalities	$2,400,000
TOTAL	**$10,967,658**

Figure 3 Definitions.

Municipality Election Security Subgrant: The Municipality Election Security Subgrant sought to bring municipalities up to a baseline of security. The baseline included (1) an adequate computer to use on federal elections preparation, administration, and reconciliation, (2) information technology support to help the municipality keep the computer secure, and (3) election security training for the municipality's election officials. Depending on the specific needs of the municipality, funds were awarded for any or all those three deficiencies in the amounts, $600, $500, and $100. Since it was first introduced in early 2020, there have now been three iterations of this same subgrant program. In May 2026 the Commission renewed the Election Security Subgrant for the fourth time allowing municipalities to request up to $2,000.

Election Security .gov Subgrant: The .gov Election Security Subgrant was introduced in 2022 to help clerks in setting up a trusted .gov domain for secure email communications. Municipalities could receive $600 for eligible expenses related to establishing the domain. The reimbursement program was initially open until January 31, 2024, and was later extended by the commission in May 2024 to end December 1, 2025.

Accessible Voting Equipment Subgrant: Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (Public Law 117-328), the WEC was awarded additional federal funds to "improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements." Up to $350,000 of these funds were allocated through the 2023 Accessible Voting Equipment Subgrant Program to help municipalities upgrade or purchase new accessible voting equipment. Each jurisdiction could receive up to $750 under this program, with funding available until the allocated amount was exhausted. Jurisdictions qualified by purchasing approved equipment or related accessories designed to assist voters with disabilities. Approved devices included models like Clear Ballot ClearAccess, Dominion Voting ImageCast series, and ES&S ExpressVote systems. This grant played a crucial role in ensuring that voting is accessible for all citizens, particularly those with disabilities, by supporting the adoption of compliant, reliable, and accessible voting technologies.

Envelope Redesign Subgrant: Staff introduced the Envelope Redesign Subgrant to assist municipalities in adopting the updated absentee ballot envelope designs discussed in the previous section. To ease the financial burden on municipalities, the WEC allocated up to $600,000 in federal funds for this subgrant. Funding amounts were calculated based on each jurisdiction's voting-age population as of January 1, 2022, with a minimum award of $20. By supporting the adoption of these updated designs, the grant aimed to improve the reliability of absentee ballot processing and ensure compliance with election laws across the state.

The combination of limited funding, increasing demands, and aging equipment places Wisconsin's local officials in a difficult position. State and federal laws place extensive requirements on local election offices, yet state and federal governments provide very few resources to accomplish the requirements. The Wisconsin Elections Commission therefore asks the Legislature to address the increasing financial needs of Wisconsin's cities, villages, and towns.

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 4002 - Sustain Sub-Grant Programs for Local Election Offices

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$0	$0
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	$0	$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$0	$0
05	Fringe Benefits	$0	$0
06	Supplies and Services	$0	$0
07	Permanent Property	$0	$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$0**	**$0**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN): 4003 - Limited Term Employees and Temporary Services

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests that as an alternative to hiring permanent staff if DIN 4001 is not approved, to request $400,300 GPR in FY28 and $530,700 GPR in FY29 to offset the costs of hiring limited term employees, temporary services vendors, interagency agreements and paid staff overtime in lieu of permanent FTE to help administer elections.

DIN 4003 Issue Paper

Request funding for Limited Term Employees (LTEs), Temporary Services Providers, Interagency Agreements and Staff Overtime

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests that as an alternative to hiring permanent staff if DIN 4001 is not approved, to request $400,300 GPR in FY28 and $530,700 GPR in FY29 to offset the costs of hiring limited term employees, temporary services vendors, interagency agreements and paid staff overtime in lieu of permanent FTE to help administer elections.

Background

The agency has a staff of 25.75 GPR, 3.0 PR and 7.25 SEGF full-time employees, but needs additional, temporary staff given the enormity of administering and enforcing Wisconsin law pertaining to elections (Wisconsin Chapters 5-10 and 12), supporting Wisconsin's 1851 municipal clerks, 72 county clerks, and approximately 4.5 million eligible voters. Commission activities fit into four general functions: general administration; education, training and assistance of local election officials, candidates, and officeholders; voter education and outreach; and complaint resolution. Within these functional areas, the Commission implements legislative changes and initiatives, develops policy, issues formal opinions and guidance, promulgates administrative rules, prescribes procedures and forms, carries out investigations, and responds to inquiries from local election officials, candidates and the public.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission has repeatedly asked for permanent position authority in past biennia along with an LTE budget, but those requests have been denied, which has led the agency to use the temporary services non-IT contract with limited success.

Given that additional FTE have not been provided to account for the agency's growing responsibilities, LTE positions, temporary services vendors, interagency agreements with other state agencies, and staff overtime have become vital to the agency's ability to keep pace. LTE's, temporary services vendors, interagency agreements and staff overtime are the agency's only options to try and accomplish its statutory responsibilities without additional position authority. However, for the 2026 General Election, WEC was not able to enter into any interagency agreements due to agencies competing workloads.

In the last biennium the agency spent $416,800 on those services which are not currently funded.

Currently WEC has twelve LTEs. Two Elections Specialist positions (1) is held by a former municipal clerk and (2) by a former Elections Specialist that assists with elections support activities, voter outreach, and provides WisVote customer service support during the 2026 and 2028 elections cycle.

The agency has one public information officer consultant LTE who has retired from an impressive career in media, that assists the Communications Director with the review and analysis of proposed alternatives and strategies that effect WEC's policy and program objectives and stakeholders; develops strategies to obtain collaborative resolution on policy initiatives; and helps to develop and coordinate the agency's public education information program.

The agency also has two attorney LTE positions to provide legal advice on the application of elections laws to the Commission and staff along with authoritative advice and information to candidates, state and local election officials, state public officials and the general public. They also prepare legal opinions, enforcement orders and administrative rules. In addition, one attorney represents and supports the agency in all relevant litigation matters.

The agency also has two paralegal intern LTEs to assist staff counsel during the 2026 elections cycle, preparing documentation and organizing case material for litigation and administrative hearings, tracking complaints, and providing administrative support in the resolution of complaints as well as assisting with records management. The people hired into these positions have typically been third-year law students, or recent law school graduates who are able to assist with the substantive drafting of documents under the direct supervision of WEC attorneys.

The agency also has five Help Desk LTEs to provide customer service support during the 2026 elections cycle by assisting local officials with WisVote system questions, general troubleshooting, generate logon IDs and passwords for users of the WisVote system and for Elect Ed, our online learning center. They also play a pivotal role in assisting with address standardization review and updating, address clean up and refinement, ward map & parcel boundary review and reviewing address exceptions and warnings.

Limited term employees are allowed to work a maximum of 1039 hours per calendar year; are only paid when in work status; and do not receive fringe benefits or paid time off. The number of hours worked would not exceed 1039 hours annually and might be less dependent upon workload volume. These positions are often more appealing to retired professionals or new graduates who bring valuable skills but may not be looking for full-time employment or to work through a temporary services provider.

<u>Issue</u>

Administering secure, transparent elections is a demanding, year-round responsibility. However, despite remaining one of the state's smallest agencies, our workload has surged driven by election-related litigation, evolving security needs, and expanding our training mechanisms.

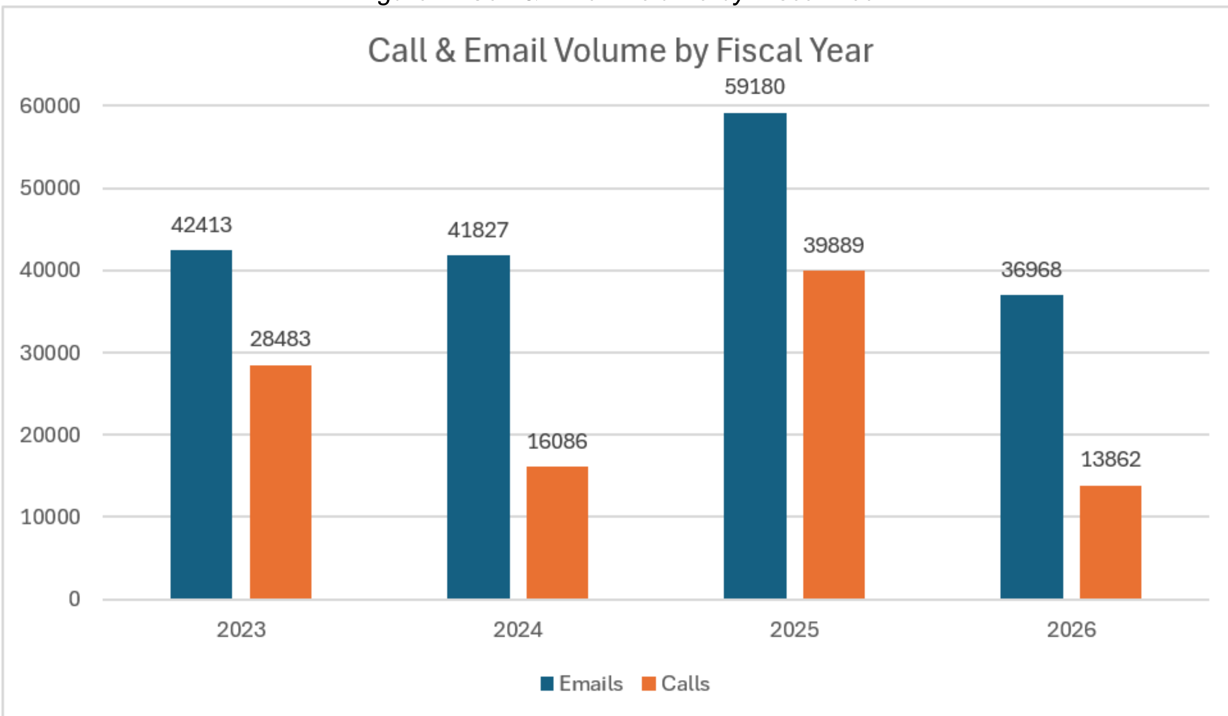
To meet election deadlines and uphold statutory duties, our existing staff has stepped up by taking on overtime. Securing additional funding for permanent staff is essential to continue our partnerships with municipal clerks, state and federal partners. Without additional FTE the agency must rely on hiring limited term employees and temporary services vendors to help administer elections.

Elections in Wisconsin are conducted by 1,922 local clerks at the town, village, city and county levels. Commission staff provide education, training, and administrative and technical support to local election officials, on both a cyclical and daily basis.

Ongoing support to local clerks includes review of ballot formats, providing election forms, and answering inquiries regarding voting equipment and election procedures, as well as completing tasks in WisVote such as printing poll books, tracking ballot issuance and voter participation, updating voter registration records; maintaining candidate lists and polling place locations, and producing various reports for clerks. Local election officials rely on the WisVote application and Agency staff support to conduct all federal, state and local elections, with a very small staff.

Referenced on the table below are the number of telephone calls and emails the agency fields on an annual basis. During critical peak times it is difficult to provide timely guidance and support to local election officials.

Figure 1. Call & Email Volume by Fiscal Year



<u>Conclusion</u>

The approval for funding of these LTE positions, temporary services vendors, interagency agreements and paid staff overtime should Decision Item # 4001 not be approved is critical to the Wisconsin Elections Commission's efforts to maintain the state's elections security infrastructure. These positions support our 1,922 local elections officials who have varying levels of resources and technological abilities with training and guidance to ensure they can effectively administer elections in a secure manner.

Without permanent position authority the agency must rely on LTEs, temporary services staff, interagency agreements and staff overtime to address real-time concerns and implement immediate solutions during the administration of four statewide elections in even number years. In odd number years these positions lay important groundwork for elections security like development of training and implementation of data backups and monitoring while supporting two statewide elections. These positions are critically important for the sustained success of Wisconsin elections and the continued support of Wisconsin's 1,922 local election officials who administer elections on the ground level.

Figure 2. Estimated Program Costs for Services outside of Permanent FTE staff

Program Costs	FY28	FY29	TOTAL FY28 & FY29
12 LTEs/Salary and Fringe	$371,700	$371,700	$743,400
Temporary Services Vendors	$1,200	$72,100	$73,300
FTE Staff Overtime	$27,400	$65,300	$92,700
Interagency Agreements	$0	$21,600	$21,600
	$400,300	**$530,700**	**$931,000**

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 4003 - Limited Term Employees and Temporary Services

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$0	$0
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	$0	$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$345,300	$345,300
05	Fringe Benefits	$26,400	$26,400
06	Supplies and Services	$28,600	$159,000
07	Permanent Property	$0	$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$400,300**	**$530,700**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

Decision Item (DIN): 4003 - Limited Term Employees and Temporary Services

Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
01 - General program ops; GPR	$400,300	$530,700	0.00	0.00
Program Sub Total	**$400,300**	**$530,700**	**0.00**	**0.00**
DIN 4003 - Limited Term Employees and Temporary Services Total	**$400,300**	**$530,700**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total	**$400,300**	**$530,700**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item by Fund Source

Decision Item (DIN): 4003 - Limited Term Employees and Temporary Services

Source of Funds	Type	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
GPR	S	$400,300	$530,700	0.00	0.00
DIN 4003 - Limited Term Employees and Temporary Services Total		**$400,300**	**$530,700**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total		**$400,300**	**$530,700**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item (DIN): 4004 - Statutory Language Change and Biennial Appropriation

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests a statutory language change to Wis. Stat. Sec. 20.510 (1)(c) and for the appropriation to become a biennial appropriation.

DIN 4004- Issue Paper

Statutory Language Change and Biennial Appropriation

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests a statutory language change to Wis. Stat. Sec. 20.510 (1)(c) and for the appropriation to become a biennial appropriation.

The current appropriation reads:

20.510 (1)(c) *Voter identification training.* The amounts in the schedule for training of county and municipal clerks concerning voter identification requirements provided in 2011 Wisconsin Act 23.

The new proposed language would read:

20.510 (1)(c) *County and Municipal Clerk training.* The amounts in the schedule for training of county and municipal clerks concerning the administration of elections as outlined in Wis.Stats. Chapters 5-10 and 12.

Issue

The current statutory language limits the Wisconsin Elections Commission's ability to spend funds provided in this appropriation on anything besides voter identification training. The voter ID law has been in effect for more than ten years, and photo ID training is rarely standalone training. Voter ID training is incorporated into many training programs developed and conducted by WEC. The existing statutory language makes these funds very difficult to access and utilize, and funds go unspent because they cannot be used for training on other topics. The statutory language change would allow WEC to continue incorporating voter ID training into all types of training for county and municipal clerks.

Along with the language change it would be beneficial to make this appropriation a biennial appropriation so that the agency has more flexibility to use the funds over a biennium to provide additional clerk training.

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 4004 - Statutory Language Change and Biennial Appropriation

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$0	$0
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	$0	$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$0	$0
05	Fringe Benefits	$0	$0
06	Supplies and Services	$0	$0
07	Permanent Property	$0	$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$0**	**$0**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN): 4005 - Funding for Software to Track Election Related Questions, Comments and Concerns

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests an annual increase of $28,000 GPR and $28,000 SEG-F in its base funding for the cost of communication-management software to track election related questions, comments and concerns for the 2027-2029 biennium.

DIN 4005 – Issue Paper
Funding for Software to Track Election Related Questions, Comments and Concerns

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests an annual increase of $28,000 GPR and $28,000 SEG-F in its base funding for the cost of communication-management software to track election related questions, comments and concerns for the 2027-2029 biennium.

Background

Commission staff had previously managed external communication responsibility using antiquated email routing and transferred phone calls to different subject area experts in the agency. WEC HelpDesk support skyrocketed in 2020 in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, pending lawsuits, and the demand for absentee by mail voting. Past processes required staff to manage voters, clerks and other customer contacts through the same, largely manual processes used for internal agency work.

In the 2021 Legislative Audit Bureau Report on Election Administration, it was recommended that the agency use software to track election-related questions, comments, and concerns more accurately. In adherence to this recommendation, the Wisconsin Elections Commission purchased a subscription to use Zendesk in June of 2021. Zendesk is a customer service web portal that collects, classifies, routes and tracks customer contacts and allows emails to be grouped into categories for ease of distribution of the incoming emails.

Zendesk provides these benefits:

- Improved efficiency routing contacts to available subject matter experts
- Tracking of contacts from initial outreach to resolution
- Consistent, standardized responses for common inquiries
- Data analytics to identify trends in contacts, turn-around time, etc.
- Automation of the processes above to ensure prompt, accurate service.

Issue

The current environment of high demand for WEC services requires a consistent source of trusted information for elections related questions. In the 2021 Legislative Audit Bureau Report on Election Administration, it was recommended that the agency use communication-management software to track election-related questions, comments, and concerns more accurately. The Legislative Audit Bureau's recommendation for this software had not been supported with funds included in the agency's base budget.

Continuing to leverage automation through Zendesk is crucial for enhancing operational efficiency, especially if the Commission faces future challenges in retaining temporary, project-based, or limited-term staff, who currently represent a significant portion of our workforce. Beyond improving service quality, a comprehensive customer support system like Zendesk ensures that every email contact is meticulously tracked. Zendesk assigns a unique ID to each customer request, records, edit histories by user, and allows staff to manage emails based on their current workload. Additionally, resolved requests are moved to a separate section, preventing duplicate responses and enabling staff to focus on unresolved issues.

Since transitioning the HelpDesk email inbox to Zendesk in January 2023, staff have processed over 165,998 incoming requests. These contacts include standard voter inquiries, requests for assistance navigating the MyVote website, questions from clerks concerning processes in WisVote and election administration, open records requests, subgrant applications, comments to the Commission, and media contacts.

Zendesk's robust toolset assists staff in managing the high volume of contacts. Emails are automatically routed using "triggers" based on specific keywords and phrases, ensuring they reach the appropriate team. When automation cannot determine the correct routing, WEC Helpdesk Staff assign emails. Additionally, "macros" provide standardized responses to common questions, which can be customized within individual emails to address specific situations or updated to reflect changes in statutes or policies. These functions provide efficiencies the agency lacked in a manual routing process.

On June 12, 2026, the agency renewed Zendesk at an annual cost of approximately $56,000, funded 50% by federal funds and 50% by GPR funds.

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 4005 - Funding for Software to Track Election Related Questions, Comments and Concerns

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$0	$0
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	$0	$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$0	$0
05	Fringe Benefits	$0	$0
06	Supplies and Services	$56,000	$56,000
07	Permanent Property	$0	$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$56,000**	**$56,000**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

Decision Item (DIN): 4005 - Funding for Software to Track Election Related Questions, Comments and Concerns

Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
01 - General program ops; GPR	$28,000	$28,000	0.00	0.00
82 - Elections Security	$28,000	$28,000	0.00	0.00
Program Sub Total	**$56,000**	**$56,000**	**0.00**	**0.00**
DIN 4005 - Funding for Software to Track Election Related Questions, Comments and Concerns Total	**$56,000**	**$56,000**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total	**$56,000**	**$56,000**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item by Fund Source

Decision Item (DIN): 4005 - Funding for Software to Track Election Related Questions, Comments and Concerns

Source of Funds	Type	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
GPR	S	$28,000	$28,000	0.00	0.00
SEG Federal	S	$28,000	$28,000	0.00	0.00
DIN 4005 - Funding for Software to Track Election Related Questions, Comments and Concerns Total		**$56,000**	**$56,000**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total		**$56,000**	**$56,000**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item (DIN): 4006 - Funding for Address Validation and Geocoding Services

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests an increase of $28,000 GPR annually in its base funding to maintain three distinct Geographic Information System (GIS) programs that address these challenges: Smarty (formerly known as Smarty Streets) address validation, Google Maps Platform application programming interface (API), and ArcGIS mapping software.

DIN 4006– Issue Paper
Funding for Address Validation and Geocoding Services

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests an increase of $28,000 GPR annually in its base funding to maintain three distinct Geographic Information System (GIS) programs that address these challenges: Smarty (formerly known as SmartyStreets) address validation, Google Maps Platform application programming interface (API), and ArcGIS mapping software.

Background

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 636, local election officials in Wisconsin are required to enter all voter information into WisVote, the statewide voter registration system. Geocoding, the process of converting a physical address into precise geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude), plays a crucial role in this system, by linking voter addresses to specific voting districts, ensuring that voters are getting the correct ballot style based on where they live. Given the state's decentralized election structure, where numerous local clerks across Wisconsin have direct access to WisVote, it is essential that geocoding is done accurately to avoid errors in district assignments. Inconsistent data entry by various users increases the risk of errors, which could lead to incorrect district placements. To maintain the accuracy and reliability of voter district assignments, a robust geocoding service is necessary to standardize addresses and ensure precise geolocation within the WisVote system.

Wisconsin was among the first in the country to implement geocoding for all voter addresses. This method represents a significant improvement over the traditional use of street lists, which consist of essentially long tables linked streets and house number blocks to election districts. These lists were cumbersome, particularly in areas with complex district boundaries, and prone to errors during updates and redistricting.

Geocoding provides a more flexible and accurate approach, especially beneficial during the decennial redistricting process. By associating voter address with precise geographic coordinates, geocoding simplifies the redistricting process making it more efficient and less error prone. This ensures voters are correctly assigned to their respective districts and wards, reducing the risk of misallocation and potential for legal challenges.

However, maintaining this system requires precisely locating every new address entered in WisVote, including those added by new voters registering online through our voter-facing portal MyVote. This process is complicated by the inconsistency in how users enter addresses – some use abbreviations, while others do not; some vary on street prefixes or even use different names for the same streets. These inconsistencies create challenges in ensuring that every address is accurately geocoded and correctly assigned to the proper district.

In addition to needing the geographic locations of the addresses to be correct and formatted well, there is also the need to ensure that the district information itself is correct and up to date. Districts can frequently change because of annexations and school district changes, so it is essential to have mapping software that allows staff to make those changes prior to each election. This is especially important during the redistricting process, when many of the districts are completely redrawn at the local and state level. These need to be implemented properly in WisVote with minimal errors and modern software is required to handle that work.

Issue

Wisconsin must ensure that voters only register with proper addresses, validated and geocoded to precise geographic coordinates. Those voters must then be correctly affiliated with their sometimes-evolving voting districts and wards. Our adherence to address accuracy will continue the data integrity of Wisconsin's statewide voter registration system, WisVote.

Funding dedicated to Election Security GIS address validation and geocoded is essential to deliver data accuracy. For precise map data utilized in WisVote by all Wisconsin's municipal and county clerks, Wisconsin requires three GIS programs concurrently: the address validation and geocoding service SmartyStreets, Google Maps Platform application programming interface (API), and ArcGIS mapping software. These three programs cost $16,000, $5,000, and $7,000 respectfully, totaling $28,000 annually.

These three GIS programs maintain the accuracy of the addresses in Wisconsin's voter registration system. SmartyStreets standardizes inconsistent user inputs, converting them into a uniform address format. ArcGIS geocoding and Google Maps API provide the corresponding geographic coordinates and allow them to be placed on the maps. This significantly reduces the need for manual labor with its inherent manual mistakes and allows Wisconsin to deliver efficient and more accurate services to voters who are correctly placed within their respective districts and wards. Finally, up to date GIS software allows for the voting districts to be updated when those changes arise with a high level of accuracy. Despite these crucial benefits, GIS is currently excluded from the agency's base funding.

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 4006 - Funding for Address Validation and Geocoding Services

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$0	$0
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	$0	$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$0	$0
05	Fringe Benefits	$0	$0
06	Supplies and Services	$28,000	$28,000
07	Permanent Property	$0	$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$28,000**	**$28,000**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

Decision Item (DIN): 4006 - Funding for Address Validation and Geocoding Services

Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
01 - General program ops; GPR	$28,000	$28,000	0.00	0.00
Program Sub Total	**$28,000**	**$28,000**	**0.00**	**0.00**
DIN 4006 - Funding for Address Validation and Geocoding Services Total	**$28,000**	**$28,000**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total	**$28,000**	**$28,000**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item by Fund Source

Decision Item (DIN): 4006 - Funding for Address Validation and Geocoding Services

Source of Funds	Type	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
GPR	S	$28,000	$28,000	0.00	0.00
DIN 4006 - Funding for Address Validation and Geocoding Services Total		**$28,000**	**$28,000**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total		**$28,000**	**$28,000**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item (DIN): 4007 - Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) requests an $89,000 increase in expenditure authority in the first year of the biennium and a $5,000 increase in expenditure authority in the second year of the biennium from the agency's Materials and Services appropriation under s. 20.510(1)(h), supplies and services line.

DIN 4007 – Issue Paper
Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) requests an $89,000 increase in expenditure authority in the first year of the biennium and a $5,000 increase in expenditure authority in the second year of the biennium from the agency's Materials and Services appropriation under s. 20.510(1)(h), supplies and services line.

Those funds would be used to:
- Host a biennial clerks' conference in the first year of the biennium, as described by this appropriation; and
- Offset the increased annual costs of record maintenance, managing the compilation and dissemination of commission materials and information, and of supplies, postage, and shipping.

The current $25,000 PR appropriation balance and collected future conference registration fees, as authorized by state statute, will fully fund this requested increase in expenditure authority. No additional funds are being requested.

Background

As defined by Wis. Stat. §20.510(1)(h)1, the Materials and Services appropriation provides "The amounts in the schedule for the costs of publishing documents, locating and copying records, and conducting administrative meetings and conferences, for compiling, disseminating, and making available information prepared by and filed with the commission, and for supplies, postage, and shipping. All moneys received by the commission from collections for sales of publications, for copies of records, for supplies, for postage, for shipping and records location fees, and for charges assessed to participants in administrative meetings and conferences, except moneys received from requesters from sales of copies of the official registration list, shall be credited to this appropriation account."

On December 11, 2024, the WEC Conference Team conducted a survey to assess interest and gather feedback regarding the WEC hosting a conference in the fall of 2025. The survey was distributed to the municipal and county clerk's email list and received 607 responses. All 72 counties were represented in the responses, providing a broad perspective on the needs and preferences of clerks across the state. The survey results informed key decisions about event production, structure, and content, ensuring the conference would address the most pressing needs of its intended audience.

Key factors influencing attendance included budget limitations, which guided the decision to keep registration fees affordable for smaller municipalities, and concerns about distance and location, leading to the selection of a central venue. Respondents also highlighted the importance of specific accommodation, such as meals included with registration and group discounts for lodging, which were incorporated into planning efforts. Additionally, clerks ranked seven core thematic topics based on their interests, which shaped the development of the preliminary conference curriculum. These findings played an integral role in creating an accessible, well-structured event tailored to the needs of Wisconsin clerks.

To maximize attendance, staff identified several geographically central locations throughout the state that included the infrastructure for large gatherings. Ultimately, the Central Wisconsin Expo & Convention Center in Rothschild was selected.

The schedule for the conference was determined by staff with consideration to standard best practice in conference structure, how much content to provide, and which content needed to be presented to the whole group as opposed to presented to smaller groups through a self-selection process. The topics identified through the survey and by staff were election security, absentee voting, election law, hands-on WisVote training, new clerks class, the election cycle, advanced Badger Books, and accessibility. Pursuant to authority granted to the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) by s. 5.05(7), the WEC held its first in-person training conference for municipal and county clerks on September 30, 2025-October 1, 2025. The total cost of the conference including the rental of the Expo Center with room and A/V setup, presenters and interpreters, catering, service fees, attendee consumables, participant materials and staff travel was approximately $68,755, which was partially paid for by attendance fees. Those fees were determined using data from the survey, and an effort to keep the costs low to encourage attendance.

There were three windows with the attendance fee per person increasing after each window closed.

- Window 1 ($95)
- Window 2 ($105)
- Window 3 ($125)

472 clerk participants attended the 2025 conference and paid $45,470 in conference registration fees.

Issue

In September 2025, the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) hosted its first semi-annual clerks' conference and received high praise for the quality of this comprehensive training conference. Per our clerks' requests, WEC would like to provide future in-person clerk training conferences but lack the budget authority to expend any conference registration fees received.

Secondly, although WEC has funds in this appropriation, those funds continue unused because of lacking budget authority to spend those PR funds. Currently, the Wisconsin Elections Commission spending authority in its 20.510(1)(h) Materials and Services appropriation is $1,000 annually. The current fund balance is approximately $25,000.

If given budget authority to utilize, the $25,000 Materials and Services appropriation balance, it will offset the increased annual costs of record maintenance, managing the compilation and dissemination of commission materials and information, and of supplies, postage, and shipping.

Concerning participant fee revenue, we are anticipating an increased number of conference participants and an increased registration fee, possibly around $145 per participant. The final participant registration fee will be determined closer to the conference when approximate attendance and approximate costs are better known. However, the data known today forecasts WEC collecting $80,000-$90,000 into this appropriation from the conference registration fees paid by local election officials participating in the FY28 conference. This increased registration fee revenue will fund the cost of hosting and will expand in parallel with more participants. WEC is not requesting any additional funds, we are simply asking to utilize the fees collected from local elections officials for the conference as authorized by state statute.

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 4007 - Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$0	$0
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	$0	$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$0	$0
05	Fringe Benefits	$0	$0
06	Supplies and Services	$89,000	$5,000
07	Permanent Property	$0	$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$89,000**	**$5,000**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

Decision Item (DIN): 4007 - Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation

Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
21 - Materials and services	$89,000	$5,000	0.00	0.00
Program Sub Total	**$89,000**	**$5,000**	**0.00**	**0.00**
DIN 4007 - Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation Total	**$89,000**	**$5,000**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total	**$89,000**	**$5,000**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item by Fund Source

Decision Item (DIN): 4007 - Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation

Source of Funds	Type	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
PR	S	$89,000	$5,000	0.00	0.00
DIN 4007 - Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation Total		**$89,000**	**$5,000**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total		**$89,000**	**$5,000**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item (DIN): 4008 - Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) requests $81,300 GPR in its base funding for Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) Eligible but Unregistered Mailing/Voter Outreach to remain in compliance with Wis. Stat. §6.36(1)(ae)1,2 for the 2027-29 biennium.

DIN 4008 – Issue Paper
Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) requests $81,300 GPR in its base funding for Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) Eligible but Unregistered Mailing/Voter Outreach to remain in compliance with Wis. Stat. §6.36(1) (ae)1,2 for the 2027-29 biennium.

Background

ERIC is a consortium of states that shares data to improve the quality of voter registration databases. Under Wis. Stat. §6.36(1) (ae)1,2 the Wisconsin Elections Commission is required to join ERIC.

Membership in ERIC is not only required by Wisconsin law but is crucial to maintaining accurate voter rolls. Member states pay annual membership dues and agree to share their driver license and voter registration databases. The data from all states is compared and member states are provided reports to identify voters who may have moved, voters who may have died, duplicate voter records, and voters who appear to be eligible to vote but are not registered. This information is then used by local election officials to conduct regular voter list maintenance. If Wisconsin was not a member of ERIC, local election officials would not have access to information about voters who have moved out of state, died out of state, or who have a duplicate voter record out of state.

The ERIC membership agreement also requires states to contact voters who have been identified by ERIC as being eligible to vote but are not yet registered to vote. This mailing must be done once every two years, ahead of the fall General Election. Historically, this has been accomplished by mailing a postcard to voters who are identified as eligible to vote but are unregistered. The postcard does not automatically register a voter or even provide them with a registration form but simply points them to WEC's website for more information about their options to register. Due to the current lack of funding for this statutorily required service, in 2024 the six-member Wisconsin Elections Commission asked the ERIC board of directors- made up of other member states to approve an exemption from the Eligible but Unregistered (EBU) mailing. The exemption was granted, meaning WEC is not required to send an EBU mailer, but WEC is required to still conduct voter outreach to educate Wisconsin voters about opportunities to register to vote.

In 2026, WEC will conduct this required outreach, with an emphasis on providing consistent information to all Wisconsin voters, in all areas of the state. WEC felt requesting an exemption was fiscally prudent as it allows the state to more consistently reach all Wisconsin voters, not just those who are eligible but unregistered, while also saving approximately $30,000, which was needed to offset the agencies other unfunded ERIC related costs.

In the 2019-21 Enacted Budget (Wisconsin Act 9) $33,100 was approved in the agency's base budget for annual ERIC membership dues and $141,300 for the annual ERIC Movers mailing.

In the agency's 2025-2027 biennial budget request it asked for $37,700 to fund the increase in ERIC annual membership dues and $81,300 for voter outreach. On June 27, 2025, the Joint Committee on Finance Omnibus Motion 71 passed approving $37,700 in the agency's base budget for the increase in ERIC dues.

Issue

Currently, the Elections Commission budget for ERIC expenses is only partially funded. The ERIC membership agreement requires states to contact voters who have been identified by ERIC as being eligible to vote but are not yet registered to vote. This mailing must be done once every two years, ahead of the fall General Election. Historically, the cost of this mailing was more than $100,000. In 2024 the WEC was granted exemption by ERIC from the requirement to mail postcards, but under the ERIC agreement, and thereby under Wisconsin law, WEC is still required to conduct outreach to voters. However, the exemption gives WEC some flexibility and cost savings in conducting the required outreach.

Costs requested for ERIC are as follows:

Item	FY28	FY29	TOTAL for FY28 & FY29
Eligible but Unregistered Mailing/Voter Outreach	$0	$81,300	$81,300
TOTAL COST	$0	$81,300	$81,300

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 4008 - Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$0	$0
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	$0	$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$0	$0
05	Fringe Benefits	$0	$0
06	Supplies and Services	$0	$81,300
07	Permanent Property	$0	$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$0**	**$81,300**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

Decision Item (DIN): 4008 - Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
01 - General program ops; GPR	$0	$81,300	0.00	0.00
Program Sub Total	**$0**	**$81,300**	**0.00**	**0.00**
DIN 4008 - Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) Total	**$0**	**$81,300**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total	**$0**	**$81,300**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item by Fund Source

Decision Item (DIN): 4008 - Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

Source of Funds	Type	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
GPR	S	$0	$81,300	0.00	0.00
DIN 4008 - Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) Total		**$0**	**$81,300**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total		**$0**	**$81,300**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item (DIN): 4009 - Funding for Commissioner Per Diems and Meeting Expenses

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests $13,800 GPR annually in expenditure authority, in its base funding for the cost of fifteen Commission meetings annually (4 in-person and 11 via zoom) and all other costs associated with conducting a meeting which includes Commissioner Per Diems, travel, meals and materials for the 2027-29 Biennium.

Funding for Commissioner Per Diems and Meeting Expenses

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests $13,800 GPR annually in expenditure authority, in its base funding for the cost of fifteen Commission meetings annually (4 in-person and 11 via zoom) and all other costs associated with conducting a meeting which includes Commissioner Per Diems, travel, meals and materials for the 2027-29 Biennium.

Background

Under Wis. Stat. §15.06(10), A member of the elections commission and a member of the ethics commission shall receive a per diem of $115 for each day on which a member attends or participates by audio or video conference call in a meeting of the member's commission.

Issue

The Wisconsin Elections Commission budget for Commissioner per diem is $2,400 annually which covers approximately 3 meetings per year (6 commissioners x 3 meetings x $115 per diem= $2,070). This covers the per diem pay only, not in-person travel expenses or services and supplies for assembling and shipping thousands of staff-created meeting material pages to each Commissioner prior to each meeting. Over the biennium, by state statute, the Commission is required to meet at least quarterly, meaning that if the Commission only met the required four times, the cost would be $2,760 + parking, travel, and material costs.

Contrast the three meetings per diems with the true frequency of Commissioner meetings over the past two biennium:

Figure 1. Annual Costs for Elections Commission Meetings

Fiscal Year	# Meetings	Per Diem cost per mtg	Cost to print materials	Cost to mail materials	Travel Costs	Meals	Total Annual Cost
*FY23	21	$14,490	$383	$1,439	$378	$159	**$16,466**
FY24	20	$13,800	$1,228	$2,558	$1,645	$597	**$18,600**
FY25	**15**	**$10,350**	$1,692	$1,961	$2,967	$1,310	**$16,588**
FY26	19	$13,110	$2,636	$3,208	$3,078	$973	**$20,369**

**Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic the Commission only met in person one time in FY23*

The Commission does try to mitigate these expenses by holding many meetings virtually, but state law requires at least four in-person meetings per year. Estimating the need for 15 annual Commission meetings translates into a need for $10,350 in per diems + $2,150 for travel/meals for the statutorily required four in-person meetings annually + $3,600 for printing and mailing costs. With an adjusted base budget of $2,400 annually, this presents a need to increase by $13,800 GPR in FY28 and $13,800 in FY29.

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 4009 - Funding for Commissioner Per Diems and Meeting Expenses

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$0	$0
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	$0	$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$8,000	$8,000
05	Fringe Benefits	$0	$0
06	Supplies and Services	$5,800	$5,800
07	Permanent Property	$0	$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$13,800**	**$13,800**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

Decision Item (DIN): 4009 - Funding for Commissioner Per Diems and Meeting Expenses

Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
01 - General program ops; GPR	$13,800	$13,800	0.00	0.00
Program Sub Total	**$13,800**	**$13,800**	**0.00**	**0.00**
DIN 4009 - Funding for Commissioner Per Diems and Meeting Expenses Total	**$13,800**	**$13,800**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total	**$13,800**	**$13,800**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item by Fund Source

Decision Item (DIN): 4009 - Funding for Commissioner Per Diems and Meeting Expenses

Source of Funds	Type	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
GPR	S	$13,800	$13,800	0.00	0.00
DIN 4009 - Funding for Commissioner Per Diems and Meeting Expenses Total		**$13,800**	**$13,800**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total		**$13,800**	**$13,800**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item (DIN): 7901 - Funding for the Statewide Voter Registration System Upgrade to WisVote 2.0

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests an increase in spending authority of $1,875,300 PR in FY28 and $1,875,300 PR in FY29 for the Modernization of the statewide voter registration system WisVote.

DIN 7901– Issue Paper
Funding for the Statewide Voter Registration System Upgrade to WisVote 2.0

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests an increase in spending authority of $1,875,300 PR in FY28 and $1,875,300 PR in FY29 to modernize WisVote, Wisconsin's statewide voter registration system, ensuring the system remains secure, supported, and resilient as the existing technology approaches the end of vendor support.

Background

Since January 2016, Wisconsin election officials have relied on WisVote, the statewide voter registration system developed by Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) staff. WisVote supports more than 2,500 election officials across Wisconsin and serves as the operational foundation for voter registration, absentee ballot processing, election participation history, poll book generation, election reconciliation, and numerous other statutory election administration functions. WisVote also powers MyVote Wisconsin, enabling voters to register to vote, request absentee ballots, and update voter information online.

Maintaining a secure and reliable statewide voter registration system is a federal and state statutory responsibility of the WEC. Section 303 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), requires states to maintain a single, uniform, official, centralized, and interactive computerized statewide voter registration list and establishes requirements for its security, accuracy, accessibility, and coordination with other state agency data. Wisconsin implements these requirements through Wis. Stat 5.05(15) and 6.34(1)(a), which make the commission responsible for the design and maintenance of the official registration list and require the WEC to compile and maintain the list electronically for use in Wisconsin elections. WisVote is the system where WEC fulfills these federal and state responsibilities, making the continued security, reliability, support capabilities, and maintenance of the system an ongoing statutory obligation rather than just a discretionary technological investment.

WisVote was developed using Microsoft's Dynamics Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform. In June 2024, Microsoft announced it would end support for the Dynamics on-premises platform in January 2027, with extended support ending in January 2029. Because WisVote is the technology platform used to maintain Wisconsin's official statewide voter registration database, continued reliance on technology after vendor support expires would present a significant cybersecurity and operational risk. Unsupported technology no longer receives the same vendor-provided security updates, fixes, and technical support necessary to address newly identified vulnerabilities and maintain a secure enterprise environment.

Modernizing WisVote is therefore not simply a technology upgrade; it is a necessary cybersecurity measure to ensure WEC can continue to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of Wisconsin's statewide voter registration database as the technology supporting the current system approaches the end of vendor support. This modernization is also consistent with State cybersecurity standards, including the Department of Administrations (DOA) new Flaw Remediation (SI-2) standard, which establishes requirements for addressing unsupported or unpatchable technology and requires agencies to maintain a defined path toward remediation, modernization, replacement, retirement, or decommissioning when systems cannot meet required security remediation timeframes. Completing the transition before Dynamics reaches end of life allows WEC to proactively address the cybersecurity risks associated with unsupported technology and maintain the strong security posture of the statewide voter registration system.

Unlike a traditional software upgrade, WisVote 2.0 is a complete rebuild of the application's user interface and supporting architecture while preserving the business functionality relied upon by Wisconsin election officials. The project positions the Commission to more effectively respond to future legislative changes, improve the user experience, strengthen system security, and provide a modern technology foundation capable of supporting election administration for years to come. This approach makes greater use of existing State investments and expertise while improving the long-term security, supportability, and fiscal sustainability of the statewide voter registration system.

<u>Issue</u>

WisVote, Wisconsin's statewide voter registration system, is approaching the end of Microsoft platform support. WEC must complete the transition to WisVote 2.0 before extended support expires in January 2029 to avoid the cybersecurity, operational, and supportability risks associated with unsupported technology, while continuing to securely operate and maintain the existing system through the 2028 presidential election cycle.

WisVote 2.0 will provide a modern, supportable application architecture that enables WEC to continue protecting Wisconsin's statewide voter registration database as technology and cybersecurity threats evolve.

Implementation Funding

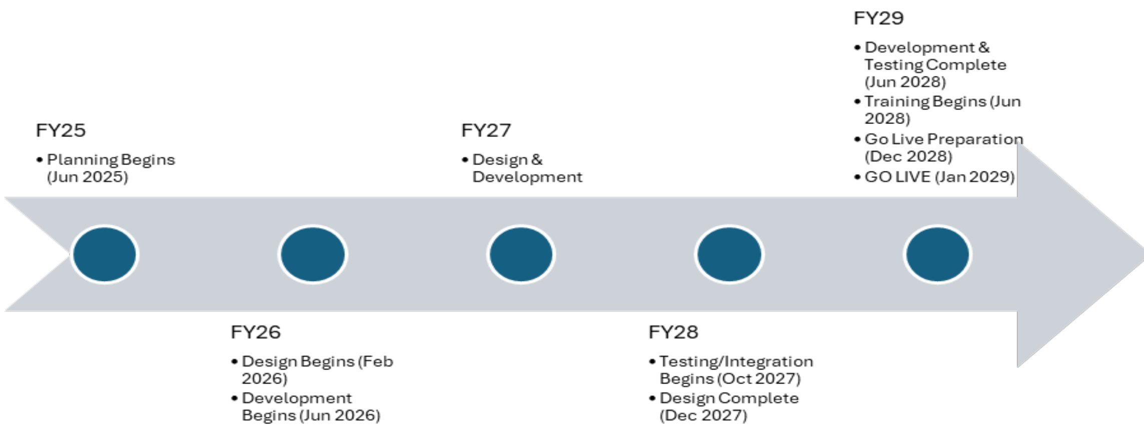
Implementation of WisVote 2.0 requires funding beyond core software development to ensure the system is thoroughly tested, secure, and ready for statewide deployment. In addition to increasing staff capacity, funding will support specialized vendor services, technical infrastructure, and implementation activities necessary to reduce project risk and ensure a successful transition for Wisconsin election officials.

Implementation funding will support independent load and performance testing, penetration testing and security assessments, automated regression testing, additional development and testing infrastructure, user acceptance testing, development of training materials and user documentation, and statewide deployment planning and implementation support of the WisVote 2.0 system. Under the current Dynamics model, WEC relies in part on Microsoft's security testing, certifications, updates, and other assurances for the underlying Dynamics product while WEC remains responsible for securing and maintaining its implementation and supporting environment. With WisVote 2.0, WEC will assume greater responsibility for validating and maintaining the security of the custom-built application itself, requiring the Commission to establish and sustain these capabilities directly.

These activities are essential to validating system performance under election workloads, preserving existing functionality, carrying forward and strengthening the protections that safeguard Wisconsin's voter registration data, and preparing more than 2,500 election officials to successfully transition to WisVote 2.0. These investments will also support the State's NIST-based cybersecurity framework by incorporating security testing, vulnerability identification, and risk management throughout the system's lifecycle rather than relying solely on point-in-time security assessments, allowing WEC to continuously evaluate and respond to vulnerabilities as technologies and cybersecurity threats evolve.

WisVote 2.0 will be developed and implemented through a phased approach that allows WEC to modernize the system while maintaining uninterrupted election operations. The project progresses from planning and design through development, testing, training, and statewide implementation, with the existing WisVote system remaining fully operational until the new application has been successfully tested and deployed. The following timeline identifies the major project phases and anticipated start and end dates.

Figure 1: Project Phases for WisVote 2.0



Maintaining Current Operations During Modernization

Development of WisVote 2.0 does not eliminate the Commission's responsibility to maintain the current WisVote system. Throughout design, development, testing, and implementation, the existing application will remain the official statewide voter registration system supporting every election conducted in Wisconsin. As a result, the Commission must continue providing routine system maintenance, legislative updates, bug fixes, security monitoring, performance monitoring, user support, and operational improvements to the current production environment while simultaneously developing and preparing WisVote 2.0 for deployment.

Accordingly, the resources required for WisVote 2.0 are in addition to, rather than a replacement for, the operational funding necessary to maintain the current system. During this transition period, Commission staff will be responsible for supporting two parallel environments, ensuring uninterrupted election operations on the existing platform while designing, testing, and implementing WisVote 2.0. Existing operational funding cannot be redirected to the modernization effort while the current system remains in production.

This implementation timeline coincides with the 2028 presidential election cycle, when WisVote experiences the highest transaction volumes, greatest system utilization, and the largest demand for technical and operational support. During this time, the Commission must continue to maintain the reliability and security of the existing production system while simultaneously completing testing, training, deployment, and implementation activities for WisVote 2.0. Successfully supporting both efforts is essential to ensuring uninterrupted election operations while minimizing implementation risk during Wisconsin's busiest election cycle.

This temporary period of parallel operations is a standard practice for replacing mission-critical enterprise applications and is necessary to minimize operational risk while ensuring continuity of election administration.

The current WisVote system requires approximately $1.9 million annually to operate and maintain. As WisVote 2.0 moves from development into testing and implementation, certain costs will temporarily increase as the commission begins operating both the existing production system and the new .NET environment in tandem. By the later stages of development, IT contractor and server infrastructure costs will increase to support both environments while system testing, integration, security validation, and implementation activities are underway. Beginning in June 2028, WEC will also make a dedicated

WisVote 2.0 training environment available to local election officials, allowing clerks to gain hands-on experience with the new system while the existing WisVote application remains the official production environment. These overlapping costs are temporary but necessary to ensure WisVote 2.0 can be thoroughly tested, data integrated, secured, and used by election officials before the existing system is retired.

Operational Funding for WisVote 2.0

Following statewide implementation, WisVote 2.0 will require ongoing operational funding to support the long-term maintenance, security, monitoring, and continuous improvement of Wisconsin's statewide voter registration system. WEC has historically prioritized the security and availability of WisVote, and the transition to WisVote 2.0 provides an opportunity to build upon those existing protections with additional modern application lifecycle and cybersecurity capabilities.

Funding will support capabilities such as code and dependency analysis, vulnerability management, automated regression testing, application performance monitoring, routine load testing, penetration testing, and system monitoring through enterprise tools and services. Together, these investments will enable the Commission to identify issues earlier, improve software quality and system performance, and continue maintaining a secure, reliable, and resilient statewide voter registration system as technology and cybersecurity risks evolve.

The cybersecurity landscape also continues to evolve rapidly. Emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, are increasing the speed and scale at which vulnerabilities can be identified, tested, and potentially exploited, reducing the amount of time organizations may have to identify and respond to security risks. Maintaining the security of a mission-critical system such as WisVote therefore requires more than periodic technology upgrades; it requires continuous monitoring, vulnerability management, security testing, and the technical expertise necessary to respond as threats and technologies evolve.

These needs are further reinforced by the Department of Administration's updated Flaw Remediation (SI-2) standard, which establishes risk-based timelines for mitigating and remediating identified vulnerabilities, including mitigation within 24 hours for the highest-risk vulnerabilities. The standard also emphasizes secure build practices, automated testing, code and dependency scanning, vulnerability management, clean deployment, and continuous monitoring for internally developed applications. Meeting these requirements for WisVote 2.0 will require WEC to maintain the tools, processes, infrastructure, and specialized staff capacity necessary to rapidly identify, prioritize, test, and remediate vulnerabilities throughout the system's lifecycle. Incorporating these capabilities into WisVote 2.0's ongoing operations will help WEC proactively address vulnerabilities and continue protecting Wisconsin's statewide voter registration database in a rapidly changing cybersecurity environment.

WisVote 2.0 will leverage existing State enterprise capabilities where practical rather than independently procuring duplicate technologies. WEC plans to utilize MyWisconsin ID for identity management and multifactor authentication, replacing the existing RSA solution and further integrating WisVote into the State's enterprise cybersecurity environment. Leveraging State-supported technologies provides greater consistency with statewide security practices while reducing the need for WEC to independently license and maintain separate technologies.

The transition provides an opportunity to redirect existing technology expenditures toward higher-value operational capabilities. Current WisVote operating costs include approximately $220,000 annually for Microsoft Dynamics CRM and multifactor authentication. As these legacy technologies are retired, those recurring costs can be avoided, with a portion of the resources redirected toward enhanced security, performance testing, automated testing, monitoring, and application lifecycle capabilities necessary to maintain WisVote 2.0.

Estimated Operating Budget for WisVote 2.0	FY28	FY29
Server Costs	$ 550,000	$ 550,000
Licensing	$ 200,000	$ 200,000
IT Contractors	$ 542,300	$ 532,300
Load Testing	$ 125,000	$ 75,000
Implementation/Deployment Support (UAT, Training, etc.)	$ 200,000	$ 200,000
Penetration/Security Testing	$ 65,000	$ 50,000
Security/testing/lifecycle tools	$ 75,000	$ 100,000
Disaster Recovery Plan/Contingency Funds	$ 100,000	$ 150,000
TOTAL	**$ 1,857,300**	**$ 1,857,300**

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 7901 - Funding for the Statewide Voter Registration System Upgrade to WisVote 2.0

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$0	$0
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	$0	$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$0	$0
05	Fringe Benefits	$0	$0
06	Supplies and Services	$1,875,300	$1,875,300
07	Permanent Property	$0	$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$1,875,300**	**$1,875,300**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

Decision Item (DIN): 7901 - Funding for the Statewide Voter Registration System Upgrade to WisVote 2.0

Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
25 - Election security and maint	$1,875,300	$1,875,300	0.00	0.00
Program Sub Total	**$1,875,300**	**$1,875,300**	**0.00**	**0.00**
DIN 7901 - Funding for the Statewide Voter Registration System Upgrade to WisVote 2.0 Total	**$1,875,300**	**$1,875,300**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total	**$1,875,300**	**$1,875,300**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item by Fund Source

Decision Item (DIN): 7901 - Funding for the Statewide Voter Registration System Upgrade to WisVote 2.0

Source of Funds	Type	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
PR	S	$1,875,300	$1,875,300	0.00	0.00
DIN 7901 - Funding for the Statewide Voter Registration System Upgrade to WisVote 2.0 Total		**$1,875,300**	**$1,875,300**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total		**$1,875,300**	**$1,875,300**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item (DIN): 7910 - DOA Central Services Adjustments

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests $49,029 GPR annually in its base funding for DOA Allocated Central Services increases as determined by the Department of Administration.

DIN 7910 – Issue Paper

Funding for DOA Allocated Central Services

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests $49,029 GPR annually in its base funding for DOA Allocated Central Services increases as determined by the Department of Administration.

Background

In the Department of Administration's major budget policies for 2027-2029 agencies were told they could add a decision item number (DIN) to increase their budget to reflect changes in DOA Allocated Central Services assessments between FY23 and FY25.

Issue

Between FY23 and FY25 DOA Allocated Central Services assessments increased by $49,029 GPR annually, but the funding is not in the Wisconsin Elections Commission's base budget.

The increase is based on the growth in DOA Central Services costs, which have increased in large part due to inflation and general wage adjustments that have accumulated over time. Agencies have no control over these assessment costs. The Wisconsin Elections Commission has had to manage the unfunded increased costs, which has impacted our base budget making it difficult to pay for essential supplies and services such as hardware/software. This budget increase allows the Wisconsin Elections Commission to keep paying those rising costs.

Decision Item by Line

Decision Item (DIN): 7910 - DOA Central Services Adjustments

Line Number	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	$0	$0
02	Turnover	$0	$0
03	Project Position Salaries	$0	$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	$0	$0
05	Fringe Benefits	$0	$0
06	Supplies and Services	$49,100	$49,100
07	Permanent Property	$0	$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	$0	$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	$0	$0
10	Local Assistance	$0	$0
11	One-time Financing	$0	$0
12	Debt service	$0	$0
13		$0	$0
14		$0	$0
15		$0	$0
16		$0	$0
17	**TOTAL**	**$49,100**	**$49,100**
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

Program: 01 - Administration of elections

Decision Item (DIN): 7910 - DOA Central Services Adjustments

Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
01 - General program ops; GPR	$49,100	$49,100	0.00	0.00
Program Sub Total	**$49,100**	**$49,100**	**0.00**	**0.00**
DIN 7910 - DOA Central Services Adjustments Total	**$49,100**	**$49,100**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total	**$49,100**	**$49,100**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Decision Item by Fund Source

Decision Item (DIN): 7910 - DOA Central Services Adjustments

Source of Funds	Type	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
GPR	S	$49,100	$49,100	0.00	0.00
DIN 7910 - DOA Central Services Adjustments Total		**$49,100**	**$49,100**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Agency Total		**$49,100**	**$49,100**	**0.00**	**0.00**

ACT 201

Proposal under s. 16.42(4)(b): **0% change in each fiscal year**

FY: **FY 28 AND 29**

Agency: **Elections - 510**

Exclude: Federal
Debt Service

Columns A-G were prepopulated for agencies to reflect state operations adjusted base and reductions agreed to by DOA and LFB. See Appendix H for instructions on how to complete these templates.

Proposed $ and Proposed FTE columns reflect total agency proposed spending and positions for indicated fiscal year. These amounts should include standard budget adjustments (SBAs), any proposed reallocations or reductions to meet the target, and any other requests that the agency would want considered under this proposal.

Appropriations with zero dollars and zero FTEs are not loaded into the template. If you have any questions, contact your SBO analyst.

IF YOUR AGENCY PLANS TO TAKE THE SAME CUTS OVER BOTH YEARS, YOU SHOULD ONLY FILL OUT ONE GRID FOR 0% GROWTH AND ONE GRID FOR 5% REDUCTION, THEN CHANGE "FY28" TO "FY28 AND 29".

	Appropriation		Fund			(See Note 1)	Proposed Budget 2027-28		Item	Change from Adj Base		(See Note 2) Remove SBAs		Change from Adj Base after Removal of SBAs	
Agency	Alpha	Numeric	Source	$	FTE	0% Change Target	Proposed $	Proposed FTE	Ref	$	FTE	$	FTE	$	FTE
510	**1a**	101	GPR	$5,385,800.00	25.75	$0	$4,080,300	38.75	1	($1,305,500)	13.00	($143,400)	0.00	($1,448,900)	13.00
510	**1be**	105	GPR	$25,000.00	0.00	$0	$25,000	0.00		$0	0.00	$0	0.00	$0	0.00
510	**1c**	109	GPR	$82,600.00	0.00	$0	$82,600	0.00		$0	0.00	$0	0.00	$0	0.00
510	**1h**	121	PR	$1,000.00	0.00	$0	$89,000	0.00		$88,000	0.00	$0	0.00	$88,000	0.00
510	**1jn**	125	PR	$478,500.00	3.00	$0	$1,852,300	3.00	2	$1,373,800	0.00	($12,900)	0.00	$1,360,900	0.00
510	**1t**	160	SEG	$100.00	0.00	$0	$100	0.00		$0	0.00	$0	0.00	$0	0.00
Totals				**$5,973,000.00**	**28.75**	**$0**	**$6,129,300**	**41.75**		**$156,300**	**13.00**	**($156,300)**	**0.00**	**$0**	**13.00**

Note 1: Reduction target must be met within state operations appropriations, but may be allocated across those appropriations and fund sources.
Note 2: Amounts should be SBAs (DINs 3001 - 3011) from agency request multiplied by -1.

Target Reduction = $0

Difference = **$0**
Should equal $0

Items - Describe proposed changes (excl. SBAs) to reach target or other priorities of agency

1 The agency will need to reduce programmatic expenditures as part of the 0% growth, which would negatively affect the agency's responsibilities.
2 The agency will need to reduce programmatic expenditures as part of the 0% growth, which would negatively affect the agency's responsibilities.

ACT 201

Proposal under s. 16.42(4)(b): **5% change in each fiscal year**

FY: FY28 AND 29

Agency: **Elections - 510**

Exclude: Federal
Debt Service

Columns A-G were prepopulated for agencies to reflect state operations adjusted base and reductions agreed to by DOA and LFB. See Appendix H for instructions on how to complete these templates.

Proposed $ and Proposed FTE columns reflect total agency proposed spending and positions for indicated fiscal year. These amounts should include standard budget adjustments (SBAs), any proposed reallocations or reductions to meet the target, and any other requests that the agency would want considered under this proposal.

Appropriations with zero dollars and zero FTEs are not loaded into the template. If you have any questions, contact your SBO analyst.

IF YOUR AGENCY PLANS TO TAKE THE SAME CUTS OVER BOTH YEARS, YOU SHOULD ONLY FILL OUT ONE GRID FOR 0% GROWTH AND ONE GRID FOR 5% REDUCTION, THEN CHANGE "FY28" TO "FY28 AND 29".

	Appropriation		Fund			(See Note 1) 5% Change	Proposed Budget 2027-28		Item	Change from Adj Base		(See Note 2) Remove SBAs		Change from Adj Base after Removal of SBAs	
Agency	Alpha	Numeric	Source	$	FTE	Target	Proposed $	Proposed FTE	Ref	$	FTE	$	FTE	$	FTE
510	**1a**	101	GPR	$5,385,800.00	25.75	($269,300)	$3,978,200	38.75	1	($1,407,600)	13.00	($143,400)	0.00	($1,551,000)	13.00
510	**1be**	105	GPR	$25,000.00	0.00	($1,300)	$0	0	2	($25,000)	0.00	$0	0.00	($25,000)	0.00
510	**1c**	109	GPR	$82,600.00	0.00	($4,100)	$0	0	3	($82,600)	0.00	$0	0.00	($82,600)	0.00
510	**1h**	121	PR	$1,000.00	0.00	($100)	$0	0	4	($1,000)	0.00	$0	0.00	($1,000)	0.00
510	**1jn**	125	PR	$478,500.00	3.00	($23,900)	$1,852,300	3	5	$1,373,800	0.00	($12,900)	0.00	$1,360,900	0.00
510	**1t**	160	SEG	$100.00	0.00	$0	$100	0		$0	0.00	$0	0.00	$0	0.00
Totals				**$5,973,000.00**	**28.75**	**($298,700)**	**$5,830,600**	**41.75**		**($142,400)**	**13.00**	**($156,300)**	**0.00**	**($298,700)**	**13.00**

Note 1: Reduction target must be met within state operations appropriations, but may be allocated across those appropriations and fund sources.
Note 2: Amounts should be SBAs (DINs 3001 - 3011) from agency request multiplied by -1.

Target Reduction = ($298,700)

Difference = **$0**
Should equal $0

Items - Describe proposed changes (excl. SBAs) to reach target or other priorities of agency

1 The agency will need to reduce programmatic expenditures as part of the 5% reduction, which would negatively affect the agency's program responsibilities.
2 As outlined in the agency cover memo, the WEC identified elimination of this appropriation as part of the 5% reduction, although this would negatively affect the agency's program responsibilities.
3 As outlined in the agency cover memo, the WEC identified elimination of this appropriation as part of the 5% reduction, although this would negatively affect the agency's program responsibilities.
4 As outlined in the agency cover memo, the WEC identified elimination of this appropriation as part of the 5% reduction, although this would negatively affect the agency's program responsibilities.
5 The agency will need to reduce programmatic expenditures as part of the 5% reduction, which would negatively affect the agency's program responsibilities.