

ELECTIONS COMMISSION

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Source of Funds	FY19 Adjusted Base	FY20 Recommended	% Change Over FY19	FY21 Recommended	% Change Over FY20
GPR	4,291,700	4,556,000	6.2	4,468,200	-1.9
SEG-F	1,050,000	1,113,500	6.0	1,154,800	3.7
PR-O	1,700	1,000	-41.2	1,000	0.0
SEG-O	100	100	0.0	100	0.0
TOTAL	5,343,500	5,670,600	6.1	5,624,100	-0.8

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

Source of Funds	FY19 Adjusted Base	FY20 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY19	FY21 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY20
GPR	25.75	25.75	0.00	25.75	0.00
SEG-F	6.00	6.00	0.00	6.00	0.00
TOTAL	31.75	31.75	0.00	31.75	0.00

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The commission administers and enforces Wisconsin law pertaining to elections (Chapters 5 to 10 and 12 of Wisconsin Statutes). The commission is comprised of six members, who serve for five-year terms. One member is appointed by the Senate majority leader; one is appointed by the Senate minority leader; one is appointed by the speaker of the Assembly; one is appointed by the Assembly minority leader; and two are 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. The transition plan from the Government Accountability Board to the commission put forth by the Department of Administration established a rotational term schedule of the commissioners. The commission elects a chair and vice-chair from its members by a majority vote.

The administrator serves as the agency head and the chief election officer of the state. The commission staff is required to be nonpartisan.

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 other related activities.

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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

2017 AND 2018 GOALS AND ACTUALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2017	Actual 2017	Goal 2018	Actual 2018
1.	Monitor the number of contacts the public makes to commission.	1,300,000	1,844,279	1,300,000	1,309,183
1.	Monitor public satisfaction with the commission through the commission's complaint system.	225	13	225	32
1.	Maintain data and records on the number of educational outreach activities, training and technical assistance provided to local elections partners and the general public.	130	160	130	190

Note: Based on fiscal year.

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2019, 2020 AND 2021 GOALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2019	Goal 2020	Goal 2021
1.	Monitor the number of contacts the public makes to the commission.	1,850,000 ¹	1,310,000	1,850,000
1.	Percentage of sworn complaints resolved within 60 days of submission. ²	90%	90%	90%
1.	Conduct training events and maintain training resources for local elections partners and the general public. ²	150	150	150
1.	Percentage of candidates receiving nomination paper review results within 48 hours of filing. ²	90%	90%	90%

Note: Based on fiscal year.

¹Goal for 2019 has been modified.

²New performance measures for upcoming biennium.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Automatic Voter Registration
2. Voter Identification and In-Person Absentee Voting Modifications
3. Funding for Requirements Related to the Electronic Registration Information Center
4. Funding for Four-Year Voter List Maintenance Mailing
5. Materials and Services Reestimate
6. Standard Budget Adjustments

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

	ACTUAL FY18	ADJUSTED BASE FY19	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY20	FY21	FY20	FY21
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	\$1,373.5	\$4,291.7	\$4,728.1	\$4,675.0	\$4,556.0	\$4,468.2
State Operations	1,373.5	4,291.7	4,728.1	4,675.0	4,556.0	4,468.2
FEDERAL REVENUE (1)	\$2,434.8	\$1,050.0	\$916.6	\$935.4	\$1,113.5	\$1,154.8
State Operations	2,434.8	1,050.0	916.6	935.4	1,113.5	1,154.8
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	\$0.8	\$1.7	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.0	\$1.0
State Operations	0.8	1.7	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
SEGREGATED REVENUE (3)	\$0.0	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1
State Operations	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
TOTALS - ANNUAL	\$3,809.1	\$5,343.5	\$5,645.8	\$5,611.5	\$5,670.6	\$5,624.1
State Operations	3,809.1	5,343.5	5,645.8	5,611.5	5,670.6	5,624.1

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

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

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

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

	ADJUSTED BASE FY19	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY20	FY21	FY20	FY21
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	25.75	25.75	25.75	25.75	25.75
FEDERAL REVENUE (1)	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
TOTALS - ANNUAL	31.75	31.75	31.75	31.75	31.75

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

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

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

(4) All positions are State Operations unless otherwise specified

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

	ACTUAL FY18	ADJUSTED BASE FY19	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY20	FY21	FY20	FY21
1. Administration of elections	\$3,809.1	\$5,343.5	\$5,645.8	\$5,611.5	\$5,670.6	\$5,624.1
TOTALS	\$3,809.1	\$5,343.5	\$5,645.8	\$5,611.5	\$5,670.6	\$5,624.1

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

	ADJUSTED BASE FY19	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY20	FY21	FY20	FY21
1. Administration of elections	31.75	31.75	31.75	31.75	31.75
TOTALS	31.75	31.75	31.75	31.75	31.75

(4) All positions are State Operations unless otherwise specified

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1. Automatic Voter Registration

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY20		FY21		FY20		FY21	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	24,800	0.00	12,600	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	24,800	0.00	12,600	0.00

The Governor recommends that the commission work with the Department of Transportation to facilitate automatic voter registration, and that the commission implement the initial registration of all eligible voters as quickly as practicable.

2. Voter Identification and In-Person Absentee Voting Modifications

The Governor recommends modifying statutory language changes related to voting requirements made in previous legislation, including 2017 Wisconsin Act 369, which was passed during the extraordinary session in December 2018. Certain voting requirements were ruled unconstitutional in a federal court decision, which enjoined the state from enforcing the laws while the case is on appeal. To address the federal court enjoinder, these modifications include provisions related to student identification cards used for voting, identification card receipts and in-person absentee voting. The University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin Technical College System are required to issue identification cards that meet the revised requirement.

3. Funding for Requirements Related to the Electronic Registration Information Center

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY20		FY21		FY20		FY21	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	278,200	0.00	174,400	0.00	81,300	0.00	0	0.00
SEG-F	0	0.00	0	0.00	196,900	0.00	174,400	0.00
TOTAL	278,200	0.00	174,400	0.00	278,200	0.00	174,400	0.00

The Governor recommends increasing funding for annual list maintenance, membership dues and voter registration system modifications associated with the Electronic Registration Information Center and partially funding these increases with new federal Help America Vote Act funds.

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4. Funding for Four-Year Voter List Maintenance Mailing

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY20		FY21		FY20		FY21	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	45,000	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
SEG-F	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	45,000	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	45,000	0.00	0	0.00	45,000	0.00

The Governor recommends increasing expenditure authority for the four-year voter maintenance mailing in FY21 and funding it with new federal Help America Vote Act funds.

5. Materials and Services Reestimate

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY20		FY21		FY20		FY21	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
PR-O	-700	0.00	-700	0.00	-700	0.00	-700	0.00
TOTAL	-700	0.00	-700	0.00	-700	0.00	-700	0.00

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

6. Standard Budget Adjustments

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY20		FY21		FY20		FY21	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	158,200	0.00	163,900	0.00	158,200	0.00	163,900	0.00
SEG-F	-133,400	0.00	-114,600	0.00	-133,400	0.00	-114,600	0.00
TOTAL	24,800	0.00	49,300	0.00	24,800	0.00	49,300	0.00

The Governor recommends adjusting the commission's base budget for: (a) full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (\$1,200 in each year); (b) reclassifications and semiautomatic pay progressions (\$57,500 in FY20 and \$76,300 in FY21); and (c) full funding of lease and directed moves costs (-\$33,900 in FY20 and -\$28,200 in FY21).