

Introduction

This report is submitted in accordance with s. 15.04(1)(d), Wis. Stats., in order to report on the performance and operation of the Department of District Attorneys during the preceding biennium and project goals and objectives as outlined in the 2023-25 Executive Budget.

Performance and Operation 2021-23

In the 71 prosecutorial units throughout Wisconsin, District Attorneys (DAs), Deputy DAs, and Assistant DAs performed the following functions during the 2021-23 biennium:

- Prosecuted all criminal actions in state courts
- Prosecuted state forfeiture actions, county traffic actions, and violations of county ordinances that conform with state criminal laws
- Participated in John Doe proceedings
- Appeared before grand juries in order to examine witnesses and provide advice and other legal assistance to the grand jury
- Assisted the Departments of Children & Families and Health Services in conducting welfare fraud investigations
- At the request of the Attorney General, briefed and argued criminal cases brought by appeal, writ of error, or certified from a county within the DA's prosecutorial unit to the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court
- Initiated or appeared in certain civil actions
- Commenced or appeared in sexually violent person commitment proceedings
- Performed duties related to certain court proceedings under the Juvenile Justice Code, including juvenile delinquency actions.

Major Program Goals and Objectives

The goal for the DA program is to ensure that justice is done in a timely manner in all instances in which a case has been referred for prosecution by law enforcement agencies.

The objective is to complete timely prosecutorial action in all cases referred by law enforcement agencies involving firearms, sexual assault, and burglary.

Goals for 2023, 2024, and 2025 are as follows¹:

Program No.	Performance Measurers	Goal 2023	Goal 2024	Goal 2025
1	Number of days from receipt of all law enforcement referrals of a felon in possession of a firearm cases until initial prosecutorial action ² .	21	22	23
1	Number of days from receipt of all law enforcement referrals of sexual	27	28	29

	assault cases until initial prosecutorial action ² .			
1	Number of days from receipt of all law enforcement referrals of burglary cases until initial prosecutorial action ² .	23	24	25

¹ Based on Fiscal Year

² Given anticipated resource limitations, the number of days is expected to increase by 1 day each year.

Part-Time and Flexible Workplace Policies

Permanent Part-Time Positions

Some District Attorney offices offer permanent part-time employment to their prosecutors. Currently, 37 attorneys work on a part-time basis, which is approximately 8.6% of the prosecutors. Some of these positions are coordinated in a job-share arrangement.

Remote and Flexible Workplace

While all attorneys have been provided with laptop computers and have the capacity to complete much of the pre-charging work in a remote location, the work of prosecutors generally requires a routine physical presence in the DA office and courthouse.

While some accommodations are made on a case-to-case basis, it is typical practice for court appearances to be in-person for most types of hearings. The actual litigation of cases requires the in-person presence of attorneys in courtrooms and DA Offices.