

ELECTIONS COMMISSION

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Source of Funds	FY23 Adjusted Base	FY24 Recommended	% Change Over FY23	FY25 Recommended	% Change Over FY24
GPR	4,869,500	6,516,900	33.8	6,114,300	-6.2
PR-O	357,900	443,600	23.9	443,600	0.0
SEG-F	851,200	882,800	3.7	885,500	0.3
SEG-O	100	100	0.0	100	0.0
TOTAL	6,078,700	7,843,400	29.0	7,443,500	-5.1

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

Source of Funds	FY23 Adjusted Base	FY24 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY23	FY25 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY24
GPR	25.75	35.75	10.00	35.75	0.00
PR-O	3.00	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00
SEG-F	3.25	3.25	0.00	3.25	0.00
TOTAL	32.00	42.00	10.00	42.00	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

2021 AND 2022 GOALS AND ACTUALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2021	Actual 2021	Goal 2022	Actual 2022
1.	Monitor the number of contacts the public makes to the commission.	4,000,000	8,979,938	4,900,000	1,108,976
1.	Percentage of sworn complaints resolved within 60 days of submission. ¹	90%	27%	90%	59%
1.	Conduct training events and maintain training resources for local elections partners and the general public.	150	151	250	140
1.	Percentage of candidates receiving nomination paper review results within two business days of filing.	90%	100%	90%	100%

Note: Based on fiscal year.

¹The commission has not met the 60-day complaint resolution goal set by the 2021-23 budget. Several factors explain why - most significantly, the volume of complaints unexpectedly increased since this goal was established. The complexity of complaints, and thus the number of staff hours needed to analyze them, and the number of complaints requiring assignment of outside counsel have increased. At the same time, other legal duties have also increased, such as public records requests, litigation and the number of commission meetings. Built-in response times also made this goal ambitious even at the time it was set. Section 5.05, Wis. Stats., complaints allow a 15-day response window, and then must be presented to the commission in a closed session meeting. Section 5.06, Wis. Stats., complaints allow 13 business days for a response and then 13 business days to reply, with the possibility of additional filings and response times for counterclaims.

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2023, 2024 AND 2025 GOALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2023	Goal 2024	Goal 2025
1.	Monitor the number of contacts the public makes to the commission.	4,000,000	1,500,000	4,000,000
1.	Percentage of sworn complaints resolved within 90 days of submission. ¹	70%	70%	70%
1.	Conduct training events and maintain training resources for local elections partners and the general public.	150	150	150
1.	Percentage of candidates receiving nomination paper review results within two business days of filing.	100% ²	100%	100%

Note: Based on fiscal year.

¹Performance measure and associated goal has been revised.

²Goal has been revised for 2023.

ELECTIONS COMMISSION

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Office of Election Transparency and Compliance
2. Automatic Voter Registration
3. Grants for Badger Books
4. Funding for Special Elections
5. Voter Identification Modifications
6. Early Canvassing of Absentee Ballots
7. In-Person Absentee Voting Period Extension
8. Modify Special Election Dates
9. Voter Residency Duration Modification
10. Voter Registration in High Schools
11. Posting a Voter Bill of Rights
12. Modify Election Recount Appropriation
13. Training Appropriation Language Change
14. Standard Budget Adjustments

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

	ACTUAL FY22	ADJUSTED BASE FY23	AGENCY REQUEST FY24	AGENCY REQUEST FY25	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY24	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY25
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	\$4,257.3	\$4,869.5	\$5,985.7	\$6,119.7	\$6,516.9	\$6,114.3
State Operations	4,257.3	4,869.5	5,985.7	6,119.7	6,116.9	6,114.3
Local Assistance	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	400.0	0.0
FEDERAL REVENUE (1)	\$2,024.8	\$851.2	\$871.6	\$873.1	\$882.8	\$885.5
State Operations	2,024.8	851.2	871.6	873.1	882.8	885.5
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	\$74.5	\$357.9	\$443.6	\$443.6	\$443.6	\$443.6
State Operations	74.5	357.9	443.6	443.6	443.6	443.6
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	\$6,356.6	\$6,078.7	\$7,301.0	\$7,436.5	\$7,843.4	\$7,443.5
State Operations	6,356.6	6,078.7	7,301.0	7,436.5	7,443.4	7,443.5
Local Assistance	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	400.0	0.0

(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)**

	ADJUSTED BASE FY23	AGENCY REQUEST FY24	AGENCY REQUEST FY25	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY24	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY25
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	25.75	35.75	35.75	35.75	35.75
State Operations	25.75	35.75	35.75	35.75	35.75
FEDERAL REVENUE (1)	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
State Operations	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
State Operations	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
TOTALS - ANNUAL	32.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00
State Operations	32.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00

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

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

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

	ACTUAL FY22	ADJUSTED BASE FY23	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25
1. Administration of elections	\$6,356.6	\$6,078.7	\$7,301.0	\$7,436.5	\$7,843.4	\$7,443.5
TOTALS	\$6,356.6	\$6,078.7	\$7,301.0	\$7,436.5	\$7,843.4	\$7,443.5

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

	ADJUSTED BASE FY23	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25
1. Administration of elections	32.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00
TOTALS	32.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00

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1. Office of Election Transparency and Compliance

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY24		FY25		FY24		FY25	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	902,000	10.00	1,036,000	10.00	902,000	10.00	1,036,000	10.00
TOTAL	902,000	10.00	1,036,000	10.00	902,000	10.00	1,036,000	10.00

The Governor recommends creating an Office of Election Transparency and Compliance to provide research and assistance to the commission, including responding to inquiries from the public and legislators regarding alleged unlawful or noncompliant behavior with the goal of increasing confidence in election operations.

2. Automatic Voter Registration

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY24		FY25		FY24		FY25	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	156,100	0.00	16,600	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	156,100	0.00	16,600	0.00

The Governor recommends that the commission work with the Department of Transportation to begin automatic voter registration and that the commission facilitate the initial registration of all eligible electors as soon as practicable. See Department of Transportation, Item #40.

3. Grants for Badger Books

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY24		FY25		FY24		FY25	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	0	0.00	0	0.00	400,000	0.00	0	0.00
TOTAL	0	0.00	0	0.00	400,000	0.00	0	0.00

The Governor recommends providing funding for grants to municipalities interested in obtaining "Badger Book" electronic poll books.

4. Funding for Special Elections

The Governor recommends creating a sum sufficient GPR appropriation to allow the commission to reimburse counties and municipalities for certain costs incurred in the administration of special primaries and special elections.

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5. Voter Identification Modifications

The Governor recommends modifying certain voter identification requirements in light of federal case law. The Governor also recommends requiring the University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin Technical College System to issue identification cards that meet the revised requirements.

6. Early Canvassing of Absentee Ballots

The Governor recommends authorizing a county or municipal clerk to canvass absentee ballots on the day before an election.

7. In-Person Absentee Voting Period Extension

The Governor recommends eliminating the restriction on how soon a person may complete an absentee ballot in person.

8. Modify Special Election Dates

The Governor recommends modifying the scheduling of special elections to ensure they are scheduled with sufficient time to comply with federal requirements for sending ballots to military and overseas voters.

9. Voter Residency Duration Modification

The Governor recommends restoring previous residency requirements such that a resident of Wisconsin is eligible to vote in an election in a municipality or ward if the voter has been a resident of that location for at least ten days before an election.

10. Voter Registration in High Schools

The Governor recommends restoring prior law which required public high schools to offer voter registration for interested and eligible students and staff, while retaining the current law requirement that the municipal clerk review the registrations for accuracy. The Governor also recommends that registration be allowed at private and tribal high schools, in the same manner, if desired by those schools.

11. Posting a Voter Bill of Rights

The Governor recommends requiring polling places to post a voter bill of rights which informs voters of voting rights guaranteed under current law.

12. Modify Election Recount Appropriation

The Governor recommends modifying the current appropriation used for reimbursing the costs of election recounts to be a continuing appropriation.

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13. Training Appropriation Language Change

The Governor recommends amending the statutory language of the training appropriation to allow it to fund training of municipal and county clerks on all election administration procedures and topics, including voter identification.

14. Standard Budget Adjustments

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY24		FY25		FY24		FY25	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	214,200	0.00	214,200	0.00	189,300	0.00	192,200	0.00
PR-O	85,700	0.00	85,700	0.00	85,700	0.00	85,700	0.00
SEG-F	20,400	0.00	21,900	0.00	31,600	0.00	34,300	0.00
TOTAL	320,300	0.00	321,800	0.00	306,600	0.00	312,200	0.00

The Governor recommends adjusting the commission's base budget for: (a) full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (\$259,000 in each year); (b) reclassifications and semiautomatic pay progression (\$61,300 in FY24 and \$62,800 in FY25); and (c) full funding of lease and directed moves costs (-\$13,700 in FY24 and -\$9,600 in FY25).