

ELECTIONS COMMISSION

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Source of Funds	FY21 Adjusted Base	FY22 Recommended	% Change Over FY21	FY23 Recommended	% Change Over FY22
GPR	4,705,700	4,940,600	5.0	4,804,700	-2.8
SEG-F	994,900	1,043,000	4.8	843,700	-19.1
PR-O	1,000	150,200	14,920.0	350,500	133.4
SEG-O	100	100	0.0	100	0.0
TOTAL	5,701,700	6,133,900	7.6	5,999,000	-2.2

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

Source of Funds	FY21 Adjusted Base	FY22 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY21	FY23 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY22
GPR	25.75	25.75	0.00	25.75	0.00
SEG-F	6.00	3.00	-3.00	3.00	0.00
PR-O	0.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	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.

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 election officials, candidates, voters and the general public.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

2019 AND 2020 GOALS AND ACTUALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2019	Actual 2019	Goal 2020	Actual 2020
1.	Monitor the number of contacts the public makes to the commission.	1,850,000	4,053,508	1,310,000	4,965,119
1.	Percentage of sworn complaints resolved within 60 days of submission.	90%	55%	90%	73%
1.	Conduct training events and maintain training resources for local elections partners and the general public.	150	156	150	286
1.	Percentage of candidates receiving nomination paper review results within 48 hours of filing.	90%	100%	90%	99%

Note: Based on fiscal year.

2021, 2022 AND 2023 GOALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2021	Goal 2022	Goal 2023
1.	Monitor the number of contacts the public makes to the commission.	4,000,000 ¹	4,900,000	4,000,000
1.	Percentage of sworn complaints resolved within 60 days of submission.	90%	90%	90%
1.	Conduct training events and maintain training resources for local elections partners and the general public.	150	250	150
1.	Percentage of candidates receiving nomination paper review results within two business days of filing. ²	90%	90%	90%

Note: Based on fiscal year.

¹Goal for 2021 has been modified.

²Performance measure has been slightly modified.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Automatic Voter Registration
2. Voter Identification Modifications
3. Early Canvassing of Absentee Ballots
4. In-Person Absentee Voting Period Extension
5. Funding for Special Elections
6. Modify Special Election Dates
7. Voter Residency Duration Modification
8. Posting a Voter Bill of Rights
9. Convert Project Positions to Permanent Positions
10. Modify Election Recount Appropriation
11. Create a New Elections Security and Maintenance Appropriation
12. Standard Budget Adjustments

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

	ACTUAL FY20	ADJUSTED BASE FY21	AGENCY REQUEST FY22	AGENCY REQUEST FY23	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY22	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY23
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	\$4,282.5	\$4,705.7	\$4,784.5	\$4,788.1	\$4,940.6	\$4,804.7
State Operations	4,282.5	4,705.7	4,784.5	4,788.1	4,940.6	4,804.7
FEDERAL REVENUE (1)	\$4,334.2	\$994.9	\$1,043.0	\$843.7	\$1,043.0	\$843.7
State Operations	4,334.2	994.9	1,043.0	843.7	1,043.0	843.7
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	\$0.5	\$1.0	\$150.2	\$350.5	\$150.2	\$350.5
State Operations	0.5	1.0	150.2	350.5	150.2	350.5
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	\$8,617.2	\$5,701.7	\$5,977.8	\$5,982.4	\$6,133.9	\$5,999.0
State Operations	8,617.2	5,701.7	5,977.8	5,982.4	6,133.9	5,999.0

(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) (4)

	ADJUSTED BASE FY21	AGENCY REQUEST FY22	AGENCY REQUEST FY23	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY22	GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY23
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	25.75	25.75	25.75	25.75	25.75
FEDERAL REVENUE (1)	6.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	0.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
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

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

	ACTUAL FY20	ADJUSTED BASE FY21	AGENCY REQUEST FY22 FY23		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY22 FY23	
1. Administration of elections	\$8,617.2	\$5,701.7	\$5,977.8	\$5,982.4	\$6,133.9	\$5,999.0
TOTALS	\$8,617.2	\$5,701.7	\$5,977.8	\$5,982.4	\$6,133.9	\$5,999.0

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

	ADJUSTED BASE FY21	AGENCY REQUEST FY22 FY23		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION FY22 FY23	
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

1. Automatic Voter Registration

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY22		FY23		FY22		FY23	
	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 #39.

2. Voter Identification Modifications

The Governor recommends modifying certain voter identification requirements in light of recent 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.

3. Early Canvassing of Absentee Ballots

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

4. In-Person Absentee Voting Period Extension

The Governor recommends eliminating the restriction on how soon a person may complete an absentee ballot in person and further recommends that a person may complete an absentee ballot in person no later than 7 p.m. on the Friday preceding the election.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Convert Project Positions to Permanent Positions

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY22		FY23		FY22		FY23	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
SEG-F	18,500	3.00	221,900	3.00	18,500	3.00	221,900	3.00
PR-O	18,200	3.00	218,500	3.00	18,200	3.00	218,500	3.00
TOTAL	36,700	6.00	440,400	6.00	36,700	6.00	440,400	6.00

The Governor recommends converting 6.0 FTE SEG-F project positions to 3.0 FTE SEG-F permanent positions and 3.0 FTE PR permanent positions.

10. Modify Election Recount Appropriation

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

11. Create a New Elections Security and Maintenance Appropriation

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY22		FY23		FY22		FY23	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
PR-O	131,000	0.00	131,000	0.00	131,000	0.00	131,000	0.00
TOTAL	131,000	0.00	131,000	0.00	131,000	0.00	131,000	0.00

The Governor recommends creating a new continuing program revenue appropriation to appropriate funds generated from the sale of voter lists for the purpose of election security and system maintenance.

12. Standard Budget Adjustments

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY22		FY23		FY22		FY23	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	78,800	0.00	82,400	0.00	78,800	0.00	82,400	0.00
SEG-F	29,600	-6.00	-373,100	-6.00	29,600	-6.00	-373,100	-6.00
TOTAL	108,400	-6.00	-290,700	-6.00	108,400	-6.00	-290,700	-6.00

The Governor recommends adjusting the commission's base budget for: (a) removal of noncontinuing elements from the base (-\$36,700 in FY22, -\$440,400 in FY23 and -6.0 FTE positions in each year); (b) full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (\$90,600 in each year); (c) reclassifications and semiautomatic pay progression (\$54,300 in each year); and (d) full funding of lease and directed moves costs (\$200 in FY22 and \$4,800 in FY23).