

ETHICS COMMISSION

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Source of Funds	FY23 Adjusted Base	FY24 Recommended	% Change Over FY23	FY25 Recommended	% Change Over FY24
GPR	1,013,700	1,192,700	17.7	1,192,700	0.0
PR-O	527,700	635,000	20.3	635,000	0.0
TOTAL	1,541,400	1,827,700	18.6	1,827,700	0.0

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

Source of Funds	FY23 Adjusted Base	FY24 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY23	FY25 Recommended	FTE Change Over FY24
GPR	4.70	4.70	0.00	4.70	0.00
PR-O	3.30	3.30	0.00	3.30	0.00
TOTAL	8.00	8.00	0.00	8.00	0.00

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

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 individuals who formerly served as judges for a court of record in this state, who were elected to the positions in which they served, 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 is responsible for the daily operations of the commission. The commission staff is nonpartisan. The commission administers and enforces Wisconsin law pertaining to campaign finance, lobbying and ethics.

Commission activities are arranged by five general functions: general administration; assistance to state public officials, candidates, lobbyists, principals, political committees and officeholders; assistance to local governments; education and training; and enforcement. Within these functional areas, the commission develops policy, issues formal and informal opinions, promulgates administrative rules, prescribes procedures and forms, audits disclosure reports, carries out investigations, conducts hearings and reviews appeals, brings civil actions to assess forfeitures, and addresses other related activities.

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MISSION

The mission of the commission is to promote and strengthen the faith and confidence of the people of Wisconsin in their government; support the operation of open and responsible government; preserve the integrity of the governmental decision making process; and protect the rights of individuals through the administration of Wisconsin's campaign finance, lobbying and ethics laws and through readily available and understandable disclosure of information.

PROGRAMS, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Program 1: Ethics, Campaign Finance and Lobbying Regulation

Goal: Facilitate compliance with the requirements of Wisconsin's campaign finance, lobbying and ethics laws.

Objective/Activity: Provide training, educational materials and assistance to the regulated community and the public, focusing on applicable registration and reporting requirements.

Objective/Activity: Conduct timely audits of registration and report information, consistent with statutory requirements.

Objective/Activity: Provide formal and informal advisory opinions, as well as informal guidance, in a timely manner upon request.

Goal: Support the operation of open and responsible government, preserve the integrity of governmental decision making and protect the rights of individuals.

Objective/Activity: Promptly make reported campaign finance, lobbying and financial disclosure information publicly available.

Objective/Activity: Maintain the Wisconsin Campaign Finance Information System (CFIS), Eye on Lobbying website and Statements of Economic Interests website in order to facilitate the registration and reporting requirements under applicable Wisconsin statutes, as well as making the disclosure of reported information readily accessible and understandable.

Objective/Activity: Investigate complaints of possible violations of the ethics code, lobbying law and campaign finance law and seek appropriate remedies as circumstances merit.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

2021 AND 2022 GOALS AND ACTUALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2021	Actual 2021	Goal 2022	Actual 2022
1.	Percentage of fees received by electronic payment methods.	85%	86.79%	90%	94.8%
1.	Percentage of campaign finance reports filed on or before required date.	96%	94%	96%	93.6%
1.	Percentage of committees in compliance, based on audit findings.	95%	97.1%	95%	97.3%
1.	Percentage of lobbyist time reports completed on or before the required date.	99%	99.9%	99%	99.71%

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Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2021	Actual 2021	Goal 2022	Actual 2022
1.	Percentage of registered principals completing their Statements of Lobbying Activities and Expenditures on or before the required date.	99%	99.1%	99%	98.4%
1.	Percentage of principals in compliance, based on audit findings.	99%	99.8%	99%	99% ¹
1.	Percentage of required Statements of Economic Interest filed on or before the required date.	96%	95%	96%	93.2%
1.	Statements of Economic Interest filed electronically.	95%	96.9%	96%	97.1%

Note: Based on fiscal year.

¹Due to demands on commission resources related to the creation of the new lobbying website and how information technology changes impacted the auditing processes, this performance objective could not be accurately calculated consistent with prior methods. However, the commission has sufficient information to conclude that the compliance rates have not changed significantly.

2023, 2024 AND 2025 GOALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2023¹	Goal 2024	Goal 2025
1.	Percentage of fees received by electronic payment methods.	95%	95%	95%
1.	Percentage of campaign finance reports filed on or before required date.	96%	96%	96%
1.	Percentage of committees in compliance, based on audit findings.	95%	95%	95%
1.	Percentage of lobbyist time reports completed on or before the required date.	99%	99%	99%
1.	Percentage of registered principals completing their Statements of Lobbying Activities and Expenditures on or before the required date.	99%	99%	99%
1.	Percentage of principals in compliance, based on audit findings.	99%	99%	99%
1.	Percentage of required Statements of Economic Interest filed on or before the required date.	96%	96%	96%
1.	Statements of Economic Interest filed electronically.	96%	96%	96%

Note: Based on fiscal year.

¹Goals for 2023 have been revised.

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GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. New Campaign Finance Information System
2. 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	\$696.7	\$1,013.7	\$1,195.1	\$1,195.1	\$1,192.7	\$1,192.7
State Operations	696.7	1,013.7	1,195.1	1,195.1	1,192.7	1,192.7
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	\$441.7	\$527.7	\$635.0	\$635.0	\$635.0	\$635.0
State Operations	441.7	527.7	635.0	635.0	635.0	635.0
TOTALS - ANNUAL	\$1,138.4	\$1,541.4	\$1,830.1	\$1,830.1	\$1,827.7	\$1,827.7
State Operations	1,138.4	1,541.4	1,830.1	1,830.1	1,827.7	1,827.7

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

**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	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70
State Operations	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70
PROGRAM REVENUE (2)	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30
State Operations	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30
TOTALS - ANNUAL	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
State Operations	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00

(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. Ethics, campaign finance and lobbying regulation	\$1,138.4	\$1,541.4	\$1,830.1	\$1,830.1	\$1,827.7	\$1,827.7
TOTALS	\$1,138.4	\$1,541.4	\$1,830.1	\$1,830.1	\$1,827.7	\$1,827.7

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

	ADJUSTED BASE FY23	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25
1. Ethics, campaign finance and lobbying regulation	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
TOTALS	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00

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1. New Campaign Finance Information System

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY24		FY25		FY24		FY25	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	183,300	0.00	183,300	0.00	183,300	0.00	183,300	0.00
PR-O	110,000	0.00	110,000	0.00	110,000	0.00	110,000	0.00
TOTAL	293,300	0.00	293,300	0.00	293,300	0.00	293,300	0.00

The Governor recommends providing one-time expenditure authority to create a new campaign finance reporting website.

2. Standard Budget Adjustments

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendations			
	FY24		FY25		FY24		FY25	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	-1,900	0.00	-1,900	0.00	-4,300	0.00	-4,300	0.00
PR-O	-2,700	0.00	-2,700	0.00	-2,700	0.00	-2,700	0.00
TOTAL	-4,600	0.00	-4,600	0.00	-7,000	0.00	-7,000	0.00

The Governor recommends adjusting the commission's base budget for: (a) full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (-\$4,600 in each year); and (b) full funding of lease and directed moves costs (-\$2,400 in each year).