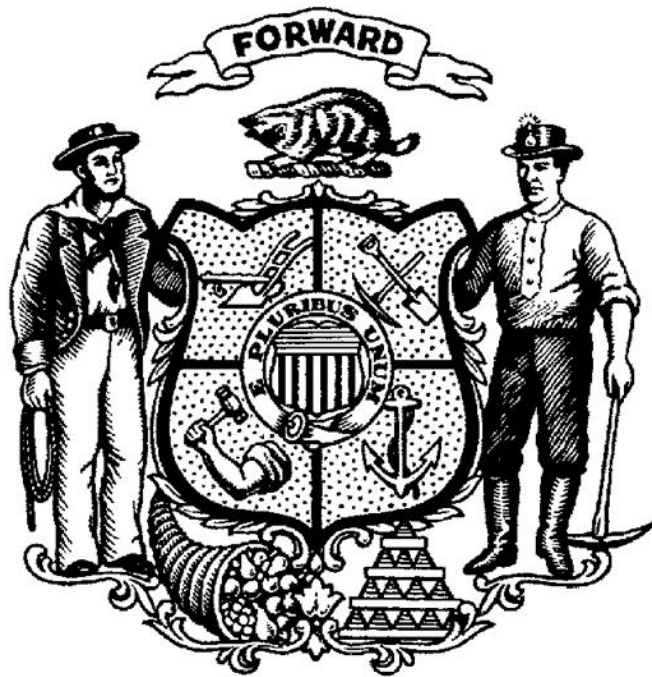


State of Wisconsin

Elections Commission



Agency Budget Request

2023 – 2025 Biennium

September 15, 2022

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Wisconsin Elections Commission

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September 15, 2022

The Honorable Kathy Blumenfeld, Secretary
Department of Administration
101 East Wilson Street, 10th Floor
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Secretary Blumenfeld:

Enclosed is the 2023-25 budget submission for the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC). The WEC has included two decision items for consideration by the Executive Office as it prepares the executive budget for submission to the Legislature. These decision items will ensure statutorily required agency programs and operations can continue into the next biennium.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission is a national leader in election administration and election security, initiatives that require long term sustained planning and support of our state. The agency budget request is designed to enable the Elections Commission to carry out its legislative mandates to maintain the integrity of the electoral process and provide complete, accurate and timely information and guidance to local election officials, candidates, voters, and the public.

Also enclosed are the agency's Act 201 exercise and calculations. Please note that we can comply with the Act 201 directive only by significantly impacting the Commission's program responsibilities. We believe it is not advisable to reduce current GPR spending by the required 5% goal because each of our initiatives ultimately ensures the accurate and consistent administration of elections throughout the state, including the state-level tasks completed by our staff, our training of local election officials, and the information and assistance we provide to voters.

We look forward to working with your agency, the Executive Office, and the Legislature throughout the budget process. If you have any specific questions concerning the Wisconsin Elections Commission's budget request, please contact Sharrie Hauge at 266-0404. I can also be reached at 266-8175. Thank you for your assistance and support.

Wisconsin Elections Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meagan M. Wolfe".

Meagan Wolfe
Administrator

Enclosure

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

Don M. Millis, chair | Marge Bostelmann | Julie M. Glancey | Ann S. Jacobs | Robert Spindell | Mark L. Thomsen

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Commission administers and enforces Wisconsin law pertaining to elections (Wisconsin Chapters 5 to 10 and 12). The Commission is comprised of six members, who serve for 5-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. A detailed description of the appointment of Commissioners is provided in Wis. Stat. §15.61. The Elections Commission and 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 Commission Administrator serves as the agency head and the chief election officer of the state. The Commission staff is required to be non-partisan. The agency has a staff of 25.75 GPR, 3.00 PR and 3.25 SEGF full-time employees.

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 related activities.

The Commission has four general program areas which are described below:

State Election Administration

The Agency ensures compliance with federal and state election laws. Commission staff evaluates nomination papers and other documents to recommend to the Commission as to whether state and federal candidates qualify for ballot access. Agency staff completes testing of electronic voting systems and makes recommendations regarding Commission approval of such systems, conducts accessibility audits of polling places, and certifies state and federal election results in Wisconsin. Commission staff also develops and maintains the statewide voter registration system (WisVote) as well as other election management IT systems and applications. Staff also prepares reports and documentation to assist the Commission in making decisions related to election administration at its regular meetings and works with the Legislature in its development of election-related legislation. In recent years the Commission has increased its focus on elections security and protecting state and local elections systems.

Support for Local Election Officials

Elections in Wisconsin are conducted by 1,922 local clerks at the town, village, city and county levels. Commission staff provides education, training, and administrative and technical support to local election officials, on both a cyclical and daily basis. Courses and classes for election officials on both election administration responsibilities and tasks involving the security and administration of the statewide voter registration system are available on the Internet through an extensive webinar series and through the agency's online learning center. The Agency also offers in-person presentations to various professional associations and other groups. The Agency prepares detailed manuals to assist local election officials in carrying out their election-related responsibilities. Ongoing support to local clerks includes review of ballot formats, providing election forms, and answering inquiries regarding voting equipment and election procedures, as well as completing tasks in WisVote such as printing poll books, tracking ballot issuance and voter

participation, updating voter registration records; maintaining candidate lists and polling place locations, and producing various reports for clerks. Local election officials rely on the WisVote application and Agency staff support to conduct all federal, state and local elections.

Voter Information

Agency staff conducts extensive voter outreach regarding election procedures, voter registration and voting requirements. Agency staff maintains and updates the MyVote Wisconsin website (<http://myvote.wi.gov>), which is linked to the agency website (<http://elections.wi.gov>), which enables voters to check their voter registration status, and locate polling place and ballot information. Data available on the MyVote Wisconsin site is drawn from the statewide voter registration system, WisVote. The MyVote Wisconsin site enables voters to click on a link, complete and print a voter registration application and mail it to their municipal clerk. The information completed by the voter is saved in the WisVote system to expedite the voter's registration. The MyVote site houses the state's online voter registration system. The site also provides a secure method for military and overseas voters to apply for an absentee ballot and have it delivered to them electronically. Additional resources are available to voters and the public on the agency's website. The agency also assists members of the public with obtaining valid photo identification for voting.

Voter and Election Data

Through maintenance of WisVote, the agency's Election Data Collection System, and the Canvass Reporting System, agency staff collects and analyzes election and voter data, and compiles information for required reports to the federal government and state policymakers. Agency staff also makes the data available to the public and research organizations through its BADGER Voters website (<https://badgervoters.wi.gov>) as well as on the agency's main website. Agency staff creates reports to comply with federal statutes and federal grant requirements.

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 WEC.	4,000,000	8,979,938	4,900,000	1,108,976
1.	Percentage of sworn complaints resolved within 60-days of submission.*	90%	27%	90%	59%
1.	Conduct training events and maintain training resources for local elections partners and the general public.	150	151	150	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.

*The WEC has not met the 60-day complaint resolution goal set by the 2021–2022 budget. Several factors explain why. Most significantly, the volume of complaints unexpectedly increased since this goal was set. 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. Wis. Stat. § 5.05 complaints allow a 15-day response window, and then must be presented to the Commission in a closed session meeting. Wis. Stat. § 5.06 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.

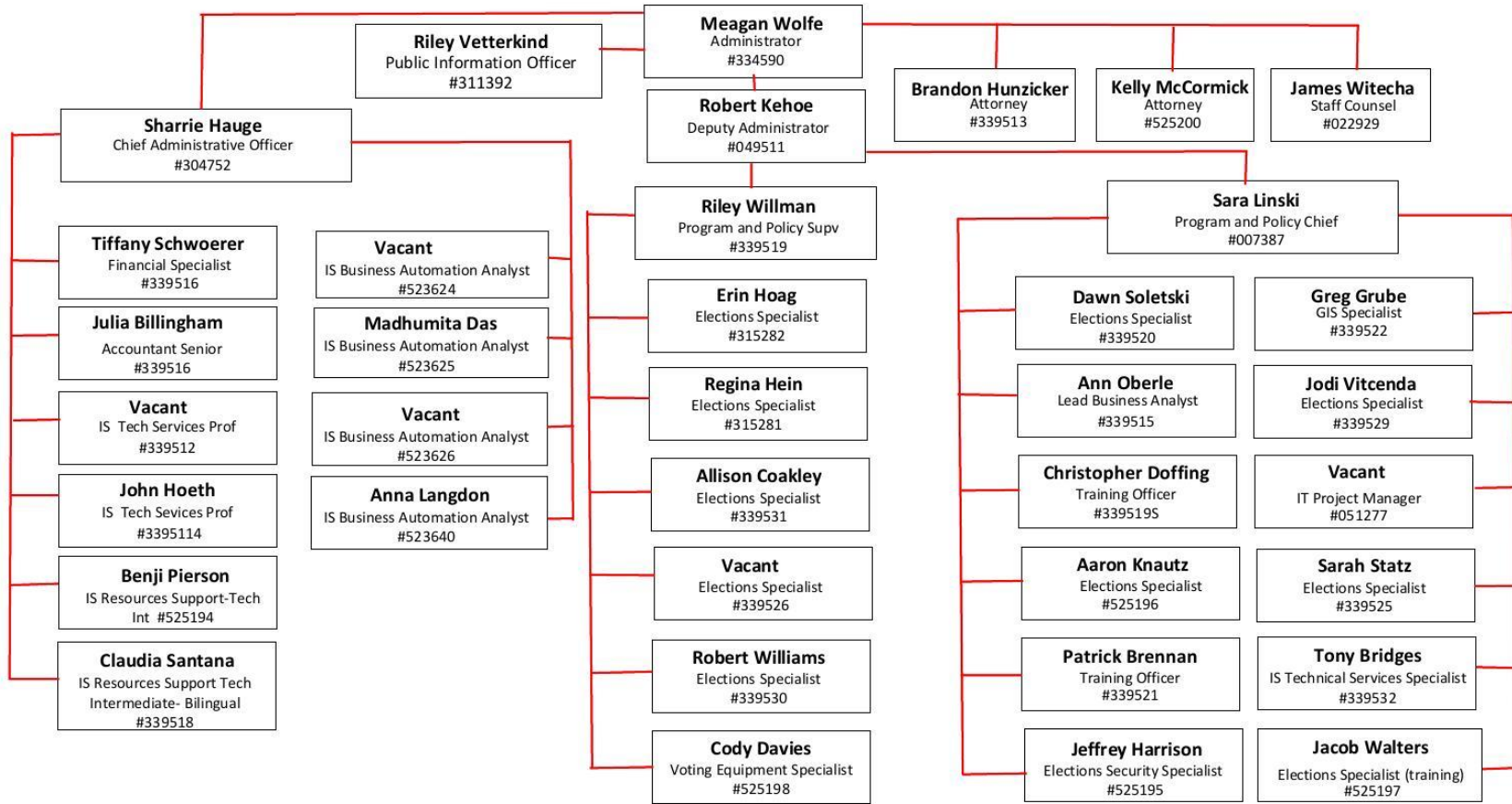
2023, 2024 AND 2025 GOALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2023	Goal 2024	Goal 2025
1.	Monitor the number of contacts the public makes to WEC.	4,000,000	1,500,000	8,000,000
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%	100%	100%

Note: Based on fiscal year.

¹New performance measure for upcoming biennium.

WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION



Agency Total by Fund Source

Elections Commission

2325 Biennial Budget

		ANNUAL SUMMARY						BIENNIAL SUMMARY			
Source of Funds		Prior Year Total	Adjusted Base	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE	Base Year Doubled (BYD)	Biennial Request	Change From (BYD)	Change From BYD %
GPR	S	\$4,290,714	\$4,869,500	\$5,985,700	\$6,119,700	35.75	35.75	\$9,739,000	\$12,105,400	\$2,366,400	24.30%
Total		\$4,290,714	\$4,869,500	\$5,985,700	\$6,119,700	35.75	35.75	\$9,739,000	\$12,105,400	\$2,366,400	24.30%
PR	S	\$74,498	\$357,900	\$443,600	\$443,600	3.00	3.00	\$715,800	\$887,200	\$171,400	23.90%
Total		\$74,498	\$357,900	\$443,600	\$443,600	3.00	3.00	\$715,800	\$887,200	\$171,400	23.90%
SEG	S	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$100	0.00	0.00	\$200	\$200	\$0	0.00%
Total		\$0	\$100	\$100	\$100	0.00	0.00	\$200	\$200	\$0	0.00%
SEG Federal	S	\$2,003,549	\$851,200	\$871,600	\$873,100	3.25	3.25	\$1,702,400	\$1,744,700	\$42,300	2.50%
Total		\$2,003,549	\$851,200	\$871,600	\$873,100	3.25	3.25	\$1,702,400	\$1,744,700	\$42,300	2.50%
Grand Total		\$6,368,761	\$6,078,700	\$7,301,000	\$7,436,500	42.00	42.00	\$12,157,400	\$14,737,500	\$2,580,100	21.20%

Agency Total by Program

Elections Commission

2325 Biennial Budget

		ANNUAL SUMMARY					BIENNIAL SUMMARY				
Source of Funds	Prior Year Total	Adjusted Base	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE	Base Year Doubled (BYD)	Biennial Request	Change From (BYD)	Change From BYD %	
01 Administration of elections											
Non Federal											
GPR	\$4,290,714	\$4,869,500	\$5,985,700	\$6,119,700	35.75	35.75	\$9,739,000	\$12,105,400	\$2,366,400	24.30%	
S	\$4,290,714	\$4,869,500	\$5,985,700	\$6,119,700	35.75	35.75	\$9,739,000	\$12,105,400	\$2,366,400	24.30%	
PR	\$74,498	\$357,900	\$443,600	\$443,600	3.00	3.00	\$715,800	\$887,200	\$171,400	23.95%	
S	\$74,498	\$357,900	\$443,600	\$443,600	3.00	3.00	\$715,800	\$887,200	\$171,400	23.95%	
SEG	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$100	0.00	0.00	\$200	\$200	\$0	0.00%	
S	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$100	0.00	0.00	\$200	\$200	\$0	0.00%	
Total - Non Federal	\$4,365,212	\$5,227,500	\$6,429,400	\$6,563,400	38.75	38.75	\$10,455,000	\$12,992,800	\$2,537,800	24.27%	
S	\$4,365,212	\$5,227,500	\$6,429,400	\$6,563,400	38.75	38.75	\$10,455,000	\$12,992,800	\$2,537,800	24.27%	
Federal											
SEG	\$2,003,549	\$851,200	\$871,600	\$873,100	3.25	3.25	\$1,702,400	\$1,744,700	\$42,300	2.48%	
S	\$2,003,549	\$851,200	\$871,600	\$873,100	3.25	3.25	\$1,702,400	\$1,744,700	\$42,300	2.48%	
Total - Federal	\$2,003,549	\$851,200	\$871,600	\$873,100	3.25	3.25	\$1,702,400	\$1,744,700	\$42,300	2.48%	
S	\$2,003,549	\$851,200	\$871,600	\$873,100	3.25	3.25	\$1,702,400	\$1,744,700	\$42,300	2.48%	

Agency Total by Program

Elections Commission

2325 Biennial Budget

		ANNUAL SUMMARY					BIENNIAL SUMMARY			
Source of Funds	Prior Year Total	Adjusted Base	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE	Base Year Doubled (BYD)	Biennial Request	Change From (BYD)	Change From BYD %
01 Administration of elections										
PGM 01 Total	\$6,368,761	\$6,078,700	\$7,301,000	\$7,436,500	42.00	42.00	\$12,157,400	\$14,737,500	\$2,580,100	21.22%
GPR	\$4,290,714	\$4,869,500	\$5,985,700	\$6,119,700	35.75	35.75	\$9,739,000	\$12,105,400	\$2,366,400	24.30%
S	\$4,290,714	\$4,869,500	\$5,985,700	\$6,119,700	35.75	35.75	\$9,739,000	\$12,105,400	\$2,366,400	24.30%
PR	\$74,498	\$357,900	\$443,600	\$443,600	3.00	3.00	\$715,800	\$887,200	\$171,400	23.95%
S	\$74,498	\$357,900	\$443,600	\$443,600	3.00	3.00	\$715,800	\$887,200	\$171,400	23.95%
SEG	\$2,003,549	\$851,300	\$871,700	\$873,200	3.25	3.25	\$1,702,600	\$1,744,900	\$42,300	2.48%
S	\$2,003,549	\$851,300	\$871,700	\$873,200	3.25	3.25	\$1,702,600	\$1,744,900	\$42,300	2.48%
TOTAL 01	\$6,368,761	\$6,078,700	\$7,301,000	\$7,436,500	42.00	42.00	\$12,157,400	\$14,737,500	\$2,580,100	21.22%
S	\$6,368,761	\$6,078,700	\$7,301,000	\$7,436,500	42.00	42.00	\$12,157,400	\$14,737,500	\$2,580,100	21.22%
AGENCY TOTAL	\$6,368,761	\$6,078,700	\$7,301,000	\$7,436,500	42.00	42.00	\$12,157,400	\$14,737,500	\$2,580,100	21.22%

Agency Total by Decision Item

Elections Commission

2325 Biennial Budget

Decision Item	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level	\$6,078,700	\$6,078,700	32.00	32.00
3003 Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$259,000	\$259,000	0.00	0.00
3005 Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression	\$61,300	\$62,800	0.00	0.00
4001 Funding for Elections Inspector General Program	\$902,000	\$1,036,000	10.00	10.00
4002 Statutory Language Change	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	\$7,301,000	\$7,436,500	42.00	42.00

Program Revenue

2325 Biennial Budget

	CODES	TITLES
DEPARTMENT	510	Elections Commission
PROGRAM	01	Administration of elections
SUBPROGRAM		
NUMERIC APPROPRIATION	20	Recount fees

Revenue and Expenditures	Prior Year Actuals	Base Year Estimate	1st Year Estimate	2nd Year Estimate
Opening Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Closing Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Program Revenue

2325 Biennial Budget

	CODES	TITLES
DEPARTMENT	510	Elections Commission
PROGRAM	01	Administration of elections
SUBPROGRAM		
NUMERIC APPROPRIATION	21	Materials and services

Revenue and Expenditures	Prior Year Actuals	Base Year Estimate	1st Year Estimate	2nd Year Estimate
Opening Balance	\$16,041	\$15,100	\$14,200	\$13,300
Revenue	\$75	\$100	\$100	\$100
Total Revenue	\$16,116	\$15,200	\$14,300	\$13,400
Expenditures	\$976	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Expenditures	\$976	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Closing Balance	\$15,140	\$14,200	\$13,300	\$12,400

Program Revenue

2325 Biennial Budget

	CODES	TITLES
DEPARTMENT	510	Elections Commission
PROGRAM	01	Administration of elections
SUBPROGRAM		
NUMERIC APPROPRIATION	23	Gifts and grants

Revenue and Expenditures	Prior Year Actuals	Base Year Estimate	1st Year Estimate	2nd Year Estimate
Opening Balance	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
Total Revenue	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Closing Balance	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300

Program Revenue

2325 Biennial Budget

	CODES	TITLES
DEPARTMENT	510	Elections Commission
PROGRAM	01	Administration of elections
SUBPROGRAM		
NUMERIC APPROPRIATION	25	Election security and maint

Revenue and Expenditures	Prior Year Actuals	Base Year Estimate	1st Year Estimate	2nd Year Estimate
Opening Balance	\$0	\$2,258,900	\$2,255,900	\$2,485,600
Transfer In from 180 appropriation	\$1,939,062	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sale of Voter lists	\$393,341	\$500,000	\$650,000	\$1,000,000
Interest	\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Total Revenue	\$2,332,403	\$2,766,900	\$2,913,900	\$3,493,600
Expenditures	\$73,522	\$511,000	\$0	\$0
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level	\$0	\$0	\$356,900	\$356,900
3003 Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$71,400	\$71,400
Total Expenditures	\$73,522	\$511,000	\$428,300	\$428,300
Closing Balance	\$2,258,881	\$2,255,900	\$2,485,600	\$3,065,300

Segregated Funds Revenue and Balances Statement

2325 Biennial Budget

	CODES	TITLES
DEPARTMENT	510	Elections Commission
PROGRAM	01	Administration of elections
SUBPROGRAM		
NUMERIC APPROPRIATION	60	Election administration
STATUTORY FUND	220	ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Revenue and Expenditures	Prior Year Actuals	Base Year Estimate	1st Year Estimate	2nd Year Estimate
Opening Balance	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Total Revenue	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Closing Balance	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100

Segregated Funds Revenue and Balances Statement

2325 Biennial Budget

	CODES	TITLES
DEPARTMENT	510	Elections Commission
PROGRAM	01	Administration of elections
SUBPROGRAM		
NUMERIC APPROPRIATION	82	Elections Security
STATUTORY FUND	220	ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Revenue and Expenditures	Prior Year Actuals	Base Year Estimate	1st Year Estimate	2nd Year Estimate
Opening Balance	\$8,317,610	\$7,537,300	\$4,362,300	\$3,510,000
2022 Election Security Disbursement	\$1,190,603	\$0	\$0	\$0
Interest Earned	\$17,478	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$4,000
Refund of Expenditures	\$15,203	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$9,540,894	\$7,562,300	\$4,377,300	\$3,514,000
Expenditures	\$2,003,549	\$3,200,000	\$0	\$0
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level	\$0	\$0	\$851,200	\$851,200
3003 Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$16,100	\$16,100
Total Expenditures	\$2,003,549	\$3,200,000	\$867,300	\$867,300
Closing Balance	\$7,537,345	\$4,362,300	\$3,510,000	\$2,646,700

Decision Item (DIN) - 2000

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Adjusted Base Funding Level

NARRATIVE

Adjusted Base Funding Level

Decision Item by Line

2325 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission
DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	2000	Adjusted Base Funding Level

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$2,110,200	\$2,110,200
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$34,400	\$34,400
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$2,400	\$2,400
05	Fringe Benefits	\$765,800	\$765,800
06	Supplies and Services	\$3,161,100	\$3,161,100
07	Permanent Property	\$4,800	\$4,800
08	Unallotted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$0	\$0
11	One-time Financing	\$0	\$0
12	Debt service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
17	TOTAL	\$6,078,700	\$6,078,700
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	30.00	30.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	2.00	2.00

Decision Item by Numeric

2325 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level				
01	Administration of elections				
	01 General program ops; GPR	\$4,761,900	\$4,761,900	25.75	25.75
	05 Investigations	\$25,000	\$25,000	0.00	0.00
	09 Voter identification training	\$82,600	\$82,600	0.00	0.00
	21 Materials and services	\$1,000	\$1,000	0.00	0.00
	25 Election security and maint	\$356,900	\$356,900	3.00	3.00
	60 Election administration	\$100	\$100	0.00	0.00
	82 Elections Security	\$851,200	\$851,200	3.25	3.25
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$6,078,700	\$6,078,700	32.00	32.00
	Adjusted Base Funding Level Sub Total	\$6,078,700	\$6,078,700	32.00	32.00
	Agency Total	\$6,078,700	\$6,078,700	32.00	32.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2325 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level					
GPR	S	\$4,869,500	\$4,869,500	25.75	25.75
PR	S	\$357,900	\$357,900	3.00	3.00
SEG	S	\$100	\$100	0.00	0.00
SEG Federal	S	\$851,200	\$851,200	3.25	3.25
Adjusted Base Funding Level Total		\$6,078,700	\$6,078,700	32.00	32.00
Agency Total		\$6,078,700	\$6,078,700	32.00	32.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 3003

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits

NARRATIVE

Standard Budget Adjustment - Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits

Decision Item by Line

2325 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission
DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	3003	Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$109,800	\$109,800
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	\$149,200	\$149,200
06	Supplies and Services	\$0	\$0
07	Permanent Property	\$0	\$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$0	\$0
11	One-time Financing	\$0	\$0
12	Debt service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
17	TOTAL	\$259,000	\$259,000
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

2325 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	3003 Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits				
01	Administration of elections				
	01 General program ops; GPR	\$171,500	\$171,500	0.00	0.00
	25 Election security and maint	\$71,400	\$71,400	0.00	0.00
	82 Elections Security	\$16,100	\$16,100	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$259,000	\$259,000	0.00	0.00
	Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits Sub Total	\$259,000	\$259,000	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$259,000	\$259,000	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2325 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
3003 Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits					
GPR	S	\$171,500	\$171,500	0.00	0.00
PR	S	\$71,400	\$71,400	0.00	0.00
SEG Federal	S	\$16,100	\$16,100	0.00	0.00
Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits Total		\$259,000	\$259,000	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$259,000	\$259,000	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 3005

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression

NARRATIVE

Standard Budget Adjustment - Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression

Decision Item by Line

2325 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission
DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	3005	Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$53,100	\$54,400
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	\$8,200	\$8,400
06	Supplies and Services	\$0	\$0
07	Permanent Property	\$0	\$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$0	\$0
11	One-time Financing	\$0	\$0
12	Debt service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
17	TOTAL	\$61,300	\$62,800
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

2325 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	3005 Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression				
01	Administration of elections				
	01 General program ops; GPR	\$42,700	\$42,700	0.00	0.00
	25 Election security and maint	\$14,300	\$14,300	0.00	0.00
	82 Elections Security	\$4,300	\$5,800	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$61,300	\$62,800	0.00	0.00
	Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression Sub Total	\$61,300	\$62,800	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$61,300	\$62,800	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2325 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
3005 Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression					
GPR	S	\$42,700	\$42,700	0.00	0.00
PR	S	\$14,300	\$14,300	0.00	0.00
SEG Federal	S	\$4,300	\$5,800	0.00	0.00
Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression Total		\$61,300	\$62,800	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$61,300	\$62,800	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4001

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Funding for Elections Inspector General Program

NARRATIVE

On August 31, 2022, the 6-member bipartisan Commission met and approved DIN 4001 unanimously. See attached.

Issue Paper

Funding for Elections Inspector General Program

DIN 4001

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) requests \$902,000 GPR in FY24 and \$1,036,000 GPR in FY25 to create 10.0 GPR FTE and to operate an Elections Inspector General program. The program will increase the agency's ability to research public or legislative inquiries – especially those alleging unlawful or non-compliant behavior – in a more timely and effective manner. The Election Inspector General program will also promote best practices designed to increase accuracy of and confidence in election results.

Background

Elections put power in the hands of citizens by giving them the ability to select their leaders. The electoral franchise is a potent tool for holding leaders accountable and peaceably resolving political and societal conflict. And because elections determine political winners and losers, electoral processes have long been subject to scrutiny. Manipulation – or the threat of it – weakens public confidence in democratic processes, erodes the legitimacy of government, and undermines the will of the people.

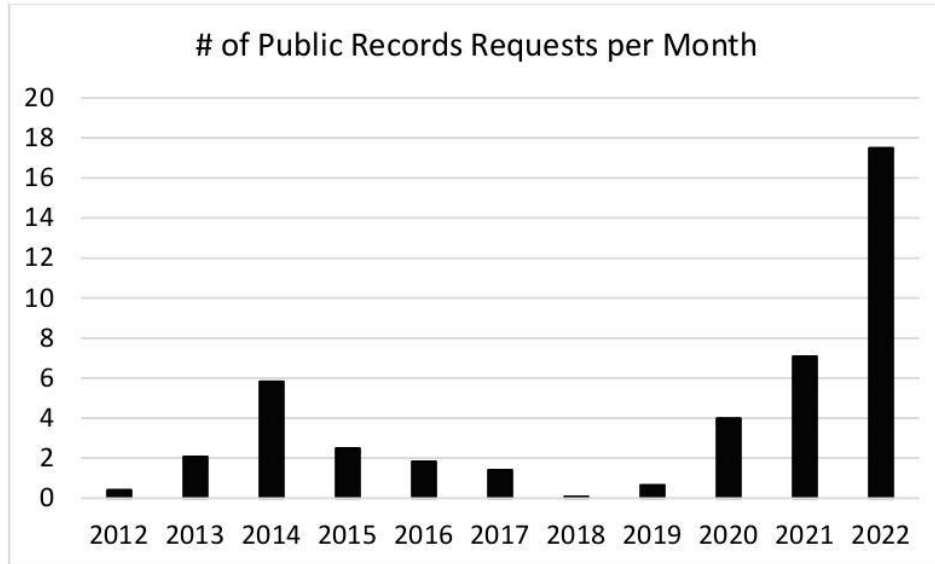
Warding off attempts of electoral manipulation – both real and perceived – remains the highest priority of the WEC. It must be in order to instill public confidence in Wisconsin's elections system and to ensure election integrity.

Since the WEC was established in 2016, the election landscape has become almost unrecognizable. Threats to American election infrastructure have not only changed but have compounded precipitously. American elections face threats from both domestic and foreign actors, and through both cyber and traditional means.

Public engagement with, and scrutiny of, the agency is higher than at any previous point in its seven-year history. While increased engagement presents a challenge to the WEC, it simultaneously presents an opportunity for the Commission to provide the public with helpful and accurate election information to build public confidence. Members of the public are indispensable allies in providing tips to election officials when they notice something worth investigating.

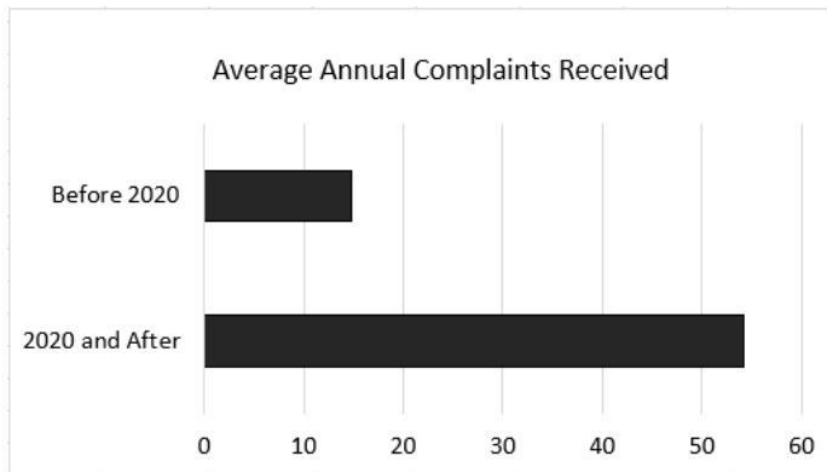
Since 2016, the average number of public records requests received per month by the WEC has increased nearly eight-fold, from about two per month in 2016 to more than 16 per month in 2022. The numbers continue to climb, creating a backlog of requests and lengthening the time each requestor must wait for a response.

TABLE 1



Formal Wis. Stat. § 5.05 and Wis. Stat. § 5.06 complaints filed with the agency have soared as well. Before 2020, the agency received an average of about 15 formal complaints annually. Since 2020, that number has increased to more than 50.

TABLE 2



Similarly, lawmaker requests for election-related information have greatly escalated. For example, the 2021-23 chair of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections made many time-intensive requests of the agency, such as for all changes in each registered elector's status, that could be more quickly fulfilled via the Office of the Inspector General.

Wisconsin needs an Office of the Inspector General to meet the challenges and expectations of this new era and to ensure the Commission delivers election integrity for another generation.

Wisconsin's election system is designed with checks and balances created to ensure accurate and reliable results. Nearly the entirety of Chapters 5 through 10 of the Wisconsin Statutes are dedicated to this purpose. Likewise, the WEC is almost entirely designed to administer the processes outlined in statute. Statutory post-election review processes consist of canvass and certification (Wis. Stats. §§ 7.50-7.70), equipment audits (Wis. Stat. § 7.08(6)), recounts (Wis. Stat. § 9.01), and complaints (Wis. Stats. §§ 5.05 and 5.06).

Except for complaints, the post-election processes referenced above are almost entirely performed by municipal and county workers. Until recently, the WEC had no staff fully dedicated to any of these processes and only a single attorney to process complaints. Likewise, the WEC had only a single Public Information Officer to handle public inquiries. Unfortunately, this structure has proved inadequate to address the hundreds of thousands of questions and concerns, along with hundreds of records requests and complaints the WEC received in recent years.

The inability to address public concerns promptly and completely frustrates citizens and harms public confidence in election processes. The staffing needs of our agency have evolved, in the same way that elections technology and the voting process itself has evolved.

The elections landscape in Wisconsin has changed and we are at a crossroads of public understanding, confidence, and support for elections administration. The WEC must adapt to meet the growing needs of our citizenry. Funding the Elections Inspector General program would be one clear and decisive step toward creating a more effective, efficient agency that will better address citizen concerns and requests and thus increase public confidence in our elections.

The public and lawmakers – crucial allies in helping keep our elections infrastructure secure – rightfully expect the Commission to provide them with timely responses and prompt action, if necessary, to address questions and allegations of election law violations as well as information about how Wisconsin's election system works.

While the Office of Inspector General may be a resource in the Commission's consideration of formal complaints, the intent is not to alter the current complaint process. The intent is that the Office of Inspector General will address concerns that may not represent formal complaints.

The Office of the Inspector General will be ready to address such requests.

Issue

The creation of an Elections Inspector General and staff will permit the timely and thorough examination of alleged unlawful or inefficient operations within Wisconsin elections and promote best practices that are designed to increase accuracy of and confidence in election results. The Inspector General will provide objective advice to the WEC through relevant, timely and thorough inspection, assistance, research, and training of election operations statewide. Objectives of the Inspector General Program are:

1. Ensure that questions about election processes and concerns over election law violations are taken seriously and researched to resolution
2. Improve the agency's overall ability to research and respond to complaints, questions, and concerns from the general public, elected officials, and other agencies
3. Improve agency's ability to handle public questions around elections and during other periods of high public interest

Essential functions to be performed by the Inspector General's staff include:

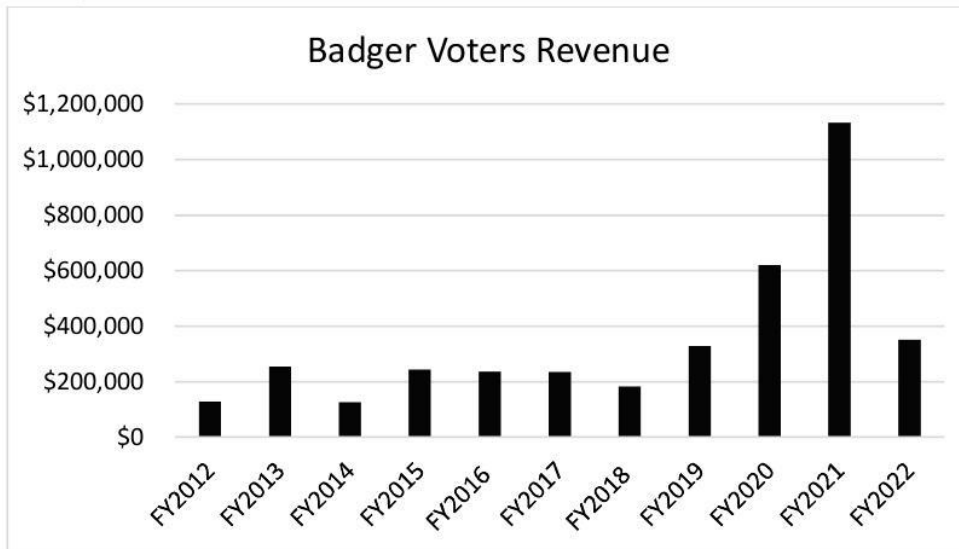
1. Research and provide assistance to the legal team in presenting information to the Commission regarding formal complaints of election law violations, including allegations of persons providing false or misleading information to an elected official during the registration or voting process, as directed by the Commission by resolution
2. Research and aid the legal team in presenting information to the Commission regarding alleged non-compliance of election officials as directed by the Commission
3. Provide research support regarding polling place procedures, elections processes, and elections systems in relation to with state and federal requirements for accessibility
4. Fulfill open records requests in accordance with Wisconsin law
5. Respond to legislative inquiries and requests for information and assistance
6. Respond to public inquiries

The position of the Election Inspector General would be an unclassified position hired by the Administrator. The Inspector General and staff will consist of 10 people. The Inspector General will manage the review of election programs and initiatives, direct the preparation of reports, and supervise the nine other staff members. The Inspector General and staff may also complete special projects as needed. The Inspector General will report directly to the Administrator.

Staff assigned to the Inspector General will be required to develop and maintain proficiency in various program areas including, but not limited to: (1) Information Systems and Data Analysis; (2) Elections Law and Policy Analysis; (3) Accessibility and Accessible Voting; (4) Public Records and Records Management; (5) Legislative; (6) Public Communications; and (7) Audit/Testing/Certification.

In the last ten years, WEC staff have created several information systems for managing elections data including WisVote, the statewide voter registration system, Badger Voters, our self-service data request website, and Badger Books, an electronic poll book system in use in 150 municipalities. By creating and maintaining these products in house, staff can respond to legislative and environmental changes that must be reflected in these systems. For example, during the 2020 nomination paper cycle, WEC staff created a mechanism to make nomination paper filings available for download and review through Badger Voters where previously this transaction required an office visit and access to a copier. Interest in Badger Voters data has increased in recent years.

TABLE 3



When this data is purchased and analyzed, customers often have questions on how to interpret the data and may draw inaccurate conclusions when those questions are unanswered. Staff responsible for handling these questions are also responsible for the day-to-day customer support and maintenance of the applications and data in the statewide voter registration database. WEC staff have always prioritized clerk users as the individuals most requiring our support. To have information system data specialists on the inspector general's team would provide the additional needed capacity in addressing questions on Wisconsin's election data and information technology systems.

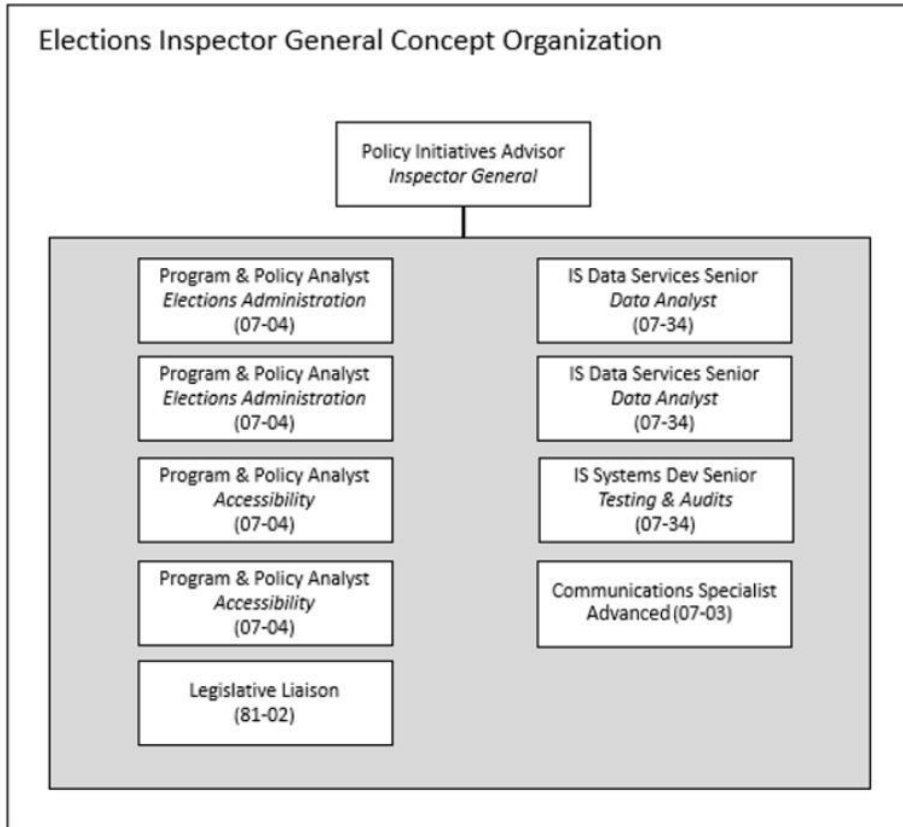
The election law and policy analysts' positions will allow the other members of the program to better perform their assigned duties. A deep knowledge of election administration and the statutes that govern the voting process in Wisconsin will be necessary for the Inspector General program to maximize its efforts. The election law and policy analyst staff will assist other team members in knowing how the election statutes are reflected in clerk preparations before Election Day, the voting process, and certification of the election. The election law and policy analyst staff will also coordinate with other programs within the WEC to ensure that the perspective of the Inspector General program is reflected in other agency projects, and vice versa.

Staff assigned to the Inspector General will increase the ability of the WEC to audit election processes to ensure standardization and legal compliance across the state. Currently, two election specialists oversee the voting equipment audit program. The voting equipment audit has required at least 5% of all reporting units in the state to conduct a hand-count audit of their voting equipment to ensure that the reported results are correct and accurate. The Commission has recently required the number of reporting units to double to 10% of all reporting units statewide. Overseeing and training local election officials on the best ways to hand audit nearly 400 reporting units statewide will require additional staff to ensure accurate and timely completion of the audits prior to state certification.

Staff also audit polling places across the state for compliance with state and federal accessibility laws. The audit program is led by one election specialist, and currently can only audit polling places on Election Day through assistance from temporary staff. Having additional specialists dedicated to accessibility will allow the WEC to grow the program to include satellite in-person absentee voting before an election to ensure ADA compliance.

Finally, a legislative liaison and communications specialist will be vital in conveying the findings of the Elections Inspector General to lawmakers and to the public. These positions will allow WEC to provide more timely information in response to bill drafts, fiscal estimates, and constituent questions.

TABLE 4



Anticipated program costs are outlined in the chart below. The chart includes anticipated costs of 10 FTE and supplies and services costs related to the new oversight entity. Costs include funds for the Office of Inspector General to engage contractors, such as a third party to audit the security and maintenance of the statewide voter registration database and voter registration records. The exact cost for these services is not yet known. Further, the cost estimate includes funding for increasing the number of post-election voting equipment audits and the number of polling place accessibility audits. In the last 5 years the Commission has increased the number of post-election voting equipment audits from 2% to 10% of equipment used statewide. Additional voluntary post-election audits are also an option for local jurisdictions, and it is expected that more jurisdictions will opt to conduct such audits in the future. The costs for such audits to local jurisdictions are reimbursed by the WEC. Likewise, the Commission has significantly increased the number of accessibility audits to ensure all voters are able to access Wisconsin polling places. The WEC has expressed a desire to increase the number of polling place audits and to begin an in-person absentee site accessibility review program should funds become available.

TABLE 5

Program Costs	FY24	FY25	TOTAL FY24 & FY25
10 FTE/Salary and Fringe	\$ 552,000	\$ 736,000	\$ 1,288,000
Computers/Office Supplies for 10 FTE*	\$ 50,000	\$ 0	\$ 50,000
Voting Equipment, Database Auditing & Accessibility Auditing	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 600,000
TOTAL COST	\$ 902,000	\$ 1,036,000	\$ 1,938,000

*one-time cost in FY 24

Decision Item by Line

2325 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission
DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4001	Funding for Elections Inspector General Program

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$392,600	\$523,500
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	\$159,400	\$212,500
06	Supplies and Services	\$300,000	\$300,000
07	Permanent Property	\$0	\$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$0	\$0
11	One-time Financing	\$50,000	\$0
12	Debt service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
17	TOTAL	\$902,000	\$1,036,000
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	9.00	9.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	1.00	1.00

Decision Item by Numeric

2325 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4001 Funding for Elections Inspector General Program				
01	Administration of elections				
	01 General program ops; GPR	\$902,000	\$1,036,000	10.00	10.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$902,000	\$1,036,000	10.00	10.00
	Funding for Elections Inspector General Program Sub Total	\$902,000	\$1,036,000	10.00	10.00
	Agency Total	\$902,000	\$1,036,000	10.00	10.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2325 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4001 Funding for Elections Inspector General Program					
GPR	S	\$902,000	\$1,036,000	10.00	10.00
Funding for Elections Inspector General Program Total		\$902,000	\$1,036,000	10.00	10.00
Agency Total		\$902,000	\$1,036,000	10.00	10.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4002

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Statutory Language Change

NARRATIVE

On August 31, 2022, the 6-member bipartisan Commission met and approved DIN 4002 unanimously. The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests a statutory language change to 20.510 (1)(c).

ISSUE PAPER

The current statutory language limits the Wisconsin Elections Commission's ability to spend these funds on anything besides Voter identification training. The voter ID law has been in effect for more than ten years, and photo ID training is rarely a stand alone training. Photo ID training is incorporated into many training programs developed and conducted by WEC. The current statutory language makes these funds very difficult to access and utilize and funds go unspent because they cannot be used for training on other topics. The statutory language change would allow WEC to continue incorporating voter ID training into all types of training for county and municipal clerks.

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

The current appropriation reads:

20.510 (1)(c) *Voter identification training.* The amounts in the schedule for training of county and municipal clerks concerning voter identification requirements provided in 2011 Wisconsin Act 23.

The new language should read:

20.510 (1)(c) *County and Municipal Clerk training.* The amounts in the schedule for training of county and municipal clerks concerning the administration of Elections as outlined in Wis.Stats. Chapters 5-10 and 12 including voter identification requirements provided in 2011 Wisconsin Act 23.

Decision Item by Line

2325 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission
DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4002	Statutory Language Change

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0
06	Supplies and Services	\$0	\$0
07	Permanent Property	\$0	\$0
08	Unallotted Reserve	\$0	\$0
09	Aids to Individuals & Organizations	\$0	\$0
10	Local Assistance	\$0	\$0
11	One-time Financing	\$0	\$0
12	Debt service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
17	TOTAL	\$0	\$0
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

2325 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4002 Statutory Language Change				
01	Administration of elections				
	01 General program ops; GPR	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
	Statutory Language Change Sub Total	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2325 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4002 Statutory Language Change					
GPR	S	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
Statutory Language Change Total		\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00