



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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DATE: For the September 11, 2024, Commission Meeting

TO: Members, Wisconsin Elections Commission

FROM: Meagan Wolfe, Administrator
Wisconsin Elections Commission

Prepared by:
Sharrie Hauge, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: 2025-2027 Biennial Budget Request

Attached is the 2025-27 Biennial Budget submission, which is due on September 16, 2024. However, as of the drafting of this memo, WEC has not yet received all the final budget instructions from the State Budget Office, which means there will be one minor standard budget adjustment update for the cost of leased space/rent prior to submitting the budget. The biennial budget process is designed to maintain the agency’s general program revenue (GPR) funded operations and federal spending authority for the biennium. The 2025-2027 biennium begins on July 1, 2025, and runs through June 30, 2027. This memorandum provides an overview of the budget process and includes a summary of the thirteen Decision Item concepts that the Commission approved at its June 27, 2024 meeting.

Overview and Budget Process

In June the Department of Administration issued its Major Budget Policies and Budget instructions for preparing agency 2025-2027 biennial budget requests based on 100 percent of their fiscal year 2023-24 adjusted base. The instructions stated that all agencies should assume there will be zero growth in overall GPR appropriations in each fiscal year during the 2025-2027 biennium, meaning that agencies are required to hold their overall GPR expenditures to the level of this current fiscal year.

On August 28, staff received the Technical Budget instructions from the State Budget Office. Before staff can finalize the 2025-27 Biennial Budget request there are several technical budget tasks that need to be completed. Staff has completed the base year reconciliation which ensures agency program and appropriation structures in the budget system correctly reflect current law. The goal of the base reconciliation is to obtain adequate funding and position levels for each appropriation which is approximated by what is available as of July 1 at the start of the second year of the biennium (July 1, 2024). All agency spending requests are built on (or are changes to) the adjusted base funding level.

The WEC’s total base budget for fiscal year 2025 after completion of the base year reconciliation is \$6,886,800.

The total adjusted base budget consists of the following spending authority:

General Purpose Revenue (GPR) funds	\$5,213,100
Federal HAVA funds (SEG-F)	\$1,200,500
Segregated Revenue funds (SEG)	\$ 100
Program Revenue (PR) funds	<u>\$ 473,100</u>
Total Spending Authority	\$6,886,800

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

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Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

The WEC's program revenue primarily results from the sale of voter lists and includes a small amount of funds collected for providing other agency records under the Public Records Law.

Next, staff completes standard budget adjustments which includes:

- 3002 – Removal of Noncontinuing Elements from the Base
- 3003 – Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits
- 3005 – Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression
- 3010 – Full Funding of Lease and Directed Move Costs (not completed yet)
- 3011 – Minor Transfers within the Same Alpha Appropriation

After the Standard Budget Adjustments and reconciliation process are complete the agency budget request decision items are developed in more specific detail.

Summary of Decision Items/Requests to Include in the WEC 2025-2027 Biennial Budget Submission

The State's budget process requires agencies to identify Decision Items reflecting any proposed change from the base budget as determined by the Department of Administration. In addition to the primary Decision Item related to continuing the agency's base operations, the Commission approved thirteen Decision Items to be included in its 2025-2027 Biennial Budget request, which are:

1. To increase the Accessibility Review and Supply Program budget by \$9,700 GPR annually.

Currently, the Accessibility Review and Supply Program budget is \$48,300 annually. To expand and continue increasing the number of polling places being reviewed as well as addressing clerk supply requests, an increase in GPR funds would allow more voters in Wisconsin to visit their polling place and cast their ballot privately and independently.

2. To ask the Legislature to address the ongoing need to subsidize local governments for elections administration services to continue to improve upon how elections are conducted in large cities and small towns by either providing funding for WEC to continue to administer subgrants or directly fund elections for municipalities.

From 2018-2023 the Wisconsin Elections Commission has designated \$7,261,658 to provide subgrants to local elections offices. There is an ongoing need to subsidize local governments for elections administration services, but WEC cannot continue to support local governments when the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds run out. The purpose of the local election security subgrants are to help improve overall election security statewide by providing cities, villages, and towns across the State of Wisconsin with federal election security funds to implement baseline security measures based on specific needs of the jurisdiction.

3. To increase the GPR budget by \$41,600 annually for the cost of Identity and Authentication Management Proxy (Multi Factor Authentication for Local Election Offices) for the 2025-27 biennium.

The ongoing cost of maintaining this advanced MFA solution, specifically the RSA SecurID Identity and Authentication Management Proxy, is \$41,600 annually. This cost is crucial for the continued security of the WisVote system and, by extension, the integrity of Wisconsin's election infrastructure. However, this expense is currently not included in the WEC's base budget.

4. To increase the GPR budget by \$156,000 in FY26 and \$156,000 in FY27 to fund the Maintenance/Hosting of the Clerk Training and Learning Management System (ElectEd) and the WEC website for the 2025-27 biennium.

The WEC budgeted for the cost to build ElectEd and the WEC website (elections.wi.gov), but the cost to maintain and host the sites is not in the agency's base budget. Without the maintenance and hosting of the websites from Aquia, the agency's main website and the WEC's Clerk Training and Learning Management System cannot be maintained. All websites need to continuously be upgraded to maintain performance and security and plan for keeping our websites secure. In order to maintain website security and secure access to clerk training information on ElectEd, it is vital that the WEC has the ability to have Acquia and Drupal professionals dedicated to any future platform updates to ensure continued security of all agency websites.

5. To increase the GPR budget by \$15,900 annually for the cost of SmartyStreets (Local election offices rely on this for voter registration address validation) for the 2025-27 biennium.

Security dedicated funding for SmartyStreets is essential to maintain the accuracy and efficiency of the voter registration system, ensuring that Wisconsin's geocoding system continues to accurately assign voters to correct districts. SmartyStreets services comes at an annual cost of \$15,900, which is not currently included in the agency's base funding.

6. Statutory language change to appropriation 20.510 (1) (c) *Voter identification training*. The statutory language of the appropriation currently reads: "*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."

Currently, \$82,600 is appropriated annually for clerk voter identification training only. The voter photo ID law has been in effect for more than ten years, and photo ID training is rarely stand alone. Photo ID training is incorporated into the many training programs developed and conducted by WEC. The current statutory language makes these funds very difficult to access and utilize and the funds often go unspent because they cannot be used for training on other topics. Staff is proposing broader language in this statute to encompass any type of training of county and municipal clerks, not just voter identification training. The statutory language change would allow WEC to continue incorporating voter ID training into all types of training for county and municipal clerks.

7. To increase the GPR budget by \$50,000 in FY26 and increase the SEG-F federal budget by \$50,000 in FY26 for the cost of Zendesk for the 2025-27 biennium.

On June 17, 2023 the agency renewed Zendesk, a comprehensive customer support system, for two-years at a cost of approximately \$100,000. Zendesk is currently funded 50% by federal funds and 50% by GPR funds which are not in the agency's base budget.

Continuing to leverage automation through Zendesk is crucial for enhancing operational efficiency, especially if the Commission faces future challenges in retaining temporary, project-based, or limited-term staff, who currently represent a significant portion of our workforce. Beyond improving service quality, a system like Zendesk ensures that every email contact is meticulously tracked. Zendesk assigns a unique ID to each customer request, records edit histories by user, and allows staff to manage emails based on their current workload. Additionally, resolved requests are moved to a separate section, preventing duplicate responses and enabling staff to focus on unresolved issues.

8. To increase the SEG-F budget by \$164,500 in FY26 and \$282,000 SEG-F in FY27 to convert 4.0 federal project positions to 4.0 federal permanent positions in the 2025-27 biennial budget to continue supporting the Wisconsin Elections Commission's critical elections security infrastructure.

Despite the ongoing importance to our agency for the mission critical function of securing elections, the current 4.0 project positions sunset on November 11, 2025. Project positions cannot be extended for an additional term beyond four years. They must be converted from project positions to permanent positions in

order to exist after November 11, 2025. To address the agency's continued, need for security enhancements and training, it is vital that the agency must remain fully staffed. The team ensures the security of Wisconsin's statewide voter registration system and provides elections security support to Wisconsin's 1,922 local clerk, poll workers and special voting deputies. For that reason, the WEC is requesting to convert the expiring project positions to permanent positions which would be federally funded using remaining HAVA election security grant funds. These positions will continue to serve in the same capacity as their project positions, except they would attain permanent status.

9. To increase the GPR budget by \$138,800 GPR in FY26 to create 8 GPR LTE positions and increase the GPR budget by \$277,400 in FY27 to create 12 GPR LTE positions.

The approval for funding of these LTE positions should Decision Item 8 above not be approved is critical to the Wisconsin Elections Commission's efforts to maintain the state's elections security infrastructure. These positions support our 1,922 local elections officials who have varying levels of resources and technological abilities with training and guidance to ensure they can effectively administer elections in a secure manner. Without permanent position authority the agency must rely on LTEs to address real time concerns and implement immediate solutions during the administration of four statewide elections in even number years. In odd number years these positions lay important groundwork for elections security like development of training and implementation of data backups and monitoring while supporting two statewide elections. These positions are critically important for the sustained success of Wisconsin elections and the continued support of Wisconsin's local 1,922 local clerks who administer elections on the ground level.

10. To increase spending authority of \$8,000 PR in FY26 and \$8,000 PR in FY27 for the Materials and Services Appropriation to offset the increased mailing and printing costs of documents. This request is asking to use existing funding for this purpose and is not requesting any additional funds.

Currently, the Elections Commission budget for the Materials and Services appropriation has spending authority of \$1,000 annually but has a current fund balance of approximately \$25,000. WEC would like to utilize those funds to offset the increased costs of locating records and mailing and printing publication requests.

11. To increase the GPR budget by \$156,700 annually in its base funding for the increased cost of ERIC membership dues and to remain in compliance with Wis. Stat. § 6.36(1) (ae)1. and 2. for the 2025-27 biennium.

Currently, the Elections Commission budget for ERIC expenses are only partially funded. The ERIC membership agreement requires states to perform an annual list maintenance for voters who are identified by ERIC as having potentially moved. These voters are mailed a first-class postcard notifying them to update their voter registration.

In the 2019-21 Enacted Budget (Wisconsin Act 9) \$33,100 was approved in the agency's base budget for annual ERIC membership dues and \$141,300 for the annual ERIC Movers mailing. Over the past biennium the cost of the ERIC membership dues has increased by \$37,700 annually. This increase in membership dues is not currently in the agency's base budget.

The ERIC membership agreement also requires states to contact voters who have been identified by ERIC as being eligible to vote but are not yet registered to vote. This mailing must be done once every two years, ahead of the fall General Election. Historically, the cost of this mailing has been more than \$100,000. The WEC was recently granted an exemption by ERIC from the requirement to mail postcards, but under the ERIC agreement, and thereby under Wisconsin law, WEC is still required to conduct outreach to voters. However, the exemption gives WEC some flexibility and cost savings in conducting the required outreach.

12. To increase the GPR budget by \$925,600 in FY26 and \$1,067,400 in FY27 to create 10.0 GPR FTE and to operate an Office of Election Transparency and Compliance Program. The program will increase the agency's

ability to audit election results, conduct data integrity audits, increase voter accessibility programs and polling place audits, and research public or legislative inquiries

This request was originally submitted in the 2023-2025 budget request. It is needs based and is precipitated by additional election integrity tasks the legislature has sought from the agency in previous years. WEC anticipates that the Wisconsin Legislature may desire, in future elections, additional independent audits, and increased capacity for accessibility initiatives, which is why the WEC is again bringing this need to the attention of our elected lawmakers.

13. To increase the GPR budget by \$12,800 annually in its base funding for Commissioner Per Diems for the 2025-27 Biennium.

Currently, the Wisconsin Elections Commission has a base budget of \$2,400 annually for Commissioner Per Diems, which equates to approximately 3 meetings per year. This does not include in-person travel expenses or meeting materials. Over the past biennium the Commission has met over 20 times annually. Staff estimates a need of \$15,180 for per diems annually for an estimated 22 meetings per year.

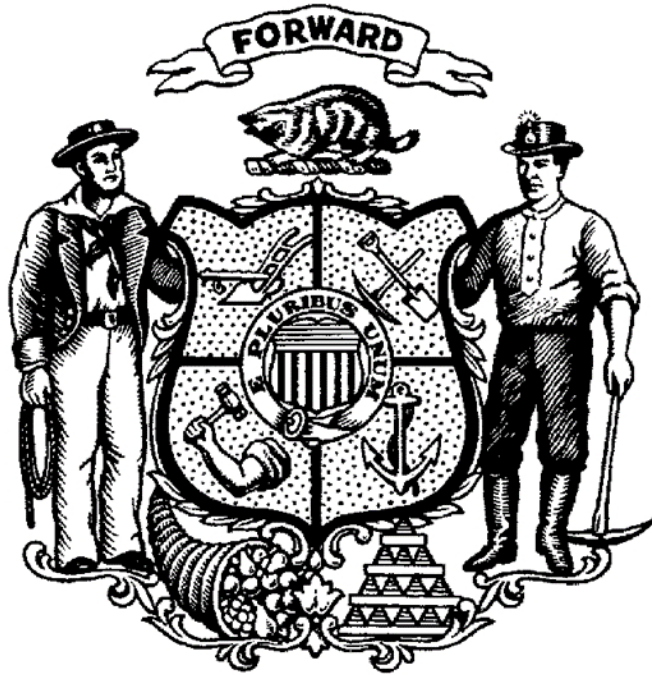
14. NOT RECOMMENDED FOR INCLUSION: At the June 27, 2024 Commission meeting, the Commission raised a possible 14th decision item in the 25-27 biennial budget request. The Commission unanimously asked that the budget include a request to increase the salary of the WEC Administrator position. While the WEC Administrator is humbled by the Commission's initiative, she respectfully requests that this item not be included in the WEC's 25-27 biennial budget request decision items. The other decision items presented in the agency's budget proposal are of critical importance to the agency to ensure the WEC has the necessary resources to carry out statutory responsibilities in the next biennium. Administrator Wolfe is concerned that adding this item could jeopardize the likelihood that the legislative Joint Committee on Finance approves the WEC's other requests, which are of paramount importance.

Recommended Motion:

- 1) Approve submitting the 2025-2027 biennial budget request which will continue current agency operations and add thirteen-decision items.

State of Wisconsin

Elections Commission



Agency Budget Request

2025 – 2027 Biennium

September 16, 2024

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Wisconsin Elections Commission

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September 16, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Blumenfeld:

Enclosed is the 2025-2027 budget submission for the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC). The WEC has included thirteen 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

Meagan Wolfe
Administrator

Enclosure

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Administrator
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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

2023 AND 2024 GOALS AND ACTUALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2023	Actual 2023	Goal 2024	Actual 2024
1.	Monitor the number of contacts the public makes to WEC.	4,000,000	885,711	1,500,000	17,377,471
1.	Percentage of sworn complaints resolved within 90 days of submission.	90%	60%	70%	73%
1.	Conduct training events and maintain training resources for local elections partners and the general public.	150	170	150	195
1.	Percentage of candidates receiving nomination paper review results within two business days of filing.	100%	100%	100%	100%

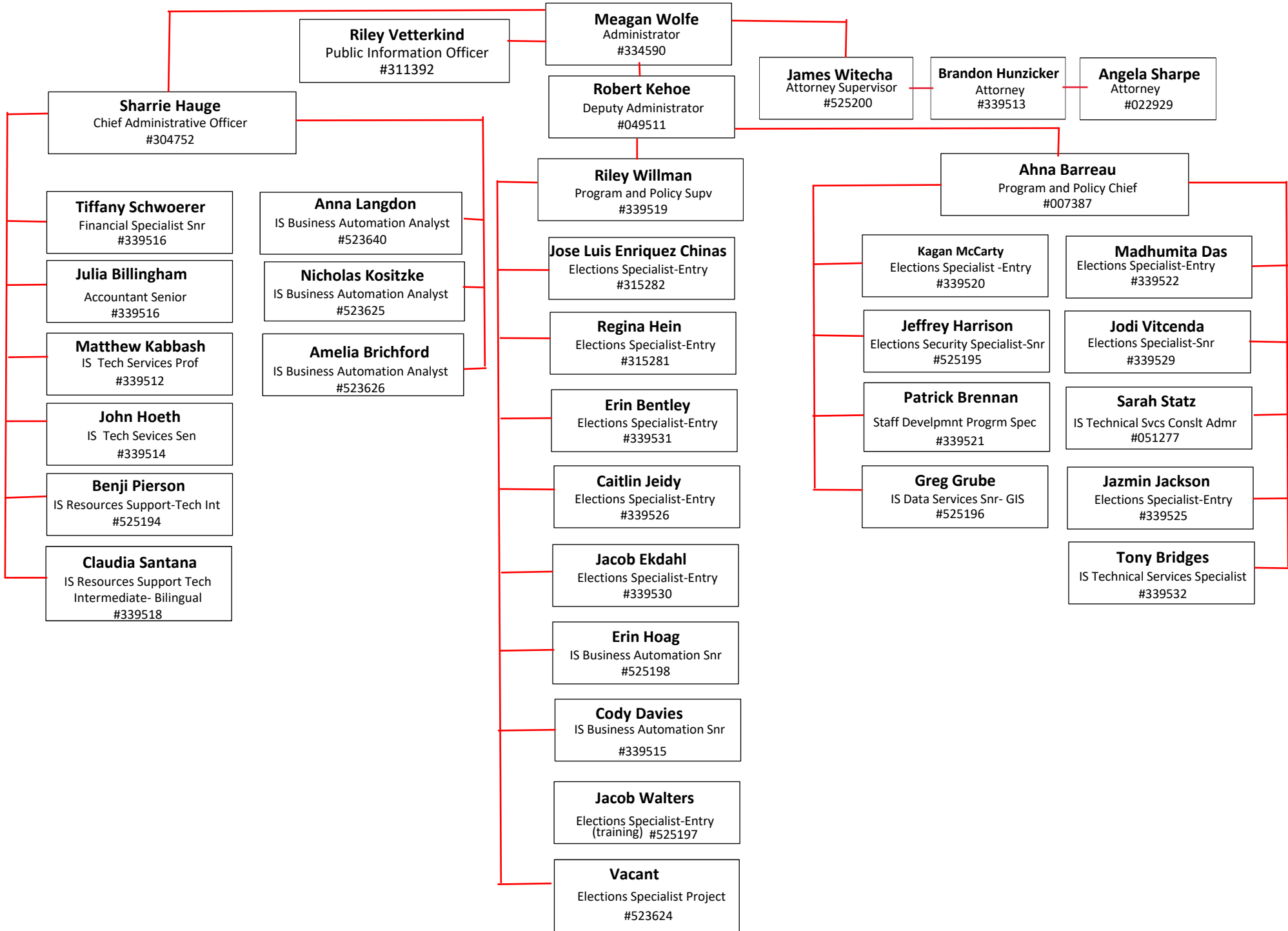
Note: Based on fiscal year.

2025, 2026 AND 2027 GOALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2025	Goal 2026	Goal 2027
1.	Monitor the number of contacts the public makes to WEC.	10,000,000	1,500,000	3,000,000
1.	Percentage of sworn complaints resolved within 90 days of submission.	70%	70%	70%
1.	Conduct training events and maintain training resources for local elections partners and the general public.	170	170	170
1.	Percentage of candidates receiving nomination paper review results within two business days of filing.	100%	100%	100%

Note: Based on fiscal year.

WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION



Agency Total by Fund Source

Elections Commission

2527 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	\$4,475,064	\$5,213,100	\$6,721,200	\$6,951,600	25.75	25.75	\$10,426,200	\$13,672,800	\$3,246,600	31.10%
Total		\$4,475,064	\$5,213,100	\$6,721,200	\$6,951,600	25.75	25.75	\$10,426,200	\$13,672,800	\$3,246,600	31.10%
PR	S	\$440,013	\$473,100	\$435,400	\$435,400	3.00	3.00	\$946,200	\$870,800	(\$75,400)	-8.00%
Total		\$440,013	\$473,100	\$435,400	\$435,400	3.00	3.00	\$946,200	\$870,800	(\$75,400)	-8.00%
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	\$2,144,975	\$1,200,500	\$1,262,800	\$1,202,000	7.25	7.25	\$2,401,000	\$2,464,800	\$63,800	2.70%
Total		\$2,144,975	\$1,200,500	\$1,262,800	\$1,202,000	7.25	7.25	\$2,401,000	\$2,464,800	\$63,800	2.70%
Grand Total		\$7,060,052	\$6,886,800	\$8,419,500	\$8,589,100	36.00	36.00	\$13,773,600	\$17,008,600	\$3,235,000	23.50%

Agency Total by Program

Elections Commission

2527 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	\$4,475,064	\$5,213,100	\$6,721,200	\$6,951,600	25.75	25.75	\$10,426,200	\$13,672,800	\$3,246,600	31.14%
S	\$4,475,064	\$5,213,100	\$6,721,200	\$6,951,600	25.75	25.75	\$10,426,200	\$13,672,800	\$3,246,600	31.14%
PR	\$440,013	\$473,100	\$435,400	\$435,400	3.00	3.00	\$946,200	\$870,800	(\$75,400)	-7.97%
S	\$440,013	\$473,100	\$435,400	\$435,400	3.00	3.00	\$946,200	\$870,800	(\$75,400)	-7.97%
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	\$4,915,077	\$5,686,300	\$7,156,700	\$7,387,100	28.75	28.75	\$11,372,600	\$14,543,800	\$3,171,200	27.88%
S	\$4,915,077	\$5,686,300	\$7,156,700	\$7,387,100	28.75	28.75	\$11,372,600	\$14,543,800	\$3,171,200	27.88%
Federal										
SEG	\$2,144,975	\$1,200,500	\$1,262,800	\$1,202,000	7.25	7.25	\$2,401,000	\$2,464,800	\$63,800	2.66%
S	\$2,144,975	\$1,200,500	\$1,262,800	\$1,202,000	7.25	7.25	\$2,401,000	\$2,464,800	\$63,800	2.66%
Total - Federal	\$2,144,975	\$1,200,500	\$1,262,800	\$1,202,000	7.25	7.25	\$2,401,000	\$2,464,800	\$63,800	2.66%
S	\$2,144,975	\$1,200,500	\$1,262,800	\$1,202,000	7.25	7.25	\$2,401,000	\$2,464,800	\$63,800	2.66%

Agency Total by Program

Elections Commission

2527 Biennial Budget

Source of Funds	Prior Year Total	ANNUAL SUMMARY					BIENNIAL SUMMARY			
		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	\$7,060,052	\$6,886,800	\$8,419,500	\$8,589,100	36.00	36.00	\$13,773,600	\$17,008,600	\$3,235,000	23.49%
GPR	\$4,475,064	\$5,213,100	\$6,721,200	\$6,951,600	25.75	25.75	\$10,426,200	\$13,672,800	\$3,246,600	31.14%
S	\$4,475,064	\$5,213,100	\$6,721,200	\$6,951,600	25.75	25.75	\$10,426,200	\$13,672,800	\$3,246,600	31.14%
PR	\$440,013	\$473,100	\$435,400	\$435,400	3.00	3.00	\$946,200	\$870,800	(\$75,400)	-7.97%
S	\$440,013	\$473,100	\$435,400	\$435,400	3.00	3.00	\$946,200	\$870,800	(\$75,400)	-7.97%
SEG	\$2,144,975	\$1,200,600	\$1,262,900	\$1,202,100	7.25	7.25	\$2,401,200	\$2,465,000	\$63,800	2.66%
S	\$2,144,975	\$1,200,600	\$1,262,900	\$1,202,100	7.25	7.25	\$2,401,200	\$2,465,000	\$63,800	2.66%
TOTAL 01	\$7,060,052	\$6,886,800	\$8,419,500	\$8,589,100	36.00	36.00	\$13,773,600	\$17,008,600	\$3,235,000	23.49%
S	\$7,060,052	\$6,886,800	\$8,419,500	\$8,589,100	36.00	36.00	\$13,773,600	\$17,008,600	\$3,235,000	23.49%
AGENCY TOTAL	\$7,060,052	\$6,886,800	\$8,419,500	\$8,589,100	36.00	36.00	\$13,773,600	\$17,008,600	\$3,235,000	23.49%

Agency Total by Decision Item

Elections Commission

2527 Biennial Budget

Decision Item	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level	\$6,886,800	\$6,886,800	36.00	36.00
3002 Removal of Noncontinuing Elements from the Base	(\$177,300)	(\$303,300)	(4.00)	(4.00)
3003 Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits	(\$72,500)	(\$72,500)	0.00	0.00
3005 Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression	\$52,900	\$50,500	0.00	0.00
3011 Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
4001 20% Increase for Accessibility Review & Supply Program	\$9,700	\$9,700	0.00	0.00
4003 Funding for Identity and Authentication Proxy	\$41,600	\$41,600	0.00	0.00
4004 Funding for Maintenance/Hosting of Clerk Training and Learning Management System (ElectEd) and for the WEC Website	\$156,000	\$156,000	0.00	0.00
4005 Funding for Smarty Streets	\$15,900	\$15,900	0.00	0.00
4007 Funding for Zendesk	\$100,000	\$0	0.00	0.00
4008 Convert 4.0 Federal Project Positions to 4.0 Federal Permanent Positions	\$164,500	\$282,100	4.00	4.00
4009 Request funding for Limited Term Employees (LTEs)	\$138,800	\$277,400	0.00	0.00
4010 Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation	\$8,000	\$8,000	0.00	0.00
4011 Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)	\$156,700	\$156,700	0.00	0.00
4012 Funding for Commissioner Per Diems	\$12,800	\$12,800	0.00	0.00
4013 Funding for the Office of Election Transparency and Compliance Program	\$925,600	\$1,067,400	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	\$8,419,500	\$8,589,100	36.00	36.00

Program Revenue

2527 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

2527 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	\$17,762	\$25,100	\$26,100	\$19,100
Revenue	\$8,239	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total Revenue	\$26,001	\$27,100	\$28,100	\$21,100
Expenditures	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
4010 Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000
Total Expenditures	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
Closing Balance	\$25,001	\$26,100	\$19,100	\$12,100

Program Revenue

2527 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

2527 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	\$2,876,141	\$3,007,300	\$3,271,100	\$3,364,700
Sale of Voter Lists	\$444,892	\$600,000	\$400,000	\$500,000
Interest	\$114,747	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000
Miscellaneous Refunds	\$10,453	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$3,446,233	\$3,727,300	\$3,791,100	\$3,984,700
Expenditures	\$439,013	\$456,200	\$0	\$0
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level	\$0	\$0	\$472,100	\$472,100
3003 Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	(\$51,700)	(\$51,700)
3005 Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression	\$0	\$0	\$6,000	\$6,000
Total Expenditures	\$439,013	\$456,200	\$426,400	\$426,400
Closing Balance	\$3,007,220	\$3,271,100	\$3,364,700	\$3,558,300

Segregated Funds Revenue and Balances Statement

2527 Biennial Budget

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

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

2527 Biennial Budget

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

Revenue and Expenditures	Prior Year Actuals	Base Year Estimate	1st Year Estimate	2nd Year Estimate
Opening Balance	\$7,505,529	\$6,588,600	\$5,902,200	\$4,769,500
Federal Election Security Grant	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Interest	\$227,053	\$180,000	\$150,000	\$110,000
Miscellaneous Refunds/Repays	\$944	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$8,733,526	\$6,768,600	\$6,052,200	\$4,879,500
Expenditures	\$2,144,975	\$866,400	\$0	\$0
2000 Adjusted Base Funding Level	\$0	\$0	\$1,200,500	\$1,200,500
3002 Removal of Noncontinuing Elements from the Base	\$0	\$0	(\$177,300)	(\$303,300)
3003 Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$15,900	\$15,900
3005 Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression	\$0	\$0	\$9,200	\$6,800
3011 Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4007 Funding for Zendesk	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0
4008 Convert 4.0 Federal Project Positions to 4.0 Federal Permanent Positions	\$0	\$0	\$164,500	\$282,100
Health Insurance Reserves	\$0	\$0	\$9,300	\$16,400
Compensation Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$10,300	\$20,700
Wisconsin Retirement System	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$300
Total Expenditures	\$2,144,975	\$866,400	\$1,282,700	\$1,239,400

Segregated Funds Revenue and Balances Statement

2527 Biennial Budget

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

Revenue and Expenditures	Prior Year Actuals	Base Year Estimate	1st Year Estimate	2nd Year Estimate
Closing Balance	\$6,588,551	\$5,902,200	\$4,769,500	\$3,640,100

Decision Item (DIN) - 2000

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Adjusted Base Funding Level

NARRATIVE

Adjusted Base Funding Level

Decision Item by Line

2527 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	\$2,643,800	\$2,643,800
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$36,500	\$36,500
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$2,400	\$2,400
05	Fringe Benefits	\$1,035,600	\$1,035,600
06	Supplies and Services	\$3,163,700	\$3,163,700
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	\$6,886,800	\$6,886,800
18	Project Positions Authorized	4.00	4.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	30.00	30.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	2.00	2.00

Decision Item by Numeric

2527 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	\$5,105,500	\$5,105,500	25.75	25.75
	05 Investigations	\$25,000	\$25,000	0.00	0.00
	09 County and municipal clerk 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	\$472,100	\$472,100	3.00	3.00
	60 Election administration	\$100	\$100	0.00	0.00
	82 Elections Security	\$1,200,500	\$1,200,500	7.25	7.25
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$6,886,800	\$6,886,800	36.00	36.00
	Adjusted Base Funding Level Sub Total	\$6,886,800	\$6,886,800	36.00	36.00
	Agency Total	\$6,886,800	\$6,886,800	36.00	36.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 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					
SEG Federal	S	\$1,200,500	\$1,200,500	7.25	7.25
GPR	S	\$5,213,100	\$5,213,100	25.75	25.75
PR	S	\$473,100	\$473,100	3.00	3.00
SEG	S	\$100	\$100	0.00	0.00
Adjusted Base Funding Level Total		\$6,886,800	\$6,886,800	36.00	36.00
Agency Total		\$6,886,800	\$6,886,800	36.00	36.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 3002

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Removal of Noncontinuing Elements from the Base

NARRATIVE

Standard Budget Adjustment - Removal of Noncontinuing Elements from the Base

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	3002	Removal of Noncontinuing Elements from the Base

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	(\$130,900)	(\$224,000)
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	(\$46,400)	(\$79,300)
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	(\$177,300)	(\$303,300)
18	Project Positions Authorized	(4.00)	(4.00)
19	Classified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	3002 Removal of Noncontinuing Elements from the Base				
01	Administration of elections				
	82 Elections Security	(\$177,300)	(\$303,300)	(4.00)	(4.00)
	Administration of elections Sub Total	(\$177,300)	(\$303,300)	(4.00)	(4.00)
	Removal of Noncontinuing Elements from the Base Sub Total	(\$177,300)	(\$303,300)	(4.00)	(4.00)
	Agency Total	(\$177,300)	(\$303,300)	(4.00)	(4.00)

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
3002 Removal of Noncontinuing Elements from the Base					
SEG Federal	S	(\$177,300)	(\$303,300)	(4.00)	(4.00)
Removal of Noncontinuing Elements from the Base Total		(\$177,300)	(\$303,300)	(4.00)	(4.00)
Agency Total		(\$177,300)	(\$303,300)	(4.00)	(4.00)

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

2527 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	\$7,300	\$7,300
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$13,000	\$13,000
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	(\$92,800)	(\$92,800)
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	(\$72,500)	(\$72,500)
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

2527 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	(\$36,700)	(\$36,700)	0.00	0.00
	25 Election security and maint	(\$51,700)	(\$51,700)	0.00	0.00
	82 Elections Security	\$15,900	\$15,900	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	(\$72,500)	(\$72,500)	0.00	0.00
	Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits Sub Total	(\$72,500)	(\$72,500)	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	(\$72,500)	(\$72,500)	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 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	(\$36,700)	(\$36,700)	0.00	0.00
PR	S	(\$51,700)	(\$51,700)	0.00	0.00
SEG Federal	S	\$15,900	\$15,900	0.00	0.00
Full Funding of Continuing Position Salaries and Fringe Benefits Total		(\$72,500)	(\$72,500)	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		(\$72,500)	(\$72,500)	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

2527 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	\$43,700	\$43,700
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$2,100	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	\$7,100	\$6,800
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	\$52,900	\$50,500
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

2527 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	\$37,700	\$37,700	0.00	0.00
	25 Election security and maint	\$6,000	\$6,000	0.00	0.00
	82 Elections Security	\$9,200	\$6,800	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$52,900	\$50,500	0.00	0.00
	Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression Sub Total	\$52,900	\$50,500	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$52,900	\$50,500	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 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	\$37,700	\$37,700	0.00	0.00
PR	S	\$6,000	\$6,000	0.00	0.00
SEG Federal	S	\$9,200	\$6,800	0.00	0.00
Reclassifications and Semiautomatic Pay Progression Total		\$52,900	\$50,500	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$52,900	\$50,500	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 3010

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs

NARRATIVE

Standard Budget Adjustment - Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	3010	Full Funding of Lease and Directed Moves Costs

	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

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	Agency Total				

Decision Item by Fund Source

Decision Item/Source of Funds	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
Agency Total				

Decision Item (DIN) - 3011

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation

NARRATIVE

Standard Budget Adjustment - Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	3011	Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	(\$130,000)	(\$224,000)
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$130,000	\$224,000
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

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	3011 Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation				
01	Administration of elections				
	82 Elections Security	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
	Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation Sub Total	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
3011 Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation					
SEG Federal	S	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
Minor Transfers Within the Same Alpha Appropriation Total		\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4001

Decision Item (DIN) Title - 20% Increase for Accessibility Review & Supply Program

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests an increase of \$9,700 GPR annually in its base funding for the Accessibility Review and Supply Program for the 2025-27 biennium.

DIN 4001 – Issue Paper

20% Increase in Funding for the Accessibility Review and Supply Program

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests an increase of \$9,700 GPR annually in its base funding for the Accessibility Review and Supply Program for the 2025-27 biennium.

Background

In the 2017-2019 Executive Budget, \$48,300 GPR was approved in the agency's base for the polling place accessibility review program, which implements the legislative directive to ensure that polling places are accessible to individuals with disabilities, and to undertake outreach efforts with organizations which work with and represent those voters. The agency's central initiative in this area is to conduct reviews of selected polling places on each Election Day and provide a report to each municipal clerk listing physical deficiencies as well as low-cost options for bringing the location into compliance with state and federal accessibility laws. Reviews are only conducted on Election Days, and municipalities are not given notice to ensure that reviewers are seeing the polling place the way it would be set up for the average voter. Since there are limited opportunities to conduct reviews, four in an even year and two in an odd year, the WEC tries to engage as many reviewers as possible each Election Day.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission also implements the no-cost Accessibility Supply Program. The data gathered by the accessibility review program has provided a baseline for polling place accessibility in Wisconsin. This information has been used to identify common problems with polling place set-up and accessible voting equipment and general problems with municipal and private facilities where polling places are located. Specific problems identified during polling place reviews are also reported to municipalities to improve compliance. In addition to providing this guidance, the WEC has purchased and distributes accessibility-related supplies to assist local elections and municipal officials with completing the necessary polling place changes. Supply orders are generally expected to correspond with findings from either a self-reported or WEC-conducted review, but municipalities can request supplies at any time to improve accessibility of their polling places.

This program has been nationally recognized as a model for other states, and has prompted countless modifications to Wisconsin polling places, leading to increased access to polling places for individuals with disabilities.

Issue

The cost of the Accessibility Review and Supply program has increased since the 2017-2019 Biennial budget, but the funding has remained the same. The supply program offers a wider range of products now than it did in 2019. At the recommendation of clerks and members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, two styles of curbside voting sign, wireless doorbells, lighted magnifying glasses, and threshold ramps have been added to the program. The cost of shipping those supplies from Madison to any part of the state has increased as well. In order to conduct polling place reviews, temporary staff or contractors must be hired, and wages for those workers have also increased since 2019.

The current budget for the Accessibility Review and Supply program is \$48,300. To expand and continue increasing the number of polling places being reviewed as well as addressing clerk supply requests, an increase in GPR funds would allow more voters in Wisconsin to visit their polling place and cast their ballot privately and independently.

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4001	20% Increase for Accessibility Review & Supply Program

	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	\$9,700	\$9,700
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	\$9,700	\$9,700
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

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4001 20% Increase for Accessibility Review & Supply Program				
01	Administration of elections				
	01 General program ops; GPR	\$9,700	\$9,700	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$9,700	\$9,700	0.00	0.00
	20% Increase for Accessibility Review & Supply Program Sub Total	\$9,700	\$9,700	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$9,700	\$9,700	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4001 20% Increase for Accessibility Review & Supply Program					
GPR	S	\$9,700	\$9,700	0.00	0.00
20% Increase for Accessibility Review & Supply Program Total		\$9,700	\$9,700	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$9,700	\$9,700	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4002

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Subgrant Programs to Local Election Offices

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) would like the Legislature to address the ongoing need to subsidize local governments for elections administration services to continue to improve upon how elections are conducted in large cities and small towns by either providing funding for WEC to continue to administer subgrants or directly fund elections for municipalities.

DIN 4002 - Issue Paper

Subgrant Programs to Local Election Offices

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) would like the Legislature to address the ongoing need to subsidize local governments for elections administration services to continue to improve upon how elections are conducted in large cities and small towns by either providing funding for WEC to continue to administer subgrants or directly fund elections for municipalities.

Background

Federal grant funds have been vitally important to prepare both the state and local election officials for the November General Election. Since 2022, Wisconsin has received on average \$1 million annually in federal funds to, “improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements to the systems, equipment and processes used in federal elections.” Because Wisconsin is a highly decentralized election system, the Commission continues to seek ways to support local election officials and to increase federal election security for our state. Election participation, in part, depends on the public confidence in our election system and the security of our elections. Our state’s election security is only as strong as the weakest link. Federal funds have been critical to both state and local election officials ahead of the November General Election.

When federal funds are allocated to the Commission, staff perform a deliberate process to analyze potential uses for the money, based on the agency’s statutory responsibilities, federal requirements, and available resources. Staff first evaluate proposals that permit funds to be passed directly to Wisconsin counties and municipalities. This is consistent with the Commission’s past practice of distributing most federal funds directly to counties and municipalities. From 2018 to 2023, more than 75 percent of all federal dollars received by the WEC were allocated to local governments.

Figure 1. Federal Funds Recipients 2018-2023

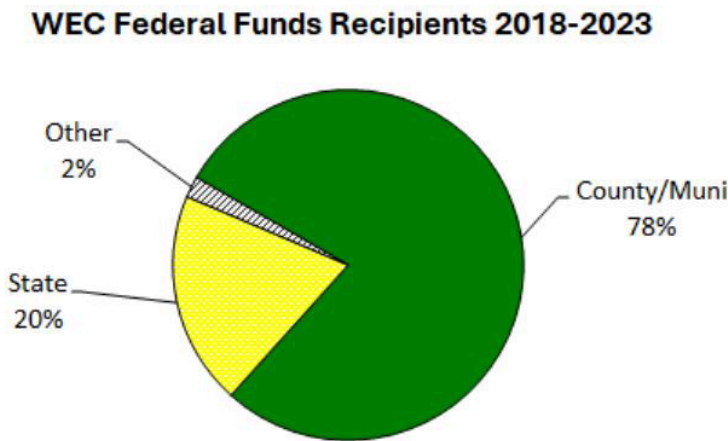


Figure 1 Definitions.

County/Muni – funds passed directly to counties, cities, villages, or towns through subgrants.
State – funds retained by the WEC for hardware, services, or temporary staffing.
Other – funds applied to unique statewide projects such as the deployment of multifactor authentication and endpoint monitoring.

Figure 2. Subgrants Approved by the WEC 2018-2023

County & Municipal Subgrants Approved by the Wisconsin Elections Commission 2018-2023	Funds Authorized
2019 Election Security Subgrant for Municipalities	\$1,100,000
2020 HTTPS Election Security Subgrant for Counties	\$36,000
2020 Election Security Subgrant for Counties	\$3,875,658
2020 Election Security Subgrant for Municipalities	\$1,206,000
2022 Election Security Subgrant for Municipalities	\$1,000,000
2022-23 Election Security .gov Domain Subgrant	\$300,000
2023 Accessible Voting Equipment Subgrant for Municipalities	\$350,000
2023 Envelope Redesign Subgrant	\$600,000
TOTAL	\$7,261,658

Consistent with federal grant requirements, the Commission has also directed the majority of federal dollars to election security needs, as shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3. Federal Funds Allocations 2018-2023

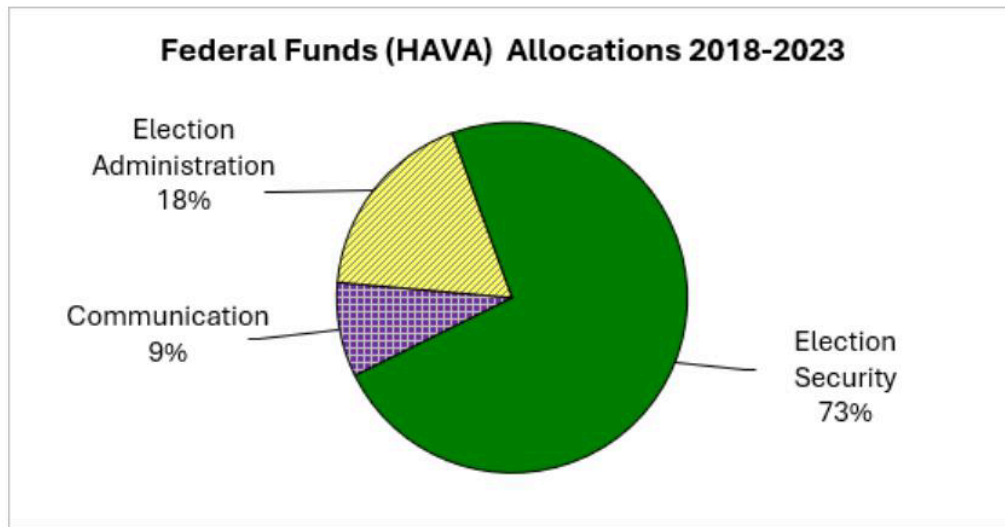


Figure 3 Definitions.

Election Security – election security hardware, software, or development.

Election Administration – election administration processes including expanded post-election audit processes, intelligent mail bar code postage tracking, accessibility improvements, and WisVote development.

Communication – tools such as a clerk learning management system, website support and development, and professionally produced informational products.

Municipality Election Security Subgrant: The Municipality Election Security Subgrant sought to bring municipalities up to a baseline of security. The baseline included (1) an adequate computer to use on federal

elections preparation, administration, and reconciliation, (2) information technology support to help the municipality keep the computer secure, and (3) election security training for the municipality's election officials. Depending on the specific needs of the municipality, funds were awarded for any or all those three deficiencies in the amounts, \$600, \$500, and \$100. Since it was first introduced in early 2020, there have now been three iterations of this same subgrant program.

Election Security .gov Subgrant: The .gov Election Security Subgrant was introduced in 2022 to help clerks in setting up a trusted .gov domain for secure email communications. Municipalities can receive \$600 for eligible expenses related to establishing the domain. The reimbursement program was initially open until January 31, 2024, and was later extended by the commission in May 2024 to end December 1, 2025.

Accessible Voting Equipment Subgrant: Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (Public Law 117-328), the WEC was awarded additional federal funds to "improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements." Up to \$350,000 of these funds were allocated through the 2023 Accessible Voting Equipment Subgrant Program to help municipalities upgrade or purchase new accessible voting equipment. Each jurisdiction could receive up to \$750 under this program, with funding available until the allocated amount was exhausted. Jurisdictions qualified by purchasing approved equipment or related accessories designed to assist voters with disabilities. Approved devices included models like Clear Ballot ClearAccess, Dominion Voting ImageCast series, and ES&S ExpressVote systems. This grant played a crucial role in ensuring that voting is accessible for all citizens, particularly those with disabilities, by supporting the adoption of compliant, reliable, and accessible voting technologies.

Envelope Redesign Subgrant: Staff introduced the Envelope Redesign Subgrant to assist municipalities in adopting the updated absentee ballot envelope designs discussed in the previous section. To ease the financial burden on municipalities, the WEC allocated up to \$600,000 in federal funds for this subgrant. Funding amounts were calculated based on each jurisdiction's voting-age population as of January 1, 2022, with a minimum award of \$20. By supporting the adoption of these updated designs, the grant aimed to improve the reliability of absentee ballot processing and ensure compliance with election laws across the state.

Issue

Almost all states in our nation conduct elections at the county level under the administrative oversight of their respective Secretary of State Office. However, in Wisconsin, WEC administers elections statewide but officials at the local level (72 county clerks and 1,850 municipal clerks and their deputies, and thousands of elections officials, including poll workers), conduct elections in approximately 2,822 polling sites, and elections results/returns are reported from over 3,400 reporting units or wards.

In addition to complying with the Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002, local officials also have to adhere to an array of HAVA companion state laws. As Federal and State laws governing elections administration continue to grow in number and complexity, the financial burden on local election officials grows proportionally. WEC's local elections partners are having and will continue to experience a difficult enough time struggling to support even the most basic/core election requirements.

Unlike most other states that provide state funds to support the local electoral process, the State of Wisconsin does not award any GPR to local governmental units to help prepare for or conduct elections. In Wisconsin, the cost and financial support for funding elections are absorbed at the local level. WEC's local elections partners are in effect, absorbing and shouldering an unfunded State mandate.

Federal funds have been dwindling and eventually will run out. If the Legislature wants to see elections in large cities and small towns become more uniform, they will need to provide GPR funding for WEC to continue to administer subgrants or directly fund elections for municipalities. There is an ongoing need to subsidize local governments for elections administration services, as WEC cannot continue to support local governments when the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds run out. The purpose of the local election security subgrants are to help improve overall election security statewide by providing cities, villages, and towns across the State of Wisconsin with federal election security funds to implement baseline security measures based on specific needs of the jurisdiction.

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4002	Subgrant Programs to Local Election Offices

	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

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4002 Subgrant Programs to Local Election Offices				
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
	Subgrant Programs to Local Election Offices Sub Total	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4002 Subgrant Programs to Local Election Offices					
GPR	S	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
Subgrant Programs to Local Election Offices Total		\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4003

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Funding for Identity and Authentication Proxy

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) requests an increase of \$41,600 GPR annually in its base funding for the cost of its Identity and Authentication Management Proxy (Multi Factor Authentication for Local Election Offices) for the 2025-27 biennium.

DIN 4003 – Issue Paper

Funding for Identity and Authentication Management Proxy

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) requests an increase of \$41,600 GPR annually in its base funding for the cost of its Identity and Authentication Management Proxy (Multi Factor Authentication for Local Election Offices) for the 2025-27 biennium.

Background

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 636, local election officials in Wisconsin are required to enter all voter information into WisVote, the statewide voter registration system. Given the state's decentralized election structure, where numerous local clerks across Wisconsin have direct access to WisVote, this system is exposed to a broader user base, thereby increasing the risk of unauthorized access or cyberattacks. To address these heightened vulnerabilities, implementing a robust Multifactor Authentication (MFA) solution is essential for safeguarding the integrity of the WisVote system and, by extension, the state's election process.

Multifactor Authentication (MFA) is a critical cybersecurity measure that requires users to verify their identity through multiple forms before accessing a system. This typically involves a combination of something the user knows, like a password, and something they possess, such as a hardware token. By requiring these multiple forms of verification, MFA significantly enhances security, making it far more difficult for attackers to gain unauthorized access to sensitive systems.

Over the years, the limitations of relying solely on passwords have become increasingly apparent. Passwords can be easily compromised through techniques like high-frequency dictionary attacks, and users often reuse passwords across multiple platforms, which can lead to widespread vulnerabilities if one account is breached. To mitigate these risks, MFA has been widely adopted as an industry best practice since the early 2000s. The importance of MFA was further highlighted in 2013 when an Executive Order made it mandatory for federally managed Critical Infrastructure, and strongly recommended its adoption for state and private sector Critical Infrastructure as well. In 2017, the Department of Homeland Security expanded the definition of Critical Infrastructure to include election systems, providing federal grants to enhance election security.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) took a proactive approach in response to this mandate, using a portion of these federal funds to implement MFA for the state's voter registration system, WisVote. By doing so, Wisconsin became one of the first states to secure its election infrastructure with MFA, earning national recognition for its leadership. The WEC's MFA solution relies on hardware tokens, which provide a high level of security by requiring users to physically possess a device that generates a unique digital security token. This approach effectively safeguards the election system from unauthorized access and is a key component of Wisconsin's comprehensive election security strategy.

To meet the specific needs of WisVote, which requires Active Directory Federated Services (AD FS) for authentication, the WEC chose to implement RSA's SecurID solution. RSA is a well-known industry leader in identity and access management, with decades of experience providing secure authentication solutions to both enterprise and government sectors. Their SecurID product line is highly regarded for its robustness and is compatible with AD FS, making it an ideal choice for the WEC's MFA needs. RSA's reputation for delivering reliable, secure, and scalable identity management solutions further cemented its selection as the foundation for Wisconsin's election security infrastructure.

Issue

The ongoing cost of maintaining this advanced MFA solution, specifically the RSA SecurID Identity and Authentication Management Proxy, is \$41,600 annually. This cost is crucial for the continued security of the WisVote system and, by extension, the integrity of Wisconsin's election infrastructure. However, this expense is currently not included in the WEC's base budget. Initially, the federal grants provided for election security enhancements were used to cover this cost. While these grants were instrumental in quickly implementing MFA, they were not intended as a long-term funding solution.

As federal funds are not guaranteed to continue, the absence of a stable funding source poses a significant risk to the WEC's ability to maintain its current level of election security. Without the necessary funding, the WEC would face difficult decisions regarding the continuation of the MFA solution, potentially compromising the security of the WisVote system. The loss of MFA would not only increase the vulnerability of the system to cyberattacks but also diminish the trust and confidence that voters and stakeholders have in the integrity of Wisconsin's elections.

Furthermore, the \$41,600 annual cost is a relatively small investment compared to the potential consequences of a security breach. A compromised voter registration system could lead to unauthorized access to sensitive voter data, disruption of election processes, and even the manipulation of election outcomes. The reputational damage and loss of public trust that would result from such a breach could take years to recover from and could undermine the very foundation of the democratic process in Wisconsin.

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4003	Funding for Identity and Authentication Proxy

	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	\$41,600	\$41,600
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	\$41,600	\$41,600
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

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4003 Funding for Identity and Authentication Proxy				
01	Administration of elections				
	01 General program ops; GPR	\$41,600	\$41,600	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$41,600	\$41,600	0.00	0.00
	Funding for Identity and Authentication Proxy Sub Total	\$41,600	\$41,600	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$41,600	\$41,600	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4003 Funding for Identity and Authentication Proxy					
GPR	S	\$41,600	\$41,600	0.00	0.00
Funding for Identity and Authentication Proxy Total		\$41,600	\$41,600	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$41,600	\$41,600	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4004

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Funding for Maintenance/Hosting of Clerk Training and Learning Management System (ElectEd) and for the WEC Website

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests \$156,000 GPR in FY26 and \$156,000 GPR in FY27 in its base funding for the Maintenance/Hosting of Clerk Training and Learning Management System (ElectEd) and the WEC website for the 2025-27 biennium.

DIN 4004 – Issue Paper

Funding for Maintenance/Hosting of Clerk Training and Learning Management System (ElectEd) and for the WEC Website

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests \$156,000 GPR in FY26 and \$156,000 GPR in FY27 in its base funding for the Maintenance/Hosting of Clerk Training and Learning Management System (ElectEd) and the WEC website for the 2025-27 biennium.

Background

Acquia Site Studio and Acquia Cloud Platform currently support and host the WEC's Clerk Training and Learning Management System (ElectEd) and the agency's website (elections.wi.gov). In September 2021, staff laid out a three-phase timeline to modernize the agency's websites. The first phase, completed by the end of 2021, was to migrate the existing elections.wi.gov site to the Acquia Cloud Platform. Acquia is a leading provider in this space and has an ongoing state contract. The second phase was to redesign the elections.wi.gov to bring its "look and feel" in line with other Wisconsin Elections Commission applications, improve search functionality, and add enhanced features for content auditing, scheduling, review, publishing and unpublishing. This work was completed, and the new version of the site launched on July 19, 2022. The third and final phase was to migrate electiontraining.wi.gov, also known as ElectEd, to Acquia hosting. This brought all commission websites to the Acquia platform and streamlined management of the sites. Having the Clerk Training and Learning Management System (ElectEd) and the WEC website (elections.wi.gov) on the same platforms allows for easier management and ensures that new security updates are implemented quickly and simultaneously.

Issue

The WEC budgeted for the cost to build the sites, but the cost to maintain and host the sites is not in the agency's base budget. Without the maintenance and hosting of the websites from Acquia, the agency's main website and the WEC's Clerk Training and Learning Management System cannot be maintained. A core mission of the WEC is to provide accurate and timely information about Wisconsin elections, and a well-functioning website is a vital tool in providing this information to both local election officials and the general public.

All websites need to continuously be upgraded to maintain performance and security and plan for keeping our websites secure. In order to maintain website security and secure access to clerk training information on ElectEd, it is vital that the WEC has the ability to have Acquia and Drupal professionals dedicated to any future platform updates to ensure continued security of all agency websites.

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission
DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4004	Funding for Maintenance/Hosting of Clerk Training and Learning Management System (ElectEd) and for the WEC Website

	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	\$156,000	\$156,000
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	\$0	\$0
12	Debt service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
17	TOTAL	\$156,000	\$156,000
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

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4004 Funding for Maintenance/Hosting of Clerk Training and Learning Management System (ElectEd) and for the WEC Website				
01	Administration of elections				
	01 General program ops; GPR	\$156,000	\$156,000	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$156,000	\$156,000	0.00	0.00
	Funding for Maintenance/Hosting of Clerk Training and Learning Management System (ElectEd) and for the WEC Website Sub Total	\$156,000	\$156,000	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$156,000	\$156,000	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4004 Funding for Maintenance/Hosting of Clerk Training and Learning Management System (ElectEd) and for the WEC Website					
GPR	S	\$156,000	\$156,000	0.00	0.00
Funding for Maintenance/Hosting of Clerk Training and Learning Management System (ElectEd) and for the WEC Website Total		\$156,000	\$156,000	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$156,000	\$156,000	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4005

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Funding for Smarty Streets

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests an increase of \$15,900 GPR annually in its base funding for the cost of Smarty Streets (Local election offices rely on this for voter registration address validation) for the 2025-27 biennium.

DIN 4005– Issue Paper

Funding for SmartyStreets

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests an increase of \$15,900 GPR annually in its base funding for the cost of SmartyStreets (Local election offices rely on this for voter registration address validation) for the 2025-27 biennium.

Background

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 636, local election officials in Wisconsin are required to enter all voter information into WisVote, the statewide voter registration system. Geocoding, the process of converting a physical address into precise geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude), plays a crucial role in this system, by linking voter addresses to specific geographic locations. Given the state's decentralized election structure, where numerous local clerks across Wisconsin have direct access to WisVote, it is essential that geocoding is done accurately to avoid errors in district assignments. Inconsistent data entry by various users increases the risk of errors, which could lead to incorrect district placements. To maintain the accuracy and reliability of voter district assignments, a robust geocoding service is necessary to standardize addresses and ensure precise geolocation within the WisVote system.

Wisconsin was among the first in the country to implement geocoding for all voter addresses. This method represents a significant improvement over the traditional use of street lists, which with essentially long tables linked streets and house number blocks to election districts. These lists were cumbersome, particularly in areas with complex district boundaries, and prone to errors during updates and redistricting.

Geocoding provides a more flexible and accurate approach, especially beneficial during the decennial redistricting process. By associating voter address with precise geographic coordinates, geocoding simplifies the redistricting process making it more efficient and less error prone. This ensures voters are correctly assigned to their respective districts and wards, reducing the risk of misallocation and potential for legal challenges.

However, maintaining this system requires precisely locating every new address entered into Wisvote, including those added by new voters registering online through our voter-facing portal (MyVote). This process is complicated by the inconsistency in how users enter addresses – some use abbreviations, while others do not; some vary on street prefixes, or even use different names for the same streets. These inconsistencies create challenges in ensuring that every address is accurately geocoded and correctly assigned to the proper district.

To address these challenges, Wisconsin utilizes SmartyStreets (a/k/a Smarty), an address validation and geocoding service. SmartyStreets standardizes inconsistent user inputs, converting them into a uniform address format and providing the corresponding geographic coordinates. Although clerk review of these geocoded addresses is still required, SmartyStreets significantly reduces the manual labor involved in managing voter addresses. This allows the agency to deliver quicker and more accurate services to voters, ensuring that all voters are correctly placed within their respective districts and wards.

Issue

Despite benefits provided by SmartyStreets, the services comes at an annual cost of \$15,900, which is not currently included in the agency's base funding. Security dedicated funding for SmartyStreets is essential to maintain the accuracy and efficiency of the voter registration system, ensuring that Wisconsin's geocoding system continues to accurately assign voters to correct districts.

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4005	Funding for Smarty Streets

	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	\$15,900	\$15,900
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	\$15,900	\$15,900
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

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4005 Funding for Smarty Streets				
01	Administration of elections				
	01 General program ops; GPR	\$15,900	\$15,900	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$15,900	\$15,900	0.00	0.00
	Funding for Smarty Streets Sub Total	\$15,900	\$15,900	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$15,900	\$15,900	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4005 Funding for Smarty Streets					
GPR	S	\$15,900	\$15,900	0.00	0.00
Funding for Smarty Streets Total		\$15,900	\$15,900	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$15,900	\$15,900	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4006

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Statutory Language Change

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests a statutory language change to 20.510 (1)(c).

DIN 4006- Issue Paper
Statutory Language Change

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests a statutory language change to 20.510 (1)(c).

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.

Issue

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 standalone training. Voter 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.

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission
DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4006	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

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4006 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

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4006 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

Decision Item (DIN) - 4007

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Funding for Zendesk

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests an increase of \$50,000 GPR and \$50,000 SEG-F in FY26 in its base funding for the cost of Zendesk a customer support service that the 2021 Legislative Audit Bureau Report on Election Administration recommended so the agency could track election related questions, comments and concerns more accurately for the 2025-27 biennium.

DIN 4007 – Issue Paper

Funding for Zendesk

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests an increase of \$50,000 GPR and \$50,000 SEG-F in FY26 in its base funding for the cost of Zendesk for the 2025-27 biennium.

Background

In the 2021 Legislative Audit Bureau Report on Election Administration, it was recommended that the agency use software to track election-related questions, comments, and concerns more accurately. In June of 2021, the Wisconsin Elections Commission purchased a subscription to use Zendesk which is a customer service web portal that collects, classifies, routes and tracks customer contacts and allows emails to be grouped into categories for ease of distribution of the incoming emails.

The current environment of high demand for WEC services requires a consistent source of trusted information for elections related questions. Commission staff had previously managed this responsibility using antiquated email routing and transferred phone calls to different subject area experts in the agency. WEC HelpDesk support needs skyrocketed in 2020 in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, pending lawsuits, and the demand for absentee by mail voting. Past processes required staff to manage voter, clerk and other customer contacts through the same, largely manual, processes used for internal agency work. Commission staff therefore implemented a new customer support solution in 2021 that provides these benefits:

- Improved efficiency routing contacts to available subject matter experts
- Tracking of contacts from initial outreach to resolution
- Consistent, standardized responses for common inquiries
- Data analytics to identify trends in contacts, turn-around time, etc.
- Automation of the processes above to ensure prompt, accurate service.

Issue

On June 17, 2023 the agency renewed Zendesk for two-years at a cost of approximately \$100,000. Zendesk is funded 50% by federal funds and 50% by GPR funds which are not in the agency's base budget.

Continuing to leverage automation through Zendesk is crucial for enhancing operational efficiency, especially if the Commission faces future challenges in retaining temporary, project-based, or limited-term staff, who currently represent a significant portion of our workforce. Beyond improving service quality, a comprehensive customer support system like Zendesk ensures that every email contact is meticulously tracked. Zendesk assigns a unique ID to each customer request, records edit histories by user, and allows staff to manage emails based on their current workload. Additionally, resolved requests are moved to a separate section, preventing duplicate responses and enabling staff to focus on unresolved issues.

Since transitioning the HelpDesk inbox to Zendesk in January 2023, staff have processed over 46,400 incoming requests. These contacts include standard voter inquiries, requests for assistance

navigating the MyVote website, questions from clerks concerning processes in WisVote and election administration, open records requests, subgrant applications, comments to the Commission, and media contacts.

Zendesk's robust toolset allows staff to efficiently manage the high volume of contacts. Emails are automatically routed using "triggers" based on specific keywords and phrases, ensuring they reach the appropriate team. When automation cannot determine the correct routing, WEC Helpdesk Staff can easily assign emails. Additionally, "macros" provide standardized responses to common questions, which can be customized within individual emails to address specific situations or updated to reflect changes in statutes or policies. These functions provide efficiencies the agency lacked under a manual routing process.

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission
DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4007	Funding for Zendesk

	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	\$100,000	\$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	\$100,000	\$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

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4007 Funding for Zendesk				
01	Administration of elections				
	01 General program ops; GPR	\$50,000	\$0	0.00	0.00
	82 Elections Security	\$50,000	\$0	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$100,000	\$0	0.00	0.00
	Funding for Zendesk Sub Total	\$100,000	\$0	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$100,000	\$0	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4007 Funding for Zendesk					
GPR	S	\$50,000	\$0	0.00	0.00
SEG Federal	S	\$50,000	\$0	0.00	0.00
Funding for Zendesk Total		\$100,000	\$0	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$100,000	\$0	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4008

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Convert 4.0 Federal Project Positions to 4.0 Federal Permanent Positions

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests \$164,500 SEGF in FY26 and \$282,000 SEGF in FY27 to convert 4.0 federal project positions to 4.0 federal permanent positions in the 2025-27 biennial budget to continue supporting the Wisconsin Elections Commission's critical elections security infrastructure designation.

DIN 4008 - Issue Paper

Convert 4.0 Federal Project Positions to 4.0 Federal Permanent Positions

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests \$164,500 SEGF in FY26 and \$282,000 SEGF in FY27 to convert 4.0 federal project positions to 4.0 federal permanent positions in the 2025-27 biennial budget to continue supporting the Wisconsin Elections Commission's critical elections security infrastructure designation.

Background

In March 2018 the Wisconsin Elections Commission received a \$6,798,318 grant award to improve the administration of elections for Federal office including to enhance technology and make election security improvements to its systems, equipment and processes used in federal elections. In February 2020 the Wisconsin Elections Commission received an additional \$7,818,581, followed by an additional \$31,543.

In September 2021 the Wisconsin Elections Commission approved authority for staff to request up to four § 16.54 project positions for twelve months to address immediate redistricting needs. On September 22, 2021, the Commission submitted a 16.54 request to the Department of Administration requesting 4.0 FTE federal 1-year project positions pursuant to s.16.54(8). These positions were requested to support local clerks in preparation for redistricting with address standardization review and updating, address clean-up and refinement, ward map & parcel boundary review, review of address exceptions and warnings and outreach to counties/municipalities with outstanding addressing and ward issues, production of district lists for nomination paper review and creation of new ballot style/reporting units in WisVote and to comply with the congressional intent of new federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security grant funding. The positions were budgeted in the appropriation under s.20.510 (1)(x) and were authorized from November 11, 2021 – November 11, 2022.

In late August 2022 the six-member Commission unanimously approved to request a 3-year extension of the 4.0 FTE federal project positions. On September 2, 2022, the Commission submitted a 16.54 request to the Department of Administration requesting an additional three-year extension from November 11, 2022 – November 11, 2025, which is the maximum amount of time allowed for a project position. These positions were requested to continue to support the Commission's elections security and cybersecurity initiatives and to comply with the congressional intent of the federal Help America Vote Act Election Security grant funding. The extension of these four project positions continue to assist with address standardization review and updating, address clean up and refinement, ward map & parcel boundary review, review of address exceptions and warnings, outreach to counties/municipalities, production of district lists for nomination paper review as well as providing election security Help Desk support, assistance in the administration of the .gov subgrant program, providing support to the Badger Book program and the TTX Election Security program. The positions were budgeted in the appropriation under s.20.510 (1)(x) and were authorized from November 11, 2022 – November 11, 2025.

The Commission also acknowledges that the need for these positions would extend beyond the 2023-2025 biennium as election security is an ongoing effort with ever-changing threats and corresponding solutions that need to be maintained indefinitely.

Issue

Despite the ongoing importance to our agency for the mission critical function of securing elections, the current 4.0 project positions sunset on November 11, 2025. Project positions cannot be extended for an additional term beyond four years. They must be converted from project positions to permanent positions in order to exist after November 11, 2025. To address the agency's continued, need for security enhancements and training, it is vital that the agency must remain fully staffed. The team ensures the security of Wisconsin's statewide voter registration system and provides elections security support to Wisconsin's 1,922 local elections officials. For that reason, the WEC is requesting to convert the expiring project positions to permanent positions which would be federally funded using remaining HAVA election security grant funds. These positions will continue to serve in the same capacity as their project positions, except they would attain permanent status.

Election security will continue to be a major priority and concern for elections. It is mission critical that we permanently plan for elections security support and other crises that may arise in the future. Elections security has become a keystone of our agency that supports each of WEC's statutory responsibilities. In 2017, elections were designated by Homeland Security as a National Critical Infrastructure. These positions directly support this critical infrastructure designation by providing technical support for agency IT applications that are used to run Wisconsin elections and elections security training for Wisconsin's 1,922 local elections officials. The positions also allow staff to continue to work with our state, local and federal elections security partners to monitor, report and respond to local elections security incidents. WEC is also proposing a sustainable funding model for these positions utilizing federal funding without the need to ask for additional state funds. The positions are not new to the WEC. Without these positions, the critical functions that each position carries out would need to be significantly lessened or discontinued. The four positions, which are critical to the WEC's mission provide local elections official assistance as follows:

Local Elections Official Assistance. The ongoing support of our 1,922 local elections officials is critical to the elections' security posture. These four positions assist local election officials with system questions, general troubleshooting, and generate logon IDs and passwords for both the WisVote system and the agency's online learning center. Clerks need timely access to these systems to perform many statutory required aspects of their position. These positions also assist with address standardization review and updating, address clean-up and refinement, ward map & parcel boundary review and reviewing of address exceptions and warnings. They also provide program and administrative support to WisVote and training staff. With 1,922 local election officials, WEC is currently managing and administering two federal elections security sub-grant programs to local election officials. The first sub-grant is a HAVA .gov security grant to municipal clerks to improve their IT security posture by ensuring they maintain a baseline security level, such as using a secure protocol for their websites, and have the resources to invest in advanced cybersecurity protocols. The second sub-grant is to financially assist municipalities that have purchased approved accessible voting equipment to improve the jurisdictions compliance with HAVA accessible voting requirements. These grants also require clerks to meet federal reporting requirements regarding funding usage and meet baseline compliance standards, both of which these positions help to monitor. Without these four positions, the critical assistance that has been provided to local election officials would need to be decreased.

Conclusion

The approval of these 4.0 permanent federal positions is critical to the Wisconsin Elections Commission's efforts to maintain the state's elections security infrastructure. These positions support our 1,922 local elections officials who have varying levels of resources and technological abilities with training and

guidance to ensure they can effectively administer elections in a secure manner. Without these positions, the state will not be able to maintain the current level of security against the everchanging election security landscape and implement proactive solutions. Additionally, the failure to convert the existing 4.0 federal project positions to 4.0 federal permanent positions will lead to a decrease in timely assistance to local election officials who need help in accessing vital technological systems and training information. In even number years, these positions are often utilized to address real time concerns and implement immediate solutions, during the administration of four statewide elections. In odd number years, these positions lay important groundwork for elections security like development of training and implementation of data backups and monitoring while supporting two statewide elections. These four positions are critically important for the sustained success of Wisconsin elections and the continued support of Wisconsin's local 1,922 local election officials who administer elections on the ground level.

TABLE 1

Program Costs	FY26	FY27	TOTAL FY26 & FY27
4 SEG-F FTE/Salary and Fringe	\$ 164,500	\$ 282,000	\$ 446,500

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4008	Convert 4.0 Federal Project Positions to 4.0 Federal Permanent Positions

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$121,500	\$208,300
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	\$43,000	\$73,800
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	\$164,500	\$282,100
18	Project Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00
19	Classified Positions Authorized	4.00	4.00
20	Unclassified Positions Authorized	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Numeric

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4008 Convert 4.0 Federal Project Positions to 4.0 Federal Permanent Positions				
01	Administration of elections				
	82 Elections Security	\$164,500	\$282,100	4.00	4.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$164,500	\$282,100	4.00	4.00
	Convert 4.0 Federal Project Positions to 4.0 Federal Permanent Positions Sub Total	\$164,500	\$282,100	4.00	4.00
	Agency Total	\$164,500	\$282,100	4.00	4.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4008 Convert 4.0 Federal Project Positions to 4.0 Federal Permanent Positions					
SEG Federal	S	\$164,500	\$282,100	4.00	4.00
Convert 4.0 Federal Project Positions to 4.0 Federal Permanent Positions Total		\$164,500	\$282,100	4.00	4.00
Agency Total		\$164,500	\$282,100	4.00	4.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4009

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Request funding for Limited Term Employees (LTEs)

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests \$138,800 GPR in FY26 to create 8 GPR LTE positions and \$277,400 GPR in FY27 to create 12 GPR LTE positions.

DIN 4009 Issue Paper

Request funding for Limited Term Employees (LTEs)

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests \$138,800 GPR in FY26 to create 8 GPR LTE positions and \$277,400 GPR in FY27 to create 12 GPR LTE positions.

Background

The agency has a staff of 25.75 GPR, 3.0 PR and 3.25 SEGF full time employees, but needs additional, temporary staff given the enormity of administering and enforcing Wisconsin law pertaining to elections (Wisconsin Chapters 5-10 and 12), supporting Wisconsin's 1850 municipal clerks, 72 county clerks, and approximately 4.5 million eligible voters. Commission activities fit into four general functions: general administration; education, training and assistance of 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. The Wisconsin Elections Commission has asked for permanent position authority in past biennia along with an LTE budget, but those requests have been denied, which has led the agency to use the temporary services non-IT contract with limited success. Staff favor LTEs because attempts to recruit temporary services staff have been limited.

Given that additional FTE have not been provided to account for the agency's growing responsibilities, LTE positions have become vital to the agency's ability to keep pace. LTE's are a fiscally responsible choice as they allow WEC to bring on experienced staff without the added cost of employee benefits like insurance or paid time off. These positions are well suited to retired professionals. For example, it allows us to recruit former local election officials who have invaluable expertise but may want to work on a more part-time basis. However, these essential positions and this additional staffing, which is critical to accomplishing our statutory responsibilities, is not currently funded.

Currently on staff WEC has four LTEs. In one position WEC employs a former Elections Specialist Lead that assists with elections support activities and provides WisVote customer service support during the 2024 elections cycle. We also have two public information officer consultant LTE's, who have retired from impressive careers in media, that assist the Communications Director with the review and analysis of proposed alternatives and strategies that effect WEC's policy and program objectives and stakeholders; develop strategies to obtain collaborative resolution on policy initiatives; and help to develop and coordinate the agency's public education information program.

The agency also has a paralegal intern LTE to assist staff counsel in preparing documentation and organizing case material for litigation and administrative hearings, tracking complaints, and providing administrative support in the resolution of complaints as well as assisting with records management. The persons hired into this position have typically been third-year law students, or recent law school graduates who are able to assist with the substantive drafting of documents under the direct supervision of WEC attorneys.

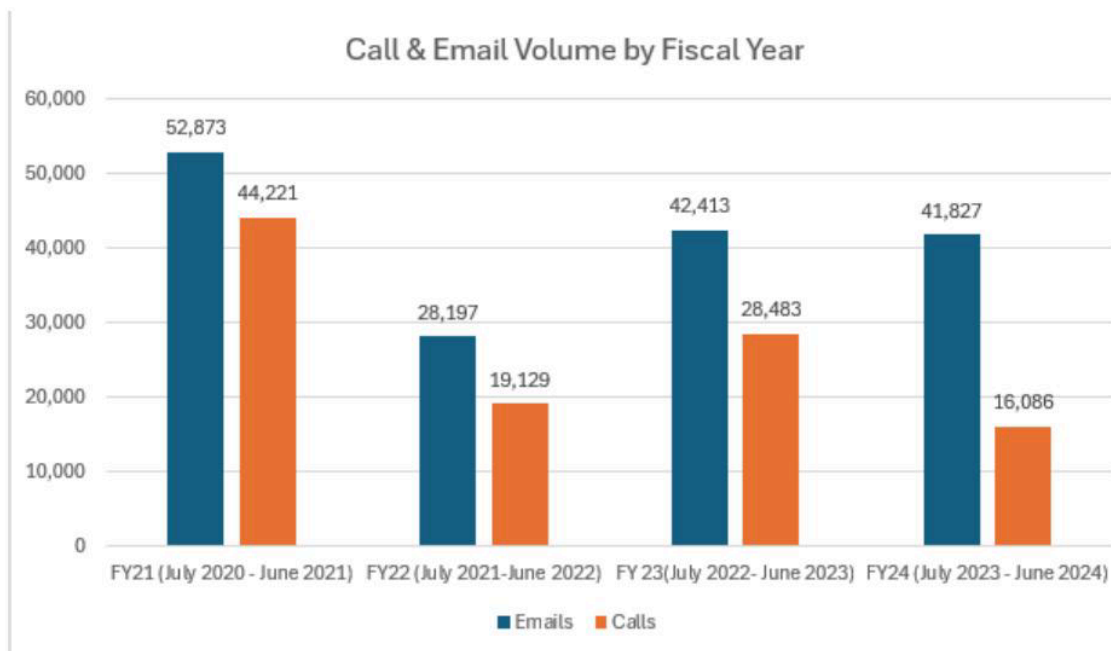
Limited term employees are allowed to work a maximum of 1039 hours per calendar year; are only paid when in work status; and do not receive fringe benefits or paid time off. The number of hours worked would not exceed 1039 hours and might be less dependent upon workload volume. These positions are often more appealing to retired professionals or new graduates who bring valuable skills but may not be looking for full-time employment or to work through a temporary services provider.

Issue

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, with a very small staff. Referenced in the table below are the amount of telephone calls and emails the agency fields on an annual basis. During critical peak times it is difficult to provide timely guidance and support to local election officials.

TABLE 1



Conclusion

The approval for funding of these LTE positions should Decision Item # 4008 not be approved is critical to the Wisconsin Elections Commission's efforts to maintain the state's elections security infrastructure. These positions support our 1,922 local elections officials who have varying levels of resources and technological abilities with training and guidance to ensure they can effectively administer elections in a secure manner. Without permanent position authority the agency must rely on LTEs to address real time concerns and implement immediate solutions during the administration of four statewide elections in even number years. In odd number years these positions lay important groundwork for elections security like development of training and implementation of data backups and monitoring while supporting two statewide elections.

These positions are critically important for the sustained success of Wisconsin elections and the continued support of Wisconsin's local 1,922 local election officials who administer elections on the ground level.

TABLE 2

Program Costs	FY26	FY27	TOTAL FY26 & FY27
8 LTEs/Salary and Fringe	\$ 138,800	\$ 0	\$ 138,800
12 LTEs/Salary and Fringe	\$ 0	\$ 277,400	\$ 277,400
TOTAL COST	\$ 138,800	\$ 277,400	\$ 416,200

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission
DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4009	Request funding for Limited Term Employees (LTEs)

	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	\$128,900	\$257,700
05	Fringe Benefits	\$9,900	\$19,700
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	\$138,800	\$277,400
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

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4009 Request funding for Limited Term Employees (LTEs)				
01	Administration of elections				
	01 General program ops; GPR	\$138,800	\$277,400	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$138,800	\$277,400	0.00	0.00
	Request funding for Limited Term Employees (LTEs) Sub Total	\$138,800	\$277,400	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$138,800	\$277,400	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4009 Request funding for Limited Term Employees (LTEs)					
GPR	S	\$138,800	\$277,400	0.00	0.00
Request funding for Limited Term Employees (LTEs) Total		\$138,800	\$277,400	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$138,800	\$277,400	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4010

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests an increase in spending authority of \$8,000 PR in FY26 and \$8,000 PR in FY27 for the Materials and Services Appropriation to offset the increased mailing and printing costs of documents. This request is asking to use existing funding for this purpose and is not requesting any additional funds.

DIN 4010 – Issue Paper

Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests an increase in spending authority of \$8,000 PR in FY26 and \$8,000 PR in FY27 for the Materials and Services Appropriation to offset the increased mailing and printing costs of documents. This request is asking to use existing funding for this purpose and is not requesting any additional funds.

Background

Wis. Stat. §20.510(1)(h)1, Materials and Services. The amounts in the schedule for the costs of publishing documents, locating and copying records, and conducting administrative meetings and conferences, for compiling, disseminating, and making available information prepared by and filed with the commission, and for supplies, postage, and shipping. All moneys received by the commission from collections for sales of publications, for copies of records, for supplies, for postage, for shipping and records location fees, and for charges assessed to participants in administrative meetings and conferences, except moneys received from requesters from sales of copies of the official registration list, shall be credited to this appropriation account.

Issue

Currently, the Elections Commission budget for the Materials and Services appropriation has spending authority of \$1,000 annually but has a current fund balance of approximately \$16,000. WEC would like to utilize those funds to offset the increased costs of locating records and mailing and printing publication requests.

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4010	Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation

	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	\$8,000	\$8,000
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	\$0	\$0
12	Debt service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
17	TOTAL	\$8,000	\$8,000
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

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4010 Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation				
01	Administration of elections				
	21 Materials and services	\$8,000	\$8,000	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$8,000	\$8,000	0.00	0.00
	Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation Sub Total	\$8,000	\$8,000	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$8,000	\$8,000	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4010 Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation					
PR	S	\$8,000	\$8,000	0.00	0.00
Increase in Spending Authority for Materials and Services Appropriation Total		\$8,000	\$8,000	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$8,000	\$8,000	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4011

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

NARRATIVE

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests \$156,700 GPR in its base funding for increased ERIC membership dues to remain in compliance with Wis. Stat. §6.36(1) (ae)1,2 for the 2025-27 biennium.

DIN 4011 – Issue Paper

Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

Request

The Wisconsin Elections Commission requests \$156,700 GPR in its base funding for increased ERIC membership dues to remain in compliance with Wis. Stat. §6.36(1)(ae)1,2 for the 2025-27 biennium.

Background

Wis. Stat. §6.36(1)(ae)1,2 requires the Wisconsin Elections Commission to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). ERIC is a consortium of states that shares data to improve the quality of voter registration databases. Member states pay annual membership dues and agree to share their driver license and voter registration databases. The data from all states is compared and member states are provided reports to identify voters who may have moved, voters who may have died, duplicate voter records, and voters who appear to be eligible to vote but are not registered. This information is then used by local election officials to conduct regular voter list maintenance. If Wisconsin was not a member of ERIC, local election officials would not have access to information about voters who have moved out of state, died out of state, or who have a duplicate voter record out of state. Membership in ERIC is not only required by Wisconsin law but is crucial to maintaining accurate voter rolls.

The ERIC membership agreement also requires states to contact voters who have been identified by ERIC as being eligible to vote but are not yet registered to vote. This mailing must be done once every two years, ahead of the fall General Election. Historically, this has been accomplished by mailing a postcard to voters who are identified as eligible to vote but are unregistered. The postcard does not automatically register a voter or even provide them with a registration form, it simply points them to WEC's website for more information about their options to register. Due to the current lack of funding for this statutorily required service, the six-member Wisconsin Elections Commission recently asked the ERIC board of directors- made up of other member states- to approve an exemption from the Eligible but Unregistered (EBU) mailing. The exemption was granted, meaning WEC is not required to send an EBU mailer, but WEC is required to still conduct voter outreach to educate Wisconsin voters about opportunities to register to vote. In 2024 WEC will conduct this required outreach, with an emphasis on providing consistent information to all Wisconsin voters, in all areas of the state. WEC felt requesting an exemption was fiscally prudent as it allows the state to more consistently reach all Wisconsin voters, not just those who are eligible but unregistered, while also saving approximately \$30,000, which was needed to offset the agencies other unfunded ERIC related costs.

Issue

Currently, the Elections Commission budget for ERIC expenses are only partially funded. The ERIC membership agreement requires states to perform an annual list maintenance for voters who are identified by ERIC as having potentially moved. These voters are mailed a first-class postcard notifying them to update their voter registration.

In the 2019-21 Enacted Budget (Wisconsin Act 9) \$33,100 was approved in the agency's base budget for annual ERIC membership dues and \$141,300 for the annual ERIC Movers mailing. Over the past biennium the cost of the ERIC membership dues has increased by \$37,700 annually. This increase in membership dues is not currently in the agency's base budget.

The ERIC membership agreement also requires states to contact voters who have been identified by ERIC as being eligible to vote but are not yet registered to vote. This mailing must be done once every

two years, ahead of the fall General Election. Historically, the cost of this mailing has been more than \$100,000. The WEC was recently granted an exemption by ERIC from the requirement to mail postcards, but under the ERIC agreement, and thereby under Wisconsin law, WEC is still required to conduct outreach to voters. However, the exemption gives WEC some flexibility and cost savings in conducting the required outreach.

Costs requested for ERIC are as follows:

Item	FY26	FY27	TOTAL for FY26& FY27
ERIC Membership Dues	\$ 37,700	\$ 37,700	\$ 75,400
Movers Mailing	\$ 0 already in base	\$ 0 already in base	\$ 0 already in base
Eligible but Unregistered Mailing	\$ 0	\$ 81,300	\$ 81,300
TOTAL COST	\$ 37,700	\$ 119,000	\$ 156,700

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4011	Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

	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	\$156,700	\$156,700
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	\$156,700	\$156,700
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

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4011 Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)				
01	Administration of elections				
	01 General program ops; GPR	\$156,700	\$156,700	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$156,700	\$156,700	0.00	0.00
	Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) Sub Total	\$156,700	\$156,700	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$156,700	\$156,700	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4011 Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)					
GPR	S	\$156,700	\$156,700	0.00	0.00
Funding for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) Total		\$156,700	\$156,700	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$156,700	\$156,700	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4012

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Funding for Commissioner Per Diems

NARRATIVE

The Elections Commission requests \$12,800 GPR annually in its base funding for Commissioner Per Diems for the 2025-27 Biennium.

DIN 4012 – Issue Paper

Funding for Commissioner Per Diems

Request

The Elections Commission requests \$12,800 GPR annually in its base funding for Commissioner Per Diems for the 2025-27 Biennium.

Background

Under [Wis. STAT. §15.06\(10\)](#), A member of the elections commission and a member of the ethics commission shall receive a per diem of \$115 for each day on which a member attends or participates by audio or video conference call in a meeting of the member’s commission.

Issue

The Elections Commission budget for Commissioner per diems is currently \$2,400 annually which covers approximately 3 meetings per year (6 commissioners x 3 meetings x \$115 per diem= \$2,070). This does not include in-person travel expenses or meeting materials. Over the past biennium, by state statute, the Commission is required to meet at least quarterly, meaning that if the Commission only met four times, the cost would be \$2,760 + parking, travel, and material costs. Contrast this with reality, in FY23 the Commissioners met 21 times and in FY24 the Commission met 20 times, which has resulted in more than \$13,800 annually in per diem costs vs. the \$2,400 in the agency’s base budget.

Parking, mileage, hotels (for those Commissioners who live hours away), meal expenses (meetings are often 8-12 hours long), and expenses of mailing materials can cost upward of \$1,000 per in-person meeting. The Commission does try to mitigate this expense by holding many meetings virtually, but state law requires at least four in-person meetings per year.

The Commission estimates a need of \$15,180 per diem for an estimated 22 meetings each year, or \$30,360 per biennium. With an adjusted base budget of \$2,400 annually, this presents an anticipated need of \$12, 780 GPR in FY26 and \$12,780 GPR in FY27.

	Quantity	Cost	Cost Per Meeting	# Annual Meetings	Total
Per-Diems	6 Commissioners	\$115/day	\$690	22	\$15,180

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission
DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4012	Funding for Commissioner Per Diems

	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	\$12,800	\$12,800
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	\$12,800	\$12,800
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

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4012 Funding for Commissioner Per Diems				
01	Administration of elections				
	01 General program ops; GPR	\$12,800	\$12,800	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$12,800	\$12,800	0.00	0.00
	Funding for Commissioner Per Diems Sub Total	\$12,800	\$12,800	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$12,800	\$12,800	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4012 Funding for Commissioner Per Diems					
GPR	S	\$12,800	\$12,800	0.00	0.00
Funding for Commissioner Per Diems Total		\$12,800	\$12,800	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$12,800	\$12,800	0.00	0.00

Decision Item (DIN) - 4013

Decision Item (DIN) Title - Funding for the Office of Election Transparency and Compliance Program

NARRATIVE

This is a request that was originally submitted in the 2023-2025 budget request. It is needs based and is precipitated by additional election integrity tasks the legislature has sought from the agency in previous years. WEC anticipates that the Wisconsin Legislature may desire, in future elections, additional independent audits, and increased capacity for accessibility initiatives, which is why the WEC is again bringing this need to the attention of our elected lawmakers.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) requests \$925,600 GPR in FY26 and \$1,067,400 GPR in FY27 to create 10.0 GPR FTE and to operate an Office of Election Transparency and Compliance program. The program will increase the agency's ability to audit election results, conduct data integrity audits, increase voter accessibility programs and polling place audits, and research public or legislative inquiries.

DIN 4013 - Issue Paper

Funding for the Office of Election Transparency and Compliance Program

Request

This is a request that was originally submitted in the 2023-2025 budget request. It is needs based and is precipitated by additional election integrity tasks the legislature has sought from the agency in previous years. WEC anticipates that the Wisconsin Legislature may desire, in future elections, additional independent audits, and increased capacity for accessibility initiatives, which is why the WEC is again bringing this need to the attention of our elected lawmakers.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) requests \$925,600 GPR in FY26 and \$1,067,400 GPR in FY27 to create 10.0 GPR FTE and to operate an Office of Election Transparency and Compliance program. The program will increase the agency's ability to audit election results, conduct data integrity audits, increase voter accessibility programs and polling place audits, and research public or legislative inquiries.

Background

In the WEC's 2023-2025 Biennial Budget request it asked to create the Office of Election Transparency and Compliance which was not adopted by the Legislature. This request was a needs-based request. It took into account the need to expand the agency's ability to address voter concerns, process and audit data, expand funding for post-election voting equipment audits, and expand accessibility programs for voters with disabilities. The Wisconsin Elections Commission still believes all these items are needed. The WEC has also seen legislative requests for these services over the last four years. Some of Wisconsin's elected lawmakers have expressed a desire to see additional audits and access to detailed data about elections. The WEC agrees that additional transparency and tools to assist in ensuring election integrity is very important and is therefore requesting the funding to meet these demands.

They will likely escalate after the 2024 Presidential Election with requests to conduct additional audits and provide additional access to complex data. Because the agency's 2023-2025 request was denied, the agency will not have the funding or staff to meet the changing demands of the election landscape in the 2025-2027 biennium.

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

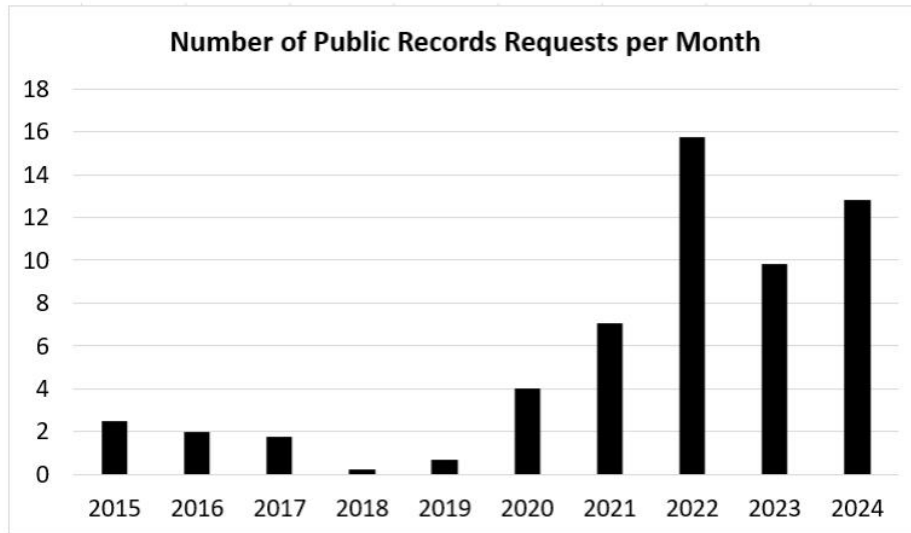
Since the WEC was established in 2016, the election landscape has become almost unrecognizable. Threats to American election infrastructure have not only changed but have compounded precipitously. There are threats - from both domestic and foreign actors - through both cyber and traditional means.

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 and more than 12 per month in 2024 thus far. The numbers continue to climb, creating a backlog of requests and lengthening the time each requestor must wait for a response.

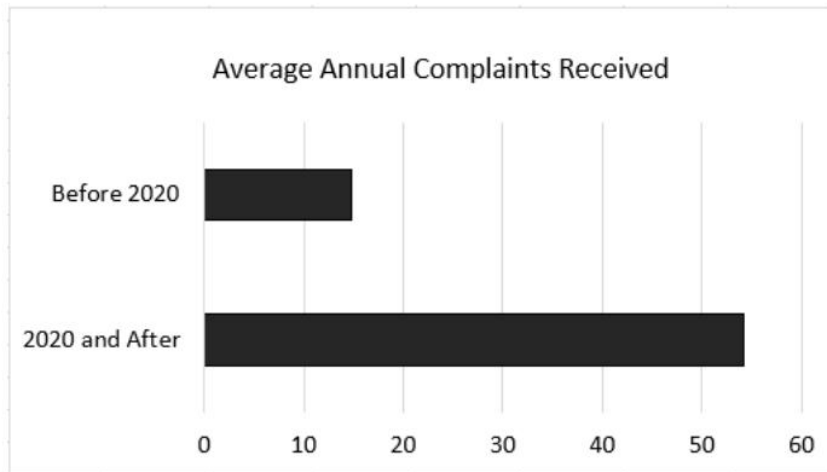
While the proposal presented here seeks to anticipate the demands the agency will see in the future, it also acknowledges the Joint Committee on Finance's role in determining how the funds will be spent. While this request lays out areas where the agency seeks funding to accomplish current requests and demands, the legislature may wish to provide more specificity in how these funds would be used to accomplish the objectives.

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 Election Transparency and Compliance. Wisconsin needs an Office of Election Transparency and Compliance 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 Office of Election Transparency and Compliance 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 Election Transparency and Compliance 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 Election Transparency and Compliance will address concerns that may not rise to the level of formal complaints.

Issue

The creation of an Office of Election Transparency and Compliance 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 Policy Initiatives Advisor will provide objective advice to the WEC through relevant, timely and thorough inspection, assistance, research, and training of election operations statewide. Objectives of the Office of Election Transparency and Compliance 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 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 Office of Election Transparency and Compliance staff include:

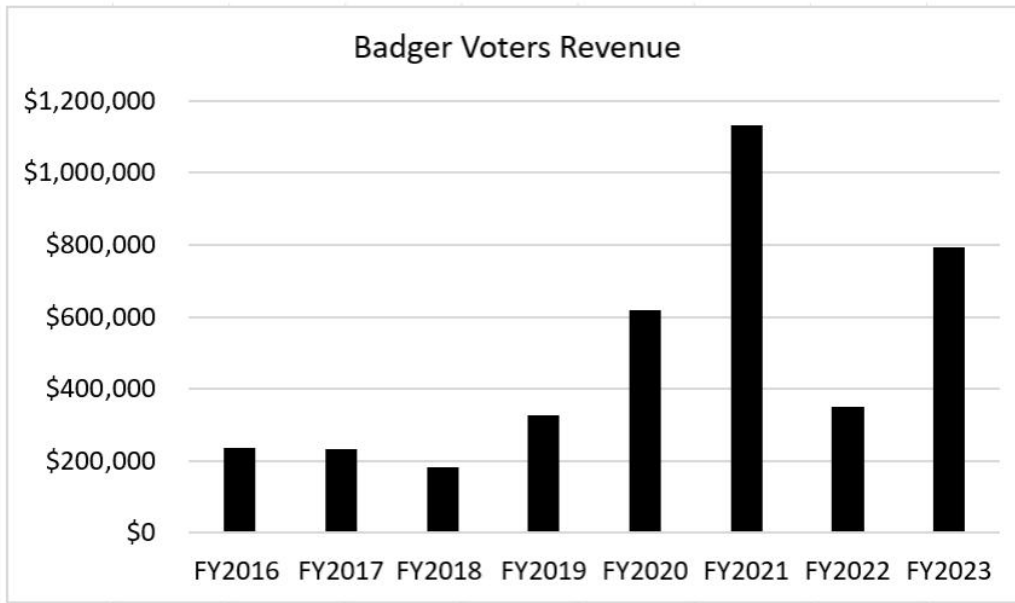
1. Research and aid the legal team in presenting information to the Commission regarding formal complaints of election law violations, including allegations of persons providing false or misleading information to an elected official during the registration or voting process, as directed by the Commission 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 Policy Initiatives Advisor would be an unclassified position hired by the Administrator. The Policy Initiatives Advisor and staff will consist of 10 people. The Policy Initiatives Advisor will manage the review of election programs and initiatives, direct the preparation of reports, and supervise the nine other staff members. The Policy Initiatives Advisor and staff may also complete special projects as needed. The Policy Initiatives Advisor will report directly to the Administrator.

Staff assigned to the Policy Initiatives Advisor 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 Policy Initiatives Advisor’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 Office of Election Transparency and Compliance 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 Office of Election Transparency and Compliance program is reflected in other agency projects, and vice versa.

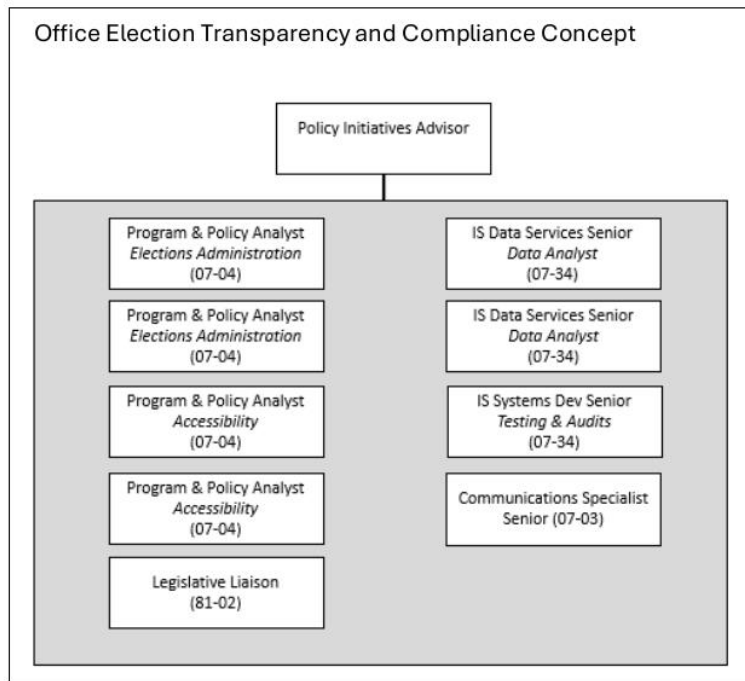
Staff assigned to the Policy Initiatives Advisor will increase the ability of the WEC to audit election processes to ensure standardization and legal compliance across the state. Currently, two election specialists oversee the voting equipment audit program. The voting equipment audit has required at 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 Policy Initiatives Advisor 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 Election Transparency and Compliance 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	FY26	FY27	TOTAL FY26 & FY27
10 FTE/Salary and Fringe	\$ 575,600	\$ 767,400	\$ 1,343,000
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	\$ 925,600	\$ 1,067,400	\$ 1,993,000

*one-time cost in FY 26

Decision Item by Line

2527 Biennial Budget

DEPARTMENT	CODES	TITLES
	510	Elections Commission

DECISION ITEM	CODES	TITLES
	4013	Funding for the Office of Election Transparency and Compliance Program

	Expenditure Items	1st Year Cost	2nd Year Cost
01	Permanent Position Salaries	\$425,100	\$566,800
02	Turnover	\$0	\$0
03	Project Position Salaries	\$0	\$0
04	LTE/Misc. Salaries	\$0	\$0
05	Fringe Benefits	\$150,500	\$200,600
06	Supplies and Services	\$350,000	\$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	\$0	\$0
12	Debt service	\$0	\$0
13		\$0	\$0
14		\$0	\$0
15		\$0	\$0
16		\$0	\$0
17	TOTAL	\$925,600	\$1,067,400
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

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Program	Decision Item/Numeric	1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
	4013 Funding for the Office of Election Transparency and Compliance Program				
01	Administration of elections				
	01 General program ops; GPR	\$925,600	\$1,067,400	0.00	0.00
	Administration of elections Sub Total	\$925,600	\$1,067,400	0.00	0.00
	Funding for the Office of Election Transparency and Compliance Program Sub Total	\$925,600	\$1,067,400	0.00	0.00
	Agency Total	\$925,600	\$1,067,400	0.00	0.00

Decision Item by Fund Source

2527 Biennial Budget

Elections Commission

Decision Item/Source of Funds		1st Year Total	2nd Year Total	1st Year FTE	2nd Year FTE
4013 Funding for the Office of Election Transparency and Compliance Program					
GPR	S	\$925,600	\$1,067,400	0.00	0.00
Funding for the Office of Election Transparency and Compliance Program Total		\$925,600	\$1,067,400	0.00	0.00
Agency Total		\$925,600	\$1,067,400	0.00	0.00

ACT 201

Proposal under s. 16.42(4)(b): **0% change in each fiscal year**

FY: **FY26**

Agency: **Elections - 510**

Exclude: Federal
Debt Service

Columns A-G were prepopulated for agencies to reflect state operations adjusted base and reductions agreed to by DOA and LFB. See Appendix H for instructions on how to complete these templates.

Proposed \$ and Proposed FTE columns reflect total agency proposed spending and positions for indicated fiscal year. These amounts should include standard budget adjustments (SBAs), any proposed reallocations or reductions to meet the target, and any other requests that the agency would want considered under this proposal.

Appropriations with zero dollars and zero FTEs are not loaded into the template. If you have any questions, contact your SBO analyst.

IF YOUR AGENCY PLANS TO TAKE THE SAME CUTS OVER BOTH YEARS, YOU SHOULD ONLY FILL OUT ONE GRID FOR 0% GROWTH AND ONE GRID FOR 5% REDUCTION, THEN CHANGE "FY26" TO "FY26 AND 27".

Agency	Appropriation		Fund Source	\$	FTE	(See Note 1) 5% Change Target	Proposed Budget 2025-26			Change from Adj Base		(See Note 2) Remove SBAs		Change from Adj Base after Removal of SBAs	
	Alpha	Numeric					Proposed \$	Proposed FTE	Item Ref	\$	FTE	\$	FTE	\$	FTE
	510	1a					101	GPR	\$5,105,500.00	25.75	\$0	\$6,613,600	35.75	1	\$1,508,100
510	1be	105	GPR	\$25,000.00	0.00	\$0	\$25,000	0.00		\$0	0.00	\$0	0.00	\$0	0.00
510	1c	109	GPR	\$82,600.00	0.00	\$0	\$82,600	0.00		\$0	0.00	\$0	0.00	\$0	0.00
510	1h	121	PR	\$1,000.00	0.00	\$0	\$9,000	0.00		\$8,000	0.00	\$0	0.00	\$8,000	0.00
510	1jn	125	PR	\$472,100.00	3.00	\$0	\$435,400	3.00		(\$36,700)	0.00	\$45,700	0.00	\$9,000	0.00
510	1t	160	SEG	\$100.00	0.00	\$0	\$100	0.00		\$0	0.00	\$0	0.00	\$0	0.00
Totals				\$5,686,300.00	28.75	\$0	\$7,165,700	38.75		\$1,479,400	10.00	(\$1,479,400)	0.00	\$0	10.00

Note 1: Reduction target must be met within state operations appropriations, but may be allocated across those appropriations and fund sources.

Note 2: Amounts should be SBAs (DINs 3001 - 3011) from agency request multiplied by -1.

Target Reduction = \$0

Difference = **\$0**
Should equal \$0

Items - Describe proposed changes (excl. SBAs) to reach target or other priorities of agency

- 1 The agency will need to reduce programmatic expenditures as part of the 0% growth, which would negatively affect the agency's responsibilities.
- 2
- 3

ACT 201

Proposal under s. 16.42(4)(b): **5% change in each fiscal year**

FY: **FY26**

Agency: **Elections - 510**

Exclude: Federal
Debt Service

Columns A-G were prepopulated for agencies to reflect state operations adjusted base and reductions agreed to by DOA and LFB. See Appendix H for instructions on how to complete these templates.

Proposed \$ and Proposed FTE columns reflect total agency proposed spending and positions for indicated fiscal year. These amounts should include standard budget adjustments (SBAs), any proposed reallocations or reductions to meet the target, and any other requests that the agency would want considered under this proposal.

Appropriations with zero dollars and zero FTEs are not loaded into the template. If you have any questions, contact your SBO analyst.

IF YOUR AGENCY PLANS TO TAKE THE SAME CUTS OVER BOTH YEARS, YOU SHOULD ONLY FILL OUT ONE GRID FOR 0% GROWTH AND ONE GRID FOR 5% REDUCTION, THEN CHANGE "FY26" TO "FY26 AND 27".

Agency	Appropriation		Fund Source	\$	FTE	(See Note 1)	Proposed Budget 2025-26			Change from Adj Base		(See Note 2)		Change from Adj Base after Removal of SBAs	
	Alpha	Numeric				5% Change Target	Proposed \$	Proposed FTE	Item Ref	\$	FTE	Remove SBAs \$	FTE	\$	FTE
510	1a	101	GPR	\$5,105,500.00	25.75	(\$255,300)	\$6,613,600	35.75	1	\$1,508,100	10.00	(\$1,647,200)	0.00	(\$139,100)	10.00
510	1be	105	GPR	\$25,000.00	0.00	(\$1,300)	\$0	0.00	2	(\$25,000)	0.00	\$0	0.00	(\$25,000)	0.00
510	1c	109	GPR	\$82,600.00	0.00	(\$4,100)	\$0	0.00	3	(\$82,600)	0.00	\$0	0.00	(\$82,600)	0.00
510	1h	121	PR	\$1,000.00	0.00	(\$100)	\$0	0.00	4	(\$1,000)	0.00	\$0	0.00	(\$1,000)	0.00
510	1jn	125	PR	\$472,100.00	3.00	(\$23,600)	\$435,400	3.00	5	(\$36,700)	0.00	\$0	0.00	(\$36,700)	0.00
510	1t	160	SEG	\$100.00	0.00	\$0	\$100	0.00		\$0	0.00	\$0	0.00	\$0	0.00
Totals				\$5,686,300.00	28.75	(\$284,400)	\$7,049,100	38.75		\$1,362,800	10.00	(\$1,647,200)	0.00	(\$284,400)	10.00

Note 1: Reduction target must be met within state operations appropriations, but may be allocated across those appropriations and fund sources.

Note 2: Amounts should be SBAs (DINs 3001 - 3011) from agency request multiplied by -1.

Target Reduction = (\$284,400)

Difference = \$0

Should equal \$0

Items - Describe proposed changes (excl. SBAs) to reach target or other priorities of agency

- 1 The agency will need to reduce programmatic expenditures as part of the 5% reduction, which would negatively affect the agency's program responsibilities.
- 2 As outlined in the agency cover memo, the WEC identified elimination of this appropriation as part of the 5% reduction, although this would negatively affect the agency's program responsibilities.
- 3 As outlined in the agency cover memo, the WEC identified elimination of this appropriation as part of the 5% reduction, although this would negatively affect the agency's program responsibilities.
- 4 As outlined in the agency cover memo, the WEC identified elimination of this appropriation as part of the 5% reduction, although this would negatively affect the agency's program responsibilities.
- 5 As outlined in the agency cover memo, the WEC identified elimination of this appropriation as part of the 5% reduction, although this would negatively affect the agency's program responsibilities.