

BUDGET SUMMARY

Category	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Adopted Budget	2025/2026 Variance
Expenditures					
Personnel Costs	1,273,988	2,227,299	1,862,734	1,897,528	34,794
Operations Costs	260,600	713,956	402,630	831,380	428,750
Debt & Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0
Interdepartmental Charges	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	\$1,534,587	\$2,941,255	\$2,265,364	\$2,728,908	\$463,544
Revenues					
Other Direct Revenue	332,748	281,297	567,420	618,105	50,685
State & Federal Revenue	0	86,118	45,000	85,000	40,000
Total Revenues	\$332,748	\$367,415	\$612,420	\$703,105	\$90,685
Tax Levy	\$1,201,839	\$2,573,840	\$1,652,944	\$2,025,803	\$372,859
Personnel					
Full Time Pos (FTE)	18.50	24.50	25.50	25.50	0.00
Overtime \$	155	805	0	0	0
Seasonal/Hourly/Pool	8,057	39,176	52,039	45,298	(6,741)

Department Mission:

The mission of the County Clerk's Office is to support the activities of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, the election activities of the Milwaukee County Election Commission, and the general operations of County government. The County Clerk's Office strives to provide high quality services to the public at the lowest cost to the taxpayers.

The Milwaukee County Election Commission administers elections in accordance with state statute and administrative procedures. The Milwaukee County Election Commission provides these services in conjunction with the direction and guidance of the Wisconsin Elections Commission. The County Election Commission maintains cooperative working relationships with State election administrators, 18 Milwaukee County Municipal clerks, and the City of Milwaukee Election Commission to effectively administer elections in Milwaukee County.

Department Vision:

The Milwaukee County Clerk's Office will continue to provide the highest quality service at the lowest cost possible. The County Clerk's Office will seek ways to maximize efficiency in every area of service it provides and will continue to advertise its services to the public to increase revenue.

The Milwaukee County Election Commission exists to administer federal, state, and local elections. The Election Commission administers these elections in a manner that fosters public trust in the accuracy, efficiency, and fairness of elections and develops confidence in the democratic process.

Department Description:

The independently elected County Clerk administers and records the proceedings of the County Board of Supervisors, maintains all legislative files, staffs County Board meetings and committees, updates existing ordinances and publishes new ordinances online.

The County Clerk's Office runs and maintains the legislative workflow software Legistar, its public-facing counterpart, the Milwaukee County Legislative Information Center (CLIC) and all the hardware and software that accompanies it.

The Clerk's Office provides support to the County Board through 6.0 FTE Administrative Secretary Legislative Assistant III positions.

The County Clerk issues marriage licenses and domestic partnership terminations, registers all lobbyists and lobbying principals, and reports lobbying registrations and expenditures to the County Board, County Executive, and the public.

The Office of the County Clerk serves as an information clearing house by: receiving and processing claims, court summons and complaints naming Milwaukee County; maintaining the central file of county deeds, contracts, insurance policies, agreements, leases, easements, and certificates of title for all county-owned vehicles; administering oaths of office and maintaining record of such oaths; receiving and publicly opening all sealed bids for County public improvement projects; and maintaining a file of qualified public improvement contractors. The County Clerk accepts and processes passport applications, sells Milwaukee County Transit System tickets and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources licenses and permits; processes lien notices and actions against contractors performing County public improvements; serves as Executive Director of the Milwaukee County Election Commission; and provides support services to the Milwaukee County Election Commission (Agency 301).

The Milwaukee County Election Commission administers elections under the direction and guidance of the Wisconsin Elections Commission and maintains cooperative working relationships with State election administrators and the 19 municipal clerks to efficiently administer elections in Milwaukee County.

Strategic Program Area: County Clerk

Service Provision: Mandated

How We Do It: Program Budget Summary

Category	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2025/2026 Variance
Expenditures	1,016,354	1,853,903	1,580,011	1,614,813	34,802
Revenues	277,757	281,182	566,670	617,355	50,685
Tax Levy	738,597	1,572,721	1,013,341	997,458	(15,883)
Full Time Pos (FTE)	15.00	21.00	22.00	22.00	0.00

What We Do With It: Activity Data

Activity	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Target	2026 Target
Claims processed	235	245	235	255
Contractor lien notices/vendor levies	1	2	8	5
County Board files maintained	599	1,056	1,300	1,200
County Ordinances published	12	14	15	15
Documents notarized	4,594	4,457	4,600	4,850
Lobbying registrations	14	5	15	5
Marriage license waivers	4,079	4,220	4,556	4,518
Marriage licenses issued	430	475	940	940
Oaths of Office administered	75	54	85	90
Passport applications processed	1,437	1,612	1,700	1,921
Summons and complaints processed	53	52	70	67
Wisconsin DNR licenses sold	62	75	60	65

How Well We Do It: Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Target	2026 Target
Customer satisfaction survey rating	96%	97%	93%	97%

Strategic Overview:

The County Clerk’s Office strives to provide the highest level of service at the lowest cost to the taxpayers. The Clerk's Office will continue to promote its services to attract revenue and continue to seek additional revenue streams.

Strategic Implementation:

The County Clerk’s Office aims to perform at the existing high level of efficiency, expediency, and, above all, quality.

The County Clerk’s Office interacts with members of the public daily and each customer is encouraged to complete a customer satisfaction survey. Performance ratings have been consistently exceptional and are reflected in the Performance Measures Table.

Additional Program Details:

The Office of Corporation Counsel and the Office of the County Clerk are requested to evaluate the independent redistricting process used to apportion county supervisory districts for the 2022 elections and to prepare for the next cycle following the 2030 census for the 2032 elections. As part of this review, the offices shall examine Milwaukee County General Ordinance § 3.01 - Apportionment of County Board and recommend amendments, if warranted, based on feedback from participants in the 2022 process. This shall include, but is not limited to, staff of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) and the retired judges who served on the Independent Redistricting Committee. The purpose of this effort is to assess what worked well, identify deficiencies, and propose improvements well in advance of the next redistricting cycle. A written report summarizing the process, lessons learned, and any recommended ordinance revisions shall be submitted to the County Board for consideration no later than the September 2026 meeting cycle.

Strategic Program Area: Election Commission

Service Provision: Mandated

How We Do It: Program Budget Summary

Category	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2025/2026 Variance
Expenditures	518,234	1,087,353	685,353	1,114,095	428,742
Revenues	54,991	86,233	45,750	85,750	40,000
Tax Levy	463,243	1,001,119	639,603	1,028,345	388,742
Full Time Pos (FTE)	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	0.00

What We Do With It: Activity Data

Activity	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Target	2026 Target
Campaign finance statements	150	150	150	150
Elections	2	4	2	4
Nomination papers	3	36	15	30
Special elections	1	2	0	0
State/City/Muni/School Board referendum	7	18	0	1

Strategic Overview:

The Milwaukee County Election Commission exists to administer federal, state, and local elections in a manner that fosters public trust in the accuracy, efficiency, accessibility, and security of elections, and develops public trust in the democratic process. Expenses vary every year to account for the number of regularly scheduled elections. In odd numbered years, there are two regularly scheduled county-wide elections.

The scheduled 2026 elections include:

Spring Primary - Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Spring Election - Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Partisan Primary - Tuesday, August 11, 2026

General Election - Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Strategic Implementation:

The Election Commission consistently strives to identify, evaluate, and implement process improvements. These process improvements ensure elections and related operations are conducted in a secure, efficient, and effective manner. The Election Commission will work to improve operational efficiencies by reassessing our internal ballot access procedures, expanding the public facing guidance and instructions related to ballot access challenges, and growing the resources available to voters and the public on our website. The Election Commission will also continue to work with our county partners to enhance the physical security of the Election Commission offices to better ensure the safety of Election Commission staff, resources, and official records.

Expenses increase from 2025 due to an increased number of elections. Milwaukee County held two elections in 2025 and will hold four elections in 2026.