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## **NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Office of Open Government Reports Its Year-End Performance Statistics for 2023**

MADISON, Wis. - In an effort to continue operating transparently and ensure accountability, the Office of Open Government (OOG) today reported its year-end performance statistics for January through December 2023.

#### **Completed Activities**

- Responded to **694** public records requests (approximately 58 per month), the third-highest total of public records requests that the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) has fulfilled in one year;
- Released public records reports, video, and audio files related to **16** officer-involved critical incidents, over triple the number from 2022;
- Responded to **128** inquiries on its Public Records/Open Meetings Help Line (PROM);
- Issued **97** letters providing guidance concerning open government; and
- Provided **12** trainings and participated in educational presentations to governmental agencies and other outside groups on open government matters.

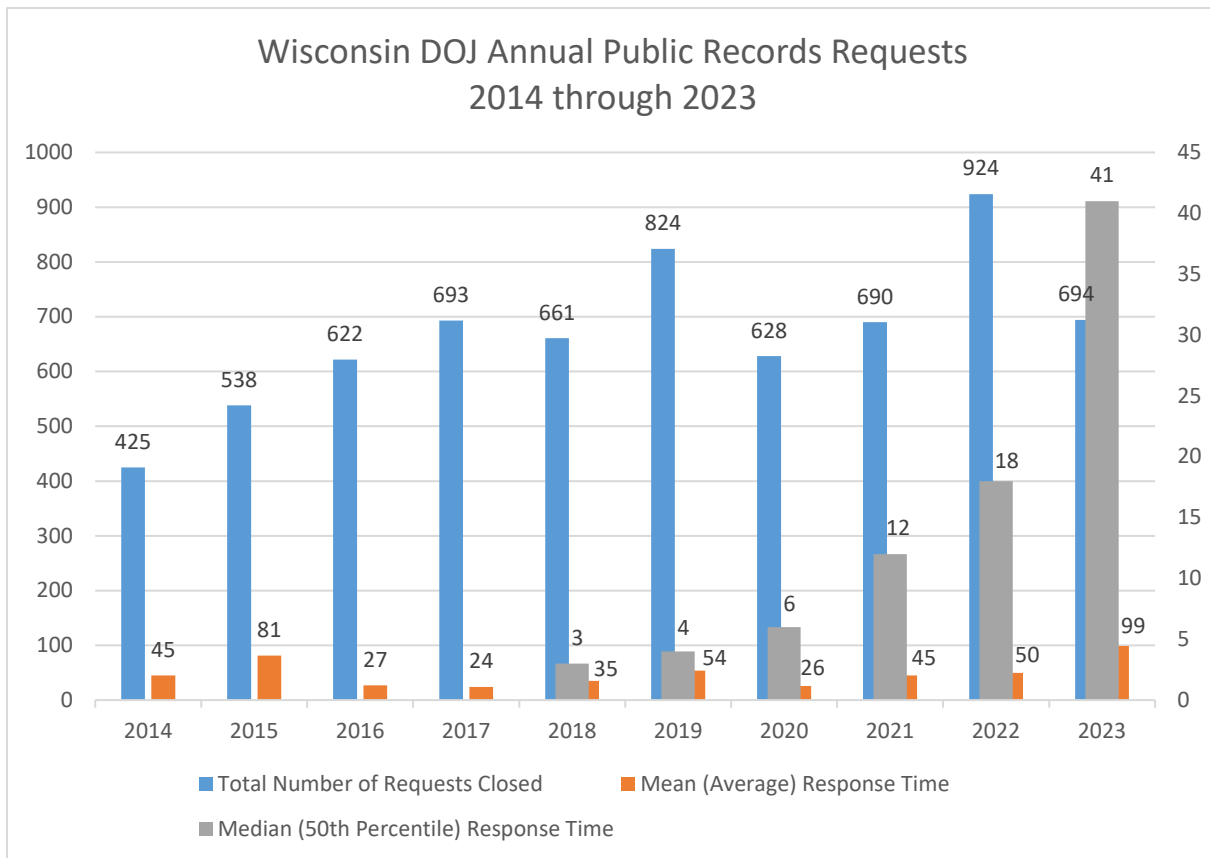
#### **Response Times for Public Records Requests**

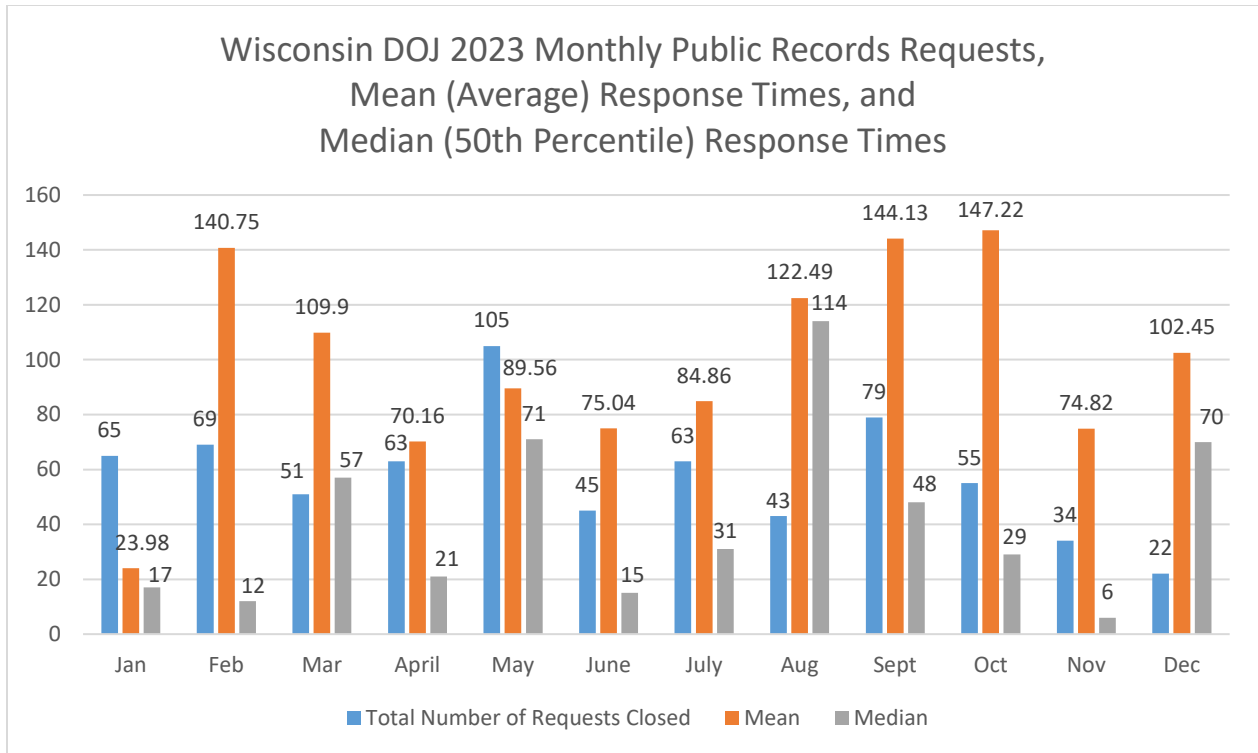
According to the Wisconsin Public Records Law Compliance Guide, “DOJ has stated that, generally, 10 working days is a reasonable time for an authority to respond to a simple [public records] request for a limited number of easily identifiable records.”

The office continues to maintain a large percentage of responses fulfilled within this 10-working-day guideline while at the same time responding to a high volume of requests. During 2023, the office:

- Responded to approximately **39%** of public records requests within the 10-working-day guideline.
- Responded to approximately **14%** of all requests in 3 calendar days or less and responded to approximately **25%** of all requests in 7 calendar days or less.
- Mean (average) response time for all responses was **99 calendar days**, which includes those that were broader in scope or required time-intensive review.
- Median (50<sup>th</sup> percentile) response time for all responses was **41 calendar days**, meaning that the office responded to 50% of all requests in 41 days or less.

As seen in the two charts (below and next page), the office responded to 694 public records requests in 2023, a large number of which were complex and required time-intensive review. This is the third-highest yearly total of public records requests that DOJ has fulfilled.





### Continuing Efforts

The office will continue to increase the public’s access to public records by posting the following information on its [website](#):

- A snapshot of public records requests pending on Monday of each week;
- The average and median monthly response times for public records requests;
- Responses to citizen correspondence, posted quarterly;
- Specific responses to public records requests that may be of particular public interest or may be the subject of multiple requests for the same records;
- Records related to Officer-Involved Critical Incidents;
- Responses to frequently asked questions (FAQ’s); and
- Other open government information and resources.

The office reports directly to the Office of Attorney General. The office is headed by Assistant Attorney General Paul Ferguson, and is supported by Assistant Attorney General Lili Behm, one Records Forms Management Specialist-Advanced, two Records Forms Management Specialists, one Records Program Associate-Advanced LTE, and several other attorneys and DCI employees within DOJ who regularly interact with the office.

For more information, visit the office’s [website](#) or contact the office at [opengov@widoj.gov](mailto:opengov@widoj.gov).