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NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of Open Government Reports Its Year-End Performance Statistics for 2025

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 2025.

Completed Activities

- Responded to **1,165** public records requests (approximately 97 per month), the highest total of public records requests to which the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) has responded in one year;
- Released public records reports, video, and audio files related to **12** officer-involved critical incidents;
- Responded to **138** inquiries on its Public Records/Open Meetings Help Line (PROM);
- Issued **75** letters providing guidance concerning open government; and
- Provided **9** trainings and participated in educational presentations to governmental agencies and other outside groups on open government matters.
- Updated the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law Compliance Guide through March 2025 and the Wisconsin Public Records Law Compliance Guide through June 2025 to reflect updated law, cases, and Attorney General guidance.
- Updated the Wisconsin Department of Justice's Public Records Notice and Public Records Request Fee Schedule.
- Reorganized the OOG portion of DOJ's website to improve navigability and make information and resources easier to find.

Response Times for Public Records Requests

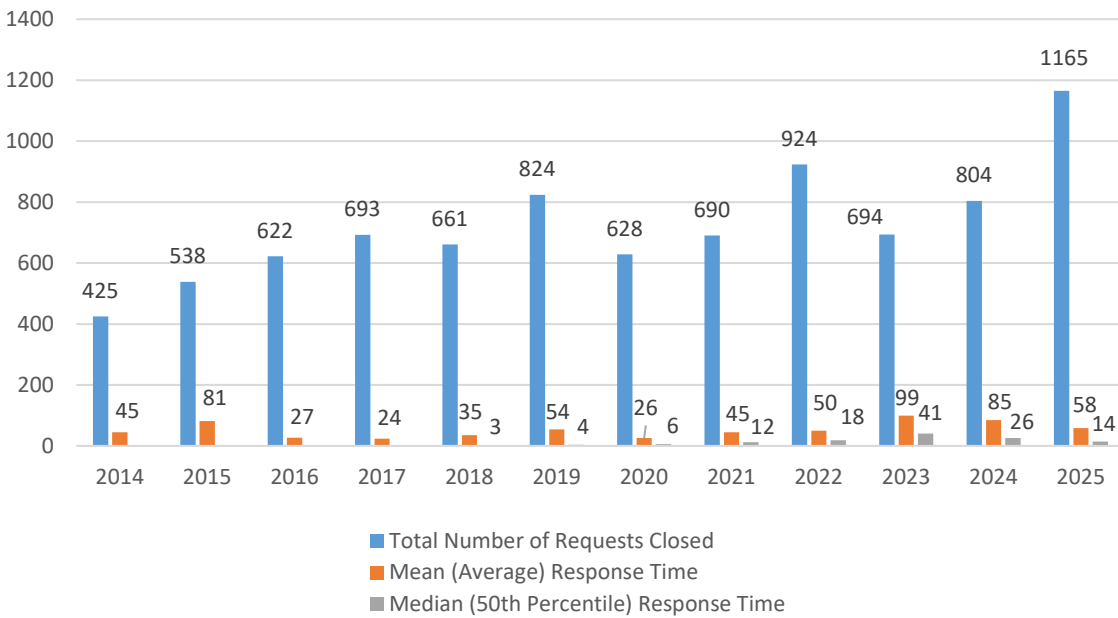
According to the Wisconsin Public Records Law Compliance Guide, “DOJ has stated that, generally, 10 working days is a reasonable time for an authority to respond to a simple [public records] request for a limited number of easily identifiable records.”

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 2025, the office:

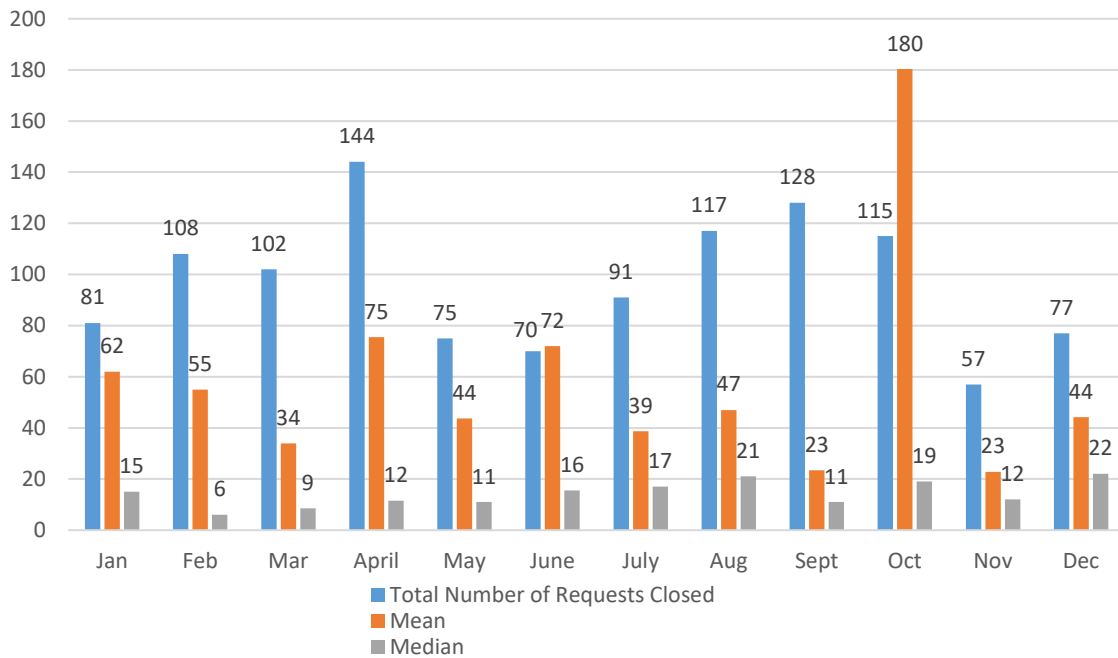
- Responded to approximately **53%** of public records requests within the 10-working-day guideline.
- Responded to approximately **16%** of all requests in 3 calendar days or less and responded to approximately **32%** of all requests in 7 calendar days or less.
- Mean (average) response time for all responses was **58 calendar days**, which includes those that were broader in scope or required time-intensive review.
- Median (50th percentile) response time for all responses was **14 calendar days**, meaning that the office responded to 50% of all requests in 14 days or less.

These statistics reveal an improvement in shorter response times compared to each category last year. As seen in the two charts (next page), the office responded to 1,165 public records requests in 2025, a large number of which were complex and required time-intensive review. This is the highest yearly total of public records requests to which DOJ has ever responded, surpassing the previous highest total, set in 2022, by 241 requests, and exceeding last year’s total, at the time the third-highest, by 361 requests.

Wisconsin DOJ Annual Public Records Requests 2014 through 2025



Wisconsin DOJ 2025 Monthly Public Records Requests, Mean (Average) Response Times, and Median (50th Percentile) Response Times



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;
- The Wisconsin Public Records Law Compliance Guide and the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law Compliance Guide;
- 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, one Records Forms Management Specialist, and one Records Associate Program Associate-Advanced, and several other attorneys and Division of Criminal Investigation (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.