

Budget Statement Regarding Wisconsin Elections Commission – March 2017

The Wisconsin Elections Commission is slated for a 28 percent cut in staffing over two years. Twenty-two of the Commission's 32 positions have been funded through a federal grant which is coming to an end. While it is good that the Governor's budget proposes to retain 16 of the positions, that still means that six positions will be lost.

We need look no further than the recent news that seventy 17-year-olds in almost 30 counties illegally voted in the April 2016 election to know that the state must invest more in voter education, as well as training of local elections officials. The best antidote to misinformation is good information, and the Commission should not be weakened at this time.

To prevent such unfortunate incidents in the future, we urge lawmakers to retain full staffing for the Wisconsin Elections Commission in order to combat misinformation and maintain the integrity of our elections.