



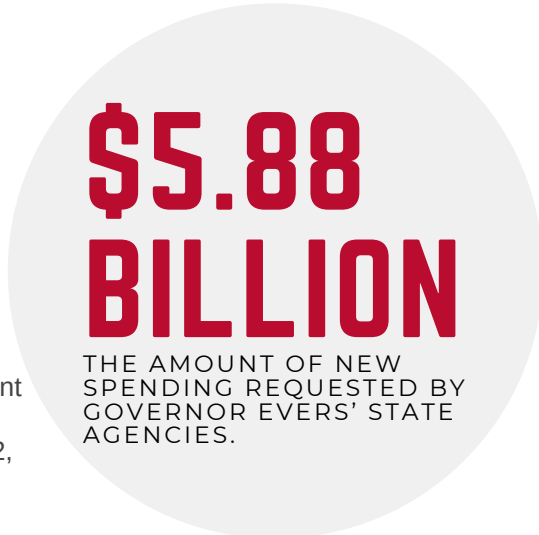
# STATE AGENCY 2025-27 BUDGET REQUESTS

A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS BY THE INSTITUTE FOR REFORMING GOVERNMENT

## WHAT HAPPENED?

Every two years, the budget process kicks-off with the release of agency budget requests. This is the first step in what will, if everything goes as planned, conclude by June 30th of next year. Although the Governor told agencies to assume that there would be “zero growth” in general purpose revenue (GPR), that did not stop them from requesting over a billion new GPR dollars, and \$5.88 billion overall above the base budgets. However, special dispensations were made for some agencies who have had to contend with the inflationary and economic struggles of the past four years.

IRG combed through the requests, looking for the rationale of why the state government is again asking for such a heavy increase in state spending. Although the [previous agency request we analyzed](#) came in much higher at \$7.5 billion in September of 2022, the current request of nearly \$6 billion is not far off – and additional requests are still expected to come forward.



Here are some of the highlights:

STATE AGENCY	BUDGET REQUEST
Department of Health Services	<b>DHS is requesting \$3.9 billion in new funding, 11.7% increase.</b> The Agency is again requesting an expansion of the Medicaid program. This plan would draw an additional <b>\$2.3 billion in new federal funds, taking 90,000 Wisconsinites out of private insurance and placing them in Medicaid.</b>
Secretary of State	The Secretary of State is requesting a <b>125% increase</b> in spending. These funds would hire new staff, larger office spaces, and the authority to retain more of its revenue and receive federal funds.
University of Wisconsin System	<b>UWS is requesting \$856 million in additional funding and 214 new positions.</b> Aside from a 5% and 3% tuition increase, UW System is requesting <b>\$203 million to fund raises</b> for staff and faculty.
Department of Revenue	DOR is requesting nearly \$14 million in additional funding. Of that new funding, <b>\$5.5 million would be allocated to fund 38 new tax agents.</b>
Department of Corrections	<b>DOC is requesting \$499 million,</b> a 14.5% increase over their base funding. DOC is estimating food costs at \$17 million for the next biennium. <b>Overtime and supplemental overtime will cost the department almost \$160 million annually.</b>
Ethics Commission	The Commission is requesting \$5.4 million, <b>a 172% increase over base funding.</b> The majority of that new funding is requested for <b>19 new staff,</b> which the Commission says it needs to come into compliance with 2023 Act 126.