


# CERTIFICATE

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
 ) SS  
COUNTY OF GRANT )

I, Debi J Heisner, do hereby certify that I am the duly appointed, qualified and acting City Clerk of the City of Fennimore, Grant County, Wisconsin, and that attached hereto is a true, correct and compared copy of Chapter 3-Finance and Public Records of the Municipal Code for the City of Fennimore, Grant County, Wisconsin, amended through Ordinance #2022-02-21, adopted 2/21/2022, effective 3/3/2022.

and that said copy is a true, correct and compared copy of said original ordinance and updates as the same now appear and are recorded in the official minute book of the City of Fennimore in my office as Clerk of the City of Fennimore.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand as the City Clerk of the City of Fennimore, Grant County, Wisconsin on this 3rd day of February, 2022 and affixed an impression of the official seal of said City

  
Debi Heisner, City Clerk in and for the City  
Of Fennimore, Grant County, Wisconsin



## **CHAPTER 3**

### **FINANCE AND PUBLIC RECORDS**

- 3.01 PREPARATION OF TAX ROLL AND TAX RECEIPTS**
- 3.02 BOND OF TREASURER**
- 3.03 CLAIMS AGAINST CITY**
- 3.04 FISCAL YEAR**
- 3.05 BUDGET**
- 3.055 UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE LIMITS ESTABLISHED**
- 3.06 TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS**
- 3.07 FUNDS TO BE SPENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROPRIATIONS**
- 3.08 DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY TAX CREDITS FOR INSTALLMENT PURPOSES**
- 3.09 DESTRUCTION AND PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC RECORDS**
- 3.10 DISPOSAL OF LOST OR ABANDONED PROPERTY**
- 3.11 SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION OF SANITARY SEWERS, STORM SEWERS, WATER MAINS, AND STREET IMPROVEMENTS AND SPECIAL CHARGES FOR CURRENT SERVICES**

(1) Aggregate Tax Stated on Roll: Pursuant to Section 70.65(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes, the City Clerk shall, in computing the tax roll, insert only the aggregate amount of state, county and local taxes in a single column in the tax roll opposite the parcel or tract of land against which the tax is levied, or, in case of personal property, in a single column opposite the name of the person, firm or corporation against whom the said tax is levied.

(2) Rates Stamped on Receipts: In lieu of entering on each tax receipt the several amounts paid respectively for state, county, local, school and other taxes, the aggregate amount of state, county, local, school and other taxes shall be combined in a single column on the tax receipt issued by the City Treasurer. The City Treasurer shall cause to be printed or stamped on the tax receipts the separate proportion of rate of taxes levied for state, county, local, school and other purposes.

#### **3.02 BOND OF TREASURER**

The City of Fennimore, Wisconsin, does hereby elect not to give the bond on the City Treasurer provided for by s. 70.67(1), Wis. Stats. Pursuant to s. 70.67, Wis. Stats., the City of Fennimore shall pay, in case the Treasurer thereof shall fail to do so, all taxes of any kind required by law to be paid by such Treasurer to the County Treasurer.

#### **3.03 CLAIMS AGAINST CITY**

(1) Claims to be Certified: Prior to submission of any account, demand or claim to

the Common Council for approval of payment, the City Clerk shall refer each account, demand or claim to the appropriate committee chairman or department head for approval who shall refer such to the Finance Committee, which shall certify, by indicating its approval to each claim, that the following conditions have been complied with:

- (a) That funds are available therefore pursuant to the budget.
- (b) That the item or service was duly authorized by the proper official or agency and has been received or rendered in accordance with the purchasing agreement.
- (c) That the claim is accurate in amount and a proper charge against the Treasury.

(2) Finance Committee Report: The Finance Committee shall report to the Common Council the allowance or disapproval of each account, demand or claim. Upon adoption of such report by the Common Council, the accounts, demands and claims contained therein shall be allowed or disapproved, as the case may be.

(3) Payment of Regular Wages or Salaries: Regular wages or salaries of the City officers and employees shall be verified by the proper City official, department head, committee chairman and filed to the regular pay day. All employees shall file a record of hours worked during the pay period with the Head of his Department who in turn shall submit these records to the Clerk.

### **3.04 FISCAL YEAR**

The calendar year shall be the fiscal year.

### **3.05 BUDGET**

(1) Departmental estimates: On or before October 1 of each year, each officer, department and committee shall file with the Clerk an itemized statement of disbursements made to carry out the powers and duties of such officer, department or committee during the preceding fiscal year, and a detailed statement of the receipts and disbursements on account of any special fund under the supervision of such officers, department or committee during such year, and of the conditions and management of such fund; also detailed estimates of the same matters for the current fiscal year and for the ensuing fiscal year. Such statements shall be presented in the form prescribed by the Clerk and shall be designated as "Department Estimates," and shall be as nearly uniform as possible for the main divisions of all departments.

(2) Finance Committee to Prepare: On or before the first regular meeting of the Common Council in November of each year, the Finance Committee of the Common Council shall prepare and submit to the Council a proposed budget presenting a financial plan for conducting the affairs of the City for the ensuing calendar year. The budget shall include the following information:

(a) The expense of conducting each department and activity of the City for the ensuing fiscal year and corresponding items for the current year and last preceding fiscal year, with reasons for increase and decrease recommended as compared with appropriations for the current year.

(b) An itemization of all anticipated income of the City from sources other than general property taxes and bonds, issued, with a comparative statement of the amounts received by the City from each of the same or similar sources for the past preceding and current fiscal year.

(c) An estimate of the amount of money to be raised from general property taxes which, with income from other sources, will be necessary to meet the proposed expenditures.

(d) Such other information as may be required by the Common Council and by the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

(3) Hearing: A summary of such budget and notice of the place where such budget in detail is available for public inspection and notice of the time and place for holding the public hearing thereon shall be published as a Class I notice, under Ch. 985, Wis. Stats., in the official City newspaper at least 15 days prior to the time of such public hearing. Not less than 15 days after the publication of the proposed budget and the notice of hearing thereon a public hearing shall be held at the time and place stipulated, at which time any resident or taxpayer of the City of Fennimore shall have an opportunity to be heard on the proposed budget. The budget hearing may be adjourned from time to time.

### **3.055 UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE LIMITS ESTABLISHED.**

The City shall incorporate into each annual budget an unreserved fund equal to not less than 20% or more than 25% of the total budget.

### **3.06 TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS**

The amounts of various appropriations and the purposes for such appropriations stated in such budget, after any alterations therein made pursuant to the hearing required by this subchapter shall not be changed thereafter unless authorized by a vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the Common Council. Within ten (10) days after the Council votes on such change the Clerk shall publish a Class 1 notice setting forth said change in the official newspaper of the City. The changes voted on shall be ineffective unless such notice is published.

### **3.07 FUNDS TO BE SPENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROPRIATIONS**

No money shall be drawn from the Treasury of the City, nor shall any obligation for the expenditure of money be incurred except in pursuance of the annual appropriation in the adopted

budget or when changed as authorized by Section 3.06 of this Chapter. At the close of each fiscal year any unencumbered balance of an appropriation shall revert to the general fund and shall be subject to reappropriation; but appropriations may be made by the Common Council, to be paid out of the income of the current year, in furtherance of improvements or other objects or works which will not be completed within such year, and any such appropriations shall continue in force until the purpose for which it was made shall have been accomplished or abandoned.

### **3.08 DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY TAX CREDITS FOR INSTALLMENT PURPOSES**

All equal installment payments of real estate property taxes shall be calculated so that the tax credit given the City of Fennimore by the State of Wisconsin as provided by s. 79.10, Wis. Stats., shall be allocated equally between such installment payments.

### **3.09 ACCESS TO, DESTRUCTION AND PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC RECORDS**

(1) Designation of Legal Custodians of the Records of the City. The Common Council hereby designates the City Clerk as the official legal custodian of the public records of the City except that the Police Chief shall be the custodian of Police Department records. It shall be the responsibility of the City Clerk and the Police Chief to carry out all duties and responsibilities imposed upon the City and the legal custodians by the Wisconsin Public Records Law, as set forth in ss. 19.31 to 19.39, Wis. Stats. The City of Fennimore adopts the Wisconsin Municipal Records Schedule for the retention and destruction of City records. The City Clerk shall be responsible for the timely response to any request for access to the public records, the release of the public records of the City, the conditions under which records may be inspected and the collection of costs for the location and reproduction of such records.

(2) Designation of Deputy Legal Custodians. The Deputy City Clerk and Assistant Police Chief are hereby designated as deputy legal custodians to act as legal custodian in the absence of the City Clerk and/or the Police Chief.

(3) Notice to all Employees. It is directed that all employees of the City be informed, in writing, of the designation of the legal custodians and the deputy legal custodians of the public records of the City. Employees shall be further informed of the duties of the official legal custodian and shall also be made aware of the other requirements and provisions of this section.

(4) Powers and Duties of the Official Legal Custodians. All requests for the release, inspection and/or reproduction of public records of the City shall be directed or referred to the City Clerk and Police Chief who are hereby vested with full legal power to make all necessary decisions relative to the release, inspection and reproduction of public records and are further granted all authority necessary to carry out all duties and responsibilities required by either the

Wisconsin Public Records Law or this section. The City Clerk and Police Chief shall establish hours when persons shall have access to records maintained in the City Office or the Police Department. The City Clerk and Police Chief shall prepare and post a notice to the public regarding access to public records, pursuant to s. 19.34, Wis. Stats.

(5) Fee Schedule Regarding the Costs of Locating and/or Reproducing Records and Property of the City. The cost of reproduction shall be set forth in the official fee schedule on file at the City Office and Police Department plus mailing and location costs, if location costs exceed \$50.00. It is intended that this fee schedule shall cover the payment of the actual, necessary and direct costs incurred in locating a document (if the cost exceeds \$50.00) or in providing any person with a reproduction of any of the records of the City. Prepayment of fees is required if the fee exceeds \$5.00.

(6) Preservation of Records. The records of the City shall be retained and preserved by the legal custodian, as required by all applicable laws, and no records shall be destroyed without the prior written approval of the legal custodian. Further, no record of the City shall be destroyed after the receipt of a request for such record until after the request is granted or until any dispute concerning the request has been completely and finally resolved.

---

(7) Destruction of Obsolete Public Records.

- a) General Records Schedule Adopted. The City of Fennimore hereby adopts, by reference, the Wisconsin Municipal Records Schedule (hereinafter, "Records Schedule"), pertaining to the retention and destruction of public records, and approved by the State of Wisconsin Public Records Board (hereinafter "Records Board") on August 27, 2018. A copy of the Records Schedule will be kept on file in the City Clerk's office and made available for public viewing during regular office hours.
- b) Utility Records. The City of Fennimore hereby adopts, by reference, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission Record Schedule per attachment A, Docket 05-US-114, pertaining to the retention and destruction of public utility records. The City Clerk may destroy the records of any municipal utility of which he or she is legal custodian and which are considered obsolete per the PSC Record Schedule.
- c) Other Records. In the event the City creates a record not contemplated by the Records Schedule, the City may, subject to the Records Board's prior approval, either adopt an applicable records retention schedule set forth by the Records Board, if available, or create its own retention schedule pertaining to the record.
- d) Notice Required. Prior to the destruction of any public record described above, at least 60 days' notice shall be given to the State Historical Society.

- e) Limitation. This section shall not be construed to authorize the destruction of any public records after a period less than prescribed by statute or State administrative regulation.
- f) Recordings of Meetings. In the event the City Clerk determines to tape record meetings for the Clerk's use in preparing minutes of such meetings, the tape recording may be destroyed no sooner than 90 days after the written minutes have been approved and published.
- g) Police Department Records shall be defined, destroyed or maintained according to the schedule below:

Incident Report Record are Paper or digital record associated with the documentation of department actions in response to a crime, ordinance violation, citizen complaint or other official law enforcement action or incident.

Incident Report Records do not include records for which a specific records retention period is listed below or otherwise in this section.

Incident Report Records and related documents	Permanent
Incident Case Files	Permanent
Duty Log-s	Permanent
Pre-Employment Files (hired)	Employee Separation + 7 years
Pre-Employment Files ( <i>not</i> hired)	3 years
Employee Training Records	Permanent
Personnel Complaints (substantiated)	Employee Separation + 7 years
Personnel Complaints (unsubstantiated)	3 years
Parking Citations	1 year
Body Camera Recordings	7 years or otherwise required by s.165.87(2).
	Wis. Stats.
Squad Camera Recordings	7 years or otherwise required by law
Dept Phone Line Recordings	7 years
TRACS documents (ELCL UTC, crash, etc...)	Hosted data maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Retention Schedule for Police Department Records not listed above or otherwise covered by this section shall be 7 years.

### 3.10 DISPOSAL OF LOST OR ABANDONED PROPERTY.

- (a) Custody of Lost or Abandoned Property.
  - (1) Property which appears to be lost or abandoned, discovered by



officers or turned in to the Chief of Police by citizens, shall be handled and disposed of according to the Fennimore Police Department Evidence and Property Policy.

- (2) No City employee shall keep for his or her own use property found in the course of duty, nor take possession of property on off-duty hours when the discovery was made while on duty.

(b) Disposal Procedures.

1. All property which has been abandoned, lost or unclaimed for a period of 90 days after the taking of possession of the same by the City shall be disposed of as set forth below;
  - Process the item(s) for public sale, auction or sealed bid
  - Donate the item(s) to a charitable organization or non-profit cause
  - Retain the item(s) for city use
  - Dispose of or destroy the item(s)
2. Whenever any property under this section is sold by public auction or sale or by sealed bid, such auction or the awarding of bids shall be proceeded by a published notice describing the property and arranging the time and place for the auction or bid submission; such notice shall be published in the official City newspaper. The property auctioned or sold by sealed bid shall be sold in as-is condition to the highest bidder. No sale or auction shall occur until the Chief of Police has determined that the property has no value to any probable investigation or legal proceeding. The department head responsible for the property shall determine the time in which the successful bidder shall remove the property. In the event the property is not removed within that time, the property shall revert to the City and the amount of the bid shall be forfeited to the City.
3. Any City official selling property under this section shall maintain for two years an inventory of any property not disposed of by auction or sale by sealed bid and shall include a record of the date and method of disposal, any payment received for the property, and a name and address of the person acquiring the property.
4. All sums received from the sale of property under this section shall be paid to the City Treasury.

**3.11 SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION OF SANITARY SEWERS, STORM SEWERS, WATER MAINS, AND STREET IMPROVEMENTS AND SPECIAL CHARGES FOR CURRENT SERVICES.**

(1) It shall be the policy of the City of Fennimore to protect the health, safety and property of its citizens and promote the general welfare through the installation, construction or reconstruction of public sanitary sewers and appurtenances; storm sewers and appurtenances;

water mains, laterals and appurtenances; public streets including sidewalks, segregated transportation corridors such as bike paths and pedestrian walkways; and assessing all or a portion of the cost to benefiting properties. The construction and reconstruction of sanitary sewers and appurtenances, streets including sidewalks constructed or reconstructed as a part of street improvements and related landscaping and amenities may be charged in whole or in part to the property benefited thereby in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. sec. 66.0701, except that, the assessment for highways on or across town or city boundaries shall be in accordance with Wis. Stat. sec. 66.0707.

(2) The establishment of special assessments for the aforementioned improvements represents an exercise of the police power of the City of Fennimore.

(3) Except for special charges for current services, prior to the exercise of any powers conferred by this ordinance, the Common Council shall adopt a resolution declaring its intention to exercise such powers to construct or reconstruct public improvements. Such resolution shall describe generally the contemplated purpose, the limits of the proposed assessment district, the number of installments in which the special assessments may be paid, penalties for delinquent payment, and direct the proper municipal officer or employee to make a report thereon. Such resolution may limit the proportion of the cost to be assessed.

(4) The report prepared by the designated municipal officer or employee shall consist of:

- (a) A description of the project which may include the plans and specifications therefor.
- (b) An estimate of the entire cost of the proposed work or improvement.
- (c) A schedule of proposed assessments, constituting an exercise of the police power of the City of Fennimore and a statement that the property against which the assessments are proposed is benefited.

(5) A notice shall be published in the Fennimore Times stating that the initial resolution has been adopted, that the designated municipal official or employee has prepared the required report and that the Common Council will hold a public hearing on the installation and assessments. Such notice shall be published as a Class I notice, under Chapter 985, Wisconsin Statutes, and mailed to every interested person whose post office address is known or can be ascertained with reasonable diligence. The hearing shall commence not less than ten (10) days and not more than forty (40) days after such publication and mailing.

(6) The Common Council shall hold a public hearing on the report submitted by the designated City official or employee and after the hearing may by resolution approve, disapprove, modify, or rerefer the report to the officer or employee completing the report with such directions as it deems necessary. Upon adoption by the Common Council, the assessment shall be deemed authorized and made, and the date of adoption shall constitute the date of levy. Assessments so levied shall be a lien against the property from such date. A copy of the resolution or a notice that said resolution has been adopted by the Common Council shall be mailed to every interested person whose post office box is known or can be ascertained with reasonable diligence.

(7) Whenever the actual cost of any project shall, upon completion or after the receipt of bids, be found to vary materially from the estimates, or whenever any assessment is void or invalid for any reason, or whenever the Common Council shall determine to reconsider and reopen any assessment, it may, after giving the same notice as provided in s. (6) and after a public hearing, amend, cancel, or conform any such prior assessment.

(8) If the cost of the project shall be less than the special assessment levied, the Council, without notice or hearing, shall reduce each special assessment proportionately and where any assessments have been paid, and the excess over cost shall be refunded to the property owner.

(9) The Council may, without any notice or hearing, levy and assess the whole or any part of the aforementioned municipal improvements as a special assessment on the property specially benefited thereby or impose a special charge upon property for all or part of the cost of current services rendered whenever notice and hearing thereon is in writing waived by all owners of the property affected by such special assessment or special charge.

(10) The construction and repair of sidewalk which has not been made a part of street or highway improvement shall be assessed in accordance with s. 5.04 of this Code.

(11) Special charges for current services rendered may be imposed through the allocation of all or part of the cost to the property served. Such current services may include without limitation because of enumeration, street sprinkling, oiling and tarring, sealcoating and dust control, garbage and refuse disposal, street lighting and/or traffic signal operation and maintenance, and tree care. The amount to be charged may include direct and indirect costs, including the resulting damages, if any, interest on City funds used in anticipation of the collection of the special charges, a reasonable charge for administrative staff services, any architectural, engineering and legal services costs, and any other item of direct or indirect cost reasonably attributed to the work or services rendered. The amount to be charged against all property for the work or services rendered may be apportioned among the individual parcels served. For street sprinkling, oiling and tarring, sealcoating and dust control, unless notice and hearing is waived in writing as provided above, a notice shall be published in the official newspaper that the Common Council will hold a public hearing regarding the establishment of special charges for current services. Such notice shall be published as a Class I notice under Chapter 985 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and a copy of the notice shall be mailed to every interested person whose post office box address is known or can be ascertained with reasonable diligence. The hearing shall commence not less than ten (10) and not more than forty (40) days after such publication and mailing. Such notice shall specify that on a certain date a hearing will be held by the Common Council as to whether the service in question shall be performed at the cost of the property owner, at which hearing anyone interested will be heard. For all other types of special charges, no public hearing is required, and notice shall be as provided on the billing of the special charge. Such special charges shall not be payable in installments. If not paid within the period prescribed on the billing, such delinquent special charges shall become a lien as provided in Wis. Stat. sec. 66.0627(4) Wisconsin as of the date of such delinquency and shall automatically be extended upon the current or next tax roll as a delinquent tax against that

property and all proceedings in relation to the collection, return and sale of the property for delinquent real estate taxes shall apply to such special charges.

(12) Any person against whose land a special assessment has been levied under this ordinance shall have the right to appeal therefrom in the manner prescribed in Wis. Stat. sec. 66.0703(12), within forty (40) days of the day of the final determination by the Common Council.

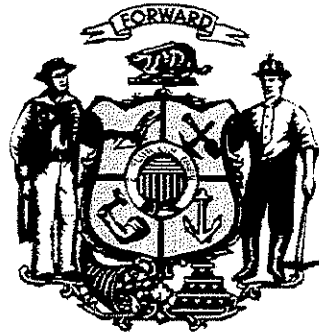
(13) If not paid within the period specified, delinquent special assessments or installments shall become a lien as provided in Wis. Stat. sec. 66.0703(13) as of the date of such delinquency and shall automatically be extended upon the current or next tax roll as a delinquent tax against that property and all proceedings in relation to the collection, return and sale of the property for delinquent real estate taxes shall apply to such special assessments or installments.”

# **General Records Schedule**

## ***Wisconsin Municipal and Related Records***

Approved by the Public Records Board:

***August 27, 2018***



**Expiration: August 27, 2028**

**For use by all units of Wisconsin Government at the Municipal level**

# Wisconsin Municipal Records Schedule

---

## Table of Contents

Introduction:.....	2
I. Applicability.....	2
II. Purpose:.....	3
III. Implementation .....	3
IV. Using the Schedule .....	4
V. Confidential Records and Personally Identifiable Information (PII).....	6
VI. Additional Schedules:.....	7
Administrative Records.....	8
Cemetery Records .....	21
Community Development/Public Services.....	24
Election Records.....	29
Finance Records.....	34
Public Works .....	38
Revenue Records.....	50

## Introduction:

Records are a basic tool of transacting business on behalf of all local government units. They are the foundation for government accountability. Records management is regulated by Wisconsin state law, and accordingly, the Wisconsin Municipal Records Schedule (WMRS), upon adoption, provides legal authorization to dispose of records on a regularly scheduled basis. The schedule serves as a mechanism for consistent retention and disposition of similar types of records across all municipal governments and provides assurance of accountability to the public.

The schedule was developed following guidelines for complying with legal, fiscal, and archival requirements for records retention and facilitates cost-effective management of records commonly found in municipal governments.

Wisconsin Statute § 19.21(1) defines public records as “all property and things received from the officer’s predecessor or other persons and required by law to be filed, deposited, or kept in the officer’s office, or which are in the lawful possession or control of the officer or the officer’s deputies.” Records are defined by Wisconsin Statute § 19.32(2) as “any material on which written, drawn, printed, spoken, visual, or electromagnetic information or electronically generated or stored data is recorded or preserved, regardless of physical form or characteristics, that has been created or is being kept by an authority.” Public records are also defined as being “all books, papers, maps, photographs, films, recordings, optical discs, electronically formatted documents, or other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received by any state agency or its officers or employees in connection with the transaction of public business” (Wis. Stat. § 16.61(2)(b)).

### I. Applicability:

The WMRS is available for adoption by all Wisconsin cities, villages, and towns; along with other non-county local units of government. County governments should refer to the County General Schedule for their record retention requirements. The WMRS is intended to serve as guidance for records that are created or received by your particular unit. Adopting the schedule does not require local units to begin creating any record series that they currently do not produce.

Records retention guidelines apply regardless of record format. Records covered by the WMRS may be retained in electronic, paper, or other formats. The schedule applies to all records: born digital (including those created or transmitted via e-mail), data contained in database systems, tapes/cartridges and other types of electronic records and information systems maintained by agencies. Municipalities must also meet the standards and requirements for the management of electronic records outlined in Chapter Adm. 12.

## II. Purpose:

Record schedules are intended to be used by records creators as a tool to SIMPLIFY their records management responsibilities, not to make them more complex. It is the intention of the WMRS to streamline municipal records management by:

- Providing clear and uniform guidance for the retention and disposition of records common to most municipal governments;
- Eliminating the need for individual municipalities to develop and obtain Wisconsin Public Records Board approval of records retention/disposition schedules;
- Facilitating uniformity in the retention and disposition of records across all municipalities; and
- Promoting the cost-effective management of municipal records.

## III. Implementation:

The WMRS is a schedule that municipalities MAY adopt to manage their records. Municipalities ARE NOT required to adopt the schedule for use. The WMRS does not replace the ability of municipalities to create and adopt records schedules through the creation of ordinances. See Additional Options below for more information.

### To adopt the Schedule:

- Submit the original and two copies of the Notification of General Schedules Adoption (PRB-002) form to:  
State Archivist  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State St.  
Madison, WI 53706
- The Wisconsin Public Records Board (PRB) will acknowledge your Notification of Adoption by returning a signed copy of the adoption to the municipality.
- After confirmation of PRB approval, municipalities should enact an ordinance adopting the WMRS as their official schedule.

Municipalities are expected to supersede any previously approved, unique, ordinances which cover records included in the adopted Municipal Schedule. Retain any approved schedules in existing ordinances for records that ARE NOT covered by the Municipal Schedule.

### Additional Options:

All municipalities may adopt the PRB approved General Records Schedules to supplement the WMRS. See Section VI of this instruction for more information.



Specific schedules may also be set by Records Disposition Authorizations (RDAs). Please consult the PRB webpage on [Information for Counties and Municipalities](#) for more information and instructions.

Municipalities that choose not to adopt the WMRS are still required to schedule the destruction of obsolete records through ordinance as stated in Wis. Stat. 19.21(4). Retention periods that are not specifically set by state statutes CANNOT be scheduled for less than 7 years without approval from the PRB.

#### IV. Using the Schedule:

The WMRS is arranged in five different sections covering the record series created by municipal governments. Some sections are broken down into subsections to provide easier reference. The following is an example of the format used in each section and an explanation of the information found in each column.

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention	Confidential	WHS Notification
Subsection				

- **Record Series Title** – Descriptive title of the record series. This is a basic title, not necessarily universally used by all municipalities.
- **Series Description** – Brief overview of the records that are included in the record series.
  - If a specific statute or legal source defines a retention period for the records it is identified in this field.
- **Retention** – Indicates the minimum time period a record series must be maintained and a description of what initiates the start of the retention clock.
  - **Creation:** Is used when the creation of the record initiates the retention time period. (*Example:* If a RDA existed for ABC Annual Reports, the event might be written as *Creation+ 3 years* meaning an ABC Annual Report must be retained for three years after it is created.)
  - **Fiscal:** Is used if the retention time period is initiated by the end of a fiscal year. (*Example:* RDAs that exist for annual budgets might be written as *Fiscal+ 6 years* meaning a budget would have to be retained for six years after the end of that fiscal year.)
  - **Event:** Is used if a specific event other than Creation or Fiscal initiates the retention time period. (*Example:* A RDA that exists for a housing relocation program has the event written as *Event+ 5 years; Event=Approval Letter for Relocation Plan*". In this scenario, it means all records associated with this RDA have to be retained for five years after the official letter was sent by the state to approve the relocation plan.)

- **Permanent:** Is used if the records need to be maintained permanently by the creating municipality. See Guidelines for the Permanent Retention of Records.
  - General references on retention periods for municipal records are found in Wis. Stat. § 19.21(4)(b), Wis. Stat. § 19.21(6), or Wis. Stat. § 19.21(8).
- **Confidential** – Indicates whether or not the record series contains information that is required by statute to be kept confidential. See Section V of this guide for more information on confidential records.
- **WHS Notification** – Wis. Stat. § 19.21(4)(a) requires that all municipal public records must be offered for transfer to the Wisconsin Historical Society 60 days prior to their destruction. This field indicates if notification to the Wisconsin Historical Society is required before records can be destroyed. Column will either state NOTIFY or WAIVED.
  - **Waived:** The Wisconsin Historical Society has determined the record series has low historical value and waived the notification period as indicated Wis. Stat. § 19.21(4)(a). Municipalities are free to destroy any waived records without notification once they reach their required retention period.
  - **Notify:** You are required to send written notification to the Wisconsin Historical Society before destruction. Please contact the Wisconsin Historical Society with questions on how to properly notify on the destruction of public records.
  - **N/A:** indicates that the retention is permanent.

#### **Final Disposition:**

Municipal records, which have met the retention time outlined in the WMRS, have only two dispositions: Destroy or transfer to the Wisconsin Historical Society. Records that are held beyond their retention period but are not destroyed are still subject to all public records laws.

- **Destruction:** Records identified as “waived” in this schedule may be destroyed without notifying the Wisconsin Historical Society. Local units should dispose of all public records in a manner that ensures they are completely destroyed.
  - If records contain confidential information, or “information that can be associated with a particular individual through one or more identifiers or other information or circumstances” (Wis. Stat. § 19.62(5) including, but not limited to names, addresses, social security numbers, and banking information it must be destroyed confidentially. This means that these records must be disposed of in a way that renders them unreadable and unable to be reconstructed. Typically, this can be achieved by cross cut shredding or pulping. Many organizations disposing of confidential information choose to hire a vendor to handle the process.
  - **Note on records older than 75 years:** the waived designation does not apply. Notification should be given on any records 75 years or older regardless if they have been indicated in the schedule as having been waived.
- **Transfer:** Records identified as “notify” must be offered, in writing, to the Wisconsin Historical Society. Per Wis. Stat. § 19.23(2), the Wisconsin Historical Society assumes title control and public records responsibility of all transferred records. Obsolete municipal records may not be transferred to local historical societies or other repositories because the statutes do not specify other institutions can hold title to public records. Only the records creators and the Wisconsin Historical Society are identified in statutes as being official holders of title. Information on transferring records can be found on the Society’s webpage pertaining to proper handling of obsolete records.

- Permanent: Records identified as “permanent” have been identified as containing significant historical information and long term business value. Therefore municipalities are responsible for ensuring the long-term preservation of these records. The Wisconsin Historical Society will, in certain circumstances, accept “permanent” records for transfer if the municipality is unable to maintain these records.

Records that have passed their retention period should not be destroyed if any of the following conditions apply:

- Records are required for financial or performance audits either currently underway or known to be planned.
- Records are subject to a “legal hold” because they may be relevant to an existing, pending, or anticipated legal proceeding.
- A related open records request has been received and not completed, or statutorily required time periods have expired.

#### V. Confidential Records and Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

##### Confidential Records:

Some records series may contain confidential or restricted access records. The WMRS identifies any record series containing information required by Wisconsin Statute, administrative rule, or other legal authority to be kept confidential or protected from public access. The confidential column is marked “yes” if ANY records in the series may contain confidential information.

Even when specific confidentiality statutes do not apply, application of substantive common law principles through the balancing test considerations under Wis. Stat. § 19.35(1)(a), may affect disclosure of the record under the public records law.

When an individual or an individual's representative makes an open records request for records containing personally identifiable information about that individual, there is no balancing test, but the disclosure exceptions under Wis. Stat. §19.35(1)(am), must be considered. Wis. Stat. §19.35(1)(am) exceptions include:

- endangering an individual's life or safety;
- endangering the security of a prison, including the security of the population or staff;
- identifying a confidential informant; and
- records collected or maintained in connection with complaints, investigations, or other circumstances that may lead to various administrative or court proceedings.

It is strongly recommended that local governments consult with legal counsel when responding to an open records request. Additional resources on open records requests can be found by visiting the Wisconsin Department of Justice, [Office of Open Government's website](#).

Personally Identifiable Information (PII):

Wisconsin law defines Personally Identifiable Information (PII) as “information that can be associated with a particular individual through one or more identifiers or other information or circumstances” (Wis. Stat. § 19.62(5)). The municipal unit is responsible for evaluating their record series to determine if PII is included. The inclusion of PII does not automatically restrict records, nor does it make them confidential. The confidential column is only marked “yes” in cases where specific statutes restrict access.

**VI. Additional Schedules:**

Municipal governments should be aware that there are additional schedules that apply to public records. All Wisconsin municipalities have the option of adopting any of the General Records Schedules that have been approved by the PRB. These schedules may cover additional record series not found in the WMRS. In some cases, the WMRS points to the General Schedules for covering some specific records series (such as personnel records). Information on adopting schedules can be found on the PRB Counties and Municipalities Resource Webpage.

Municipalities should also be aware that there are two separate General Records Schedules for the following:

- Wisconsin School Districts
- Wisconsin Public Libraries and Library Systems

In addition, municipalities should check the schedule set by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) for Municipal Utilities. A complete list of records and schedules is located in “Investigation to Consider Proposed Changes to Records Retention Requirements for Electric, Gas and Water Utilities.”

Municipal Court Records are scheduled by Supreme Court Rule 72, which specifies the retention periods for court records and requires municipal courts to give 60 day notice to the Wisconsin Historical Society prior to destroying obsolete records. Furthermore, SCR 72 states that notice is not required for records in which “the historical society has indicated, by blanket waiver, that it has no interest for historical purposes.” The Wisconsin Historical Society has waived the sixty-day notification period for all municipal court records dated 1941 or later. This waiver applies to all municipal courts throughout the state and allows for the disposal of municipal court records without further notification. Municipal Courts are still obligated to maintain the records for the minimum time specified in SCR 72. Please contact the Wisconsin Historical Society if you have any questions regarding Municipal Court Records.

Table of Contents

## Administrative Records

### Requirements Specific to Administrative Records

The Administrative Records section is organized by the following subsections:

- Administration (general)
- Common Council/Village Board/Town Board
- Emergency Planning
- Human Resources/Personnel
- Legal
- Licenses and Permits
- Municipal Land Ownership
- Municipal Vehicles
- Payroll
- Real Property Titles

This section is intended to provide municipalities with schedules for the most common record series generally grouped under this topic. Municipalities that are in need of schedules for records not covered in this section are encouraged to review and consult the appropriate General Records Schedules listed below:

- Administrative Records General Schedule
- Fleet and Aircraft Management Records
- Human Resources and Related General Schedule
- Payroll & Related General Schedule

Municipal Court Records are scheduled by Supreme Court Rule 72, which specifies the retention periods for court records and requires municipal courts to give 60 day notice to the Wisconsin Historical Society prior to destroying obsolete records. Furthermore, SCR 72 states that notice is not required for records in which “the historical society has indicated, by blanket waiver, that it has no interest for historical purposes.” The Wisconsin Historical Society has waived the sixty-day notification period for all municipal court records dated 1941 or later. This waiver applies to all municipal courts throughout the state and allows for the disposal of municipal court records without further notification. Municipal Courts are still obligated to maintain the records for the minimum time specified in Supreme Court Rule 72. Please contact the Wisconsin Historical Society if you have any questions regarding Municipal Court Records.

**Note:** Notification should be given on any records 75 years or older regardless if they are marked waived.

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention	Confidential	WHS Notification
<b>Administration Records (general)</b>				
Appointment Files	Materials documenting appointments and nominations to boards, task forces, councils, or other bodies. May include applications; cover sheets, letters of recommendation, resumes, and correspondence.	Event+2 years; Event=End of term	No	Notify
Appointment Files (not selected)	Unsuccessful appointments and nominations to boards, task forces, councils, or other bodies.	Event+1 year; Event=Position filled	No	Waive
Committee Records and Minutes (Excluding Common Council and Zoning Board)	Records of committees, boards, councils, and commissions, other than Common Council. Includes meeting minutes, agenda packets, reports, and resolutions. See Common Council section for retention of Common Council Minutes. See schedule for Zoning Board Records in Public Works Section.	Creation+7 years	No	Notify
Complaints (External)	File related to complaints regarding issues not related to a specific program. Complaints are not otherwise regulated by state or federal requirements.	Event+2 years; Event=Complaint resolution, dismissal or end of litigation	No	Waived

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
Contracts and Agreements	Any contracts or agreements to which the municipality is a party.	Event+6; Event=End date or cancellation of contract	No	Waive
Correspondence (Senior Level or Elected Official)	Business-related correspondence (paper and electronic) of senior level staff and elected officials.	Event+6 months; Event=Separation from position/end of term  Note: Correspondence that relates specifically to a program or project may need to be retained per that particular schedule	No	Notify
Correspondence (General Staff)	Business-related correspondence (paper and electronic) of non-appointed general staff.	Event+1 year; Event=Creation or receipt  Note: Correspondence that relates specifically to a program or project may need to be retained per that particular schedule	No	Waive

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
Grants	Records relating to grant-funded projects where the agency is the grant recipient or issuer, including the application process, the receipt and expenditure of grant funds, or denial.	Event+4 years; Event=Date of final report or notification of denial	No	Waive
House Number and Address Change File	Provides official control and reference source for city addresses.	Permanent	No	N/A
Internal Policies and Procedures	Established departmental policies and procedures. Note: May also be called administrative practices or directives or executive directives.	Event+7 years; Event=Date the policy/ procedure is superseded or made obsolete	No	Waive
Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) & Service Level Agreements (SLA)	Agreements between government units. Sometimes define agreements between a large government unit's separate divisions or bureaus.	Event+4 years; Event=Ending date of the MOU or SLA.	No	Waive
Notice of Removal of Human Corpse	Form for the removal of a human corpse if death occurs in a hospital, nursing home, or under hospice care at any location.	Event+2 months; Event=Date of death	No	Waive



<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
Oath of Office	Elected or appointed municipal officers may be required to take, and file in writing, an official oath within ten days after receiving notice of election or appointment.	Event+5 years; Event=End of term	No	Waive
Open Records Requests and Responses	Records relating to regular and reformulated, repetitious, systematic or continuing requests by individuals, groups or organizations for access to general information under the provisions of the Wis. Stats. §§ 19.35-19.37.	Event+3 years; Event=Response provided	No	Waive
Organizational Chart	Repository of the official organizational structure of offices.	Event; Event=Superseded	No	Waive
Organizational Planning	Includes division and unit strategic business and operational planning files such as, but not limited to, final plan and significant work papers.	Event+7 years; Event=Completion of plan	No	Notify
Petitions	Petitions submitted to municipalities for improvements or changes to existing municipal services/structures.	Event+7 years; Event=Petition approved or denied	No	Waived

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
Press/News Releases	Information about municipality programs and events.	Creation+3 years	No	Notify
Proclamations	Proclamations issued by the mayor, commissioner, or elected executive on behalf of the municipality.	Event+1 year; Event=End of elected representative's final term	No	Notify
Reports (Annual)	Annual reports produced by all departments and programs.	Event+7 years; Event=Date of issue	No	Notify
Reports (Monthly)	Monthly reports of divisions/committees.	Creation+3 years	No	Waive
Subject Files (Senior Level or Elected Official)	Subject files (paper and electronic) of senior level staff such as department heads and elected officials.	Event+6 months; Event=Separation from position/end of term	No	Notify

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention	Confidential	WHS Notification
<b>Common Council/Village Board/Town Board</b>				
Affidavits of Publication	Records providing proof of publication for legal notices as required by law. (Note: See Wis. Stat. § 985.12 for more information on proof of publication).	Event+7 years; Event=Date of publication	No	Waive
Audio Tapes	Recordings of meetings used to produce minutes. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 19.21(7).	Event+90 days; Event=Date the minutes have been approved and published	No	Waive
Minutes (Common Council)	Official minutes of the Common Council/Village Board/Town Board.	Permanent	No	N/A
Ordinances	Official ordinances and any ordinance books kept by municipalities.	Permanent	No	N/A
Resolutions	Official records pertaining to resolutions passed by municipalities.	Permanent	No	N/A

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention	Confidential	WHS Notification
<b>Emergency Planning<sup>1</sup></b>				
Continuity of Government Operational Plan and Documentation	Agency official plan and documentation of the Continuity of Operations Plan/Continuity of government plan.	Event; Event=superseded by revised plan	No	Waive
Critical Incident Management Plans	Critical incident management plans, local site security plans, local emergency action plans, life safety, and other similar documents.	Event+3 years; Event=superseded by revised plan	No	Waive
Disaster Recovery Records	Records created during the disaster recovery process.	Event+3 years; Event=Date recovery effort is complete <sup>2</sup>	No	Waive
<b>Human Resources/Personnel</b>				
Grievance Case File	Records of grievances filed by employees.	Event+7 years; Event=Date grievance is closed	Yes <sup>3</sup>	Waive

<sup>1</sup> No specific statutes restrict the records in this series. However, the balancing test per Wis. Stat. § 19.35(1)(a) should be applied prior to release.

<sup>2</sup> Note: When Federal Grant money is involved, the retention is 3 years from the date of the final Financial Services Report.

<sup>3</sup> No specific statutes restrict this type of record. However, the balancing test per Wis. Stat. § 19.35(1)(a) should be applied prior to releasing this type of record. Personnel files may contain patient health records which may be protected by Wis. Stat. § 146.82 and/or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
Personnel Files	Documents employee personnel actions during the employment of the employee. Applies to ALL employees.	Event+7 years; Event=End of employment/service	No <sup>4</sup>	Waive
<b>Legal</b>				
Attorney Opinions	Municipal attorney opinions given to answer specific questions regarding the interpretation and application of statutes and ordinances, or other legal matters.	Permanent	No <sup>5</sup>	N/A
Case Files	Files include, but are not limited to, pleadings and legal arguments, evidence, research, orders, legal summons and subpoenas issued. <sup>6</sup>	Event+7 years; Event=Close of case	No <sup>7</sup>	Notify on historically significant cases only <sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> No specific statutes restrict this type of record. However, the balancing test per Wis. Stat. § 19.35(1)(a) should be applied prior to releasing this type of record. Personnel files may contain patient health records which may be protected by Wis. Stat. § 146.82 and/or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

<sup>5</sup> Records may contain material protected by Attorney-Client Privilege Wis. Stat. § 905.03.

<sup>6</sup> Records may contain the client file with information pertaining to expenses, attorney notes, medical records, government agency filings, discovery such as requests for production of documents, deposition transcripts, and evidence.

<sup>7</sup> Records may contain material protected by Attorney-Client Privilege Wis. Stat. § 905.03.

<sup>8</sup> Historically significant case files include those that have established legal precedents; cases that received widespread attention from the public and news media; and cases recognized for their uniqueness. Examples of such cases include, but are not limited to, major civil rights cases, major labor relations cases, major environmental cases, cases dealing tribal governments and treaty rights, major cases with constitutional implications, and cases related to major prosecutions of public officials.

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention	Confidential	WHS Notification
<b>Licenses and Permits</b>				
License Applications	Includes license applications (approved and unapproved) and license stubs. Includes all non-alcohol related licenses including, but not limited to, non-intoxicating beverages, soda water beverages, food handling and sales, mobile home park licenses, restaurant, retail dairy products, pet, and animals. Also includes permits for the excavation of streets by private utility companies.	Creation+3 years	No	Waived
Liquor and Beer Licenses	Includes license applications (approved and unapproved) and license stubs. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 125.04(3)(i).	Creation+4 years	No	Waived
Permits	Permits for public space usage. Includes, but not limited to, burning, street usage, and parking permits. NOTE: See Public Works Section for retention of building permits.	Creation+5 years	No	Waived
Permits (septic tanks)	Permit for a septic tank. The permit records the location and ownership of the tank.	Permanent	No	N/A

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention	Confidential	WHS Notification
<b>Municipal Land Ownership</b>				
Land Titles, Conveyances and Easements	Documentation for municipal owned land. Also includes any legal rights granted to others that relate to municipal owned land.	Permanent	No	N/A
Sales of Facilities and/or Land (Case Files)	Includes appraisals and related valuations. Projects where a municipality plans or actually sells either facilities and/or land assets.	Event+6 years; Event=date of the completion of the transaction	No	Waived
<b>Municipal Vehicles</b>				
Motor Vehicle Control and Assignment Records	Documentation of agency motor vehicle assignments to employees. Includes completed documentation on reservations for pool cars, individual trips, driver profiles, check-in and checkout logs.	Event+1 year; Event=date the vehicle is disposed	No	Waived
Motor Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Maintenance Records	Records documenting service and repair orders to motor vehicles. These records normally include maintenance orders, logs, fiscal documents, such as requisitions or purchase orders for parts or services, vehicle warranties, operation and repair manuals and parts lists.	Event+1 year; Event=date the vehicle is disposed	No	Waived

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
Vehicle Use Agreements	Agreements between individuals and municipalities required before driving a municipal owned vehicle.	Event+1 year; Event=termination of agreement or employment	No	Waived
Vehicle Inspection Reports	Inspections of municipal vehicles.	Event+1 years; Event=date the vehicle is disposed	No	Waive
<b>Payroll<sup>9</sup></b>				
Employee Payroll & Benefit File	Includes various documents that are maintained throughout the employee's term of employment.	Event+7 years; Event=Employee retirement, transfer or termination	No	Waived
Monthly and Quarterly Payroll Reports	Includes, but is not limited to, quarterly report of federal income tax withheld; quarterly report, payroll summary; state's quarterly report of wages paid, and monthly memorandum report.	Event+5 years; Event=Report Issued (provided record has been audited)	No	Waived

<sup>9</sup> No specific statutes restrict this record series. However, the balancing test per Wis. Stat. § 19.35(1)(a) should be applied prior to releasing this type of information.



<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
Payrolls and Payroll Registers	Payroll listings showing gross and net pay, as well as deductions for state employees. Referred to on questions of back pay and income taxes.	Creation+4 years	No	Waived
<b>Real Property Titles</b>				
Title Documentation	Records documenting the title of land owned by the municipality including the abstract and certificate of title, opinions of title, and title insurance policies.	Permanent	No	N/A

Table of Contents

## Cemetery Records

### Requirements Specific to Cemetery Records

Municipalities and towns are required to assume ownership of abandoned private cemeteries. Cemeteries are considered abandoned if the cemetery association or other organization that once cared for the cemetery no longer exists and no legal owner can be found (Wis. Stat. § 157.115(1)).

- The municipality or town must care for the cemetery to the same standards as other municipal or town cemeteries.
- Six or more residents of your town or municipality may petition the circuit court to require that the town or municipality assume ownership or move any graves to another location.

**Note:** Notification should be given on any records 75 years or older regardless if they are marked waived.

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention and Disposition	Confidential	WHS Notification
Annual Report and Documentation	Includes the annual report to the cemetery board and the records needed to prepare the report. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 157.62(4).	Permanent	No	N/A
Care Funds	An accounting of amounts deposited in, amounts withdrawn from, other income accruing to, and the balance at the end of the reporting period of care funds of the cemetery, including the funds in Wis. Stat. § 157.11(9g)(a), Wis. Stat. § 157.12(3), and Wis. Stat. § 157.125. Including records that show, for each deposit, the name of the purchaser or beneficiary of the contract relating to the deposit and the item purchased. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 157.62(4).	Permanent	Yes Confidential per Wis. Stat. § 157.62(2)(c)	N/A

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention and Disposition</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
Contract for Sale	Copy of each contract for the sale of a cemetery lot, mausoleum space, or cemetery merchandise. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 157.62(4).	Event=3 years; Event=After all of the obligations of the contract have been fulfilled	No	Waive
Grave Registration Records	Records that describe who is buried, the date of death, interment and location of the remains.	Permanent	No	N/A
Preneed Trust Funds	An accounting of amounts deposited in, amounts withdrawn from, income accruing to, and the balance at the close of the reporting period of any preneed trust funds of the cemetery. Including records that show, for each deposit, the name of the purchaser or beneficiary of the contract relating to the deposit and the item purchased. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 157.62(4).	Event+15 years; Event=Date of the deposit or withdrawal	Yes Confidential per Wis. Stat. § 157.62(2)(c)	Waive
Reburial of Human Remains	Includes records confirming an attempt to notify individuals specified in Wis. Stat. 157.112(3)(b)1.-4. when none of the individuals specified are available. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 157.112(3m).	Permanent	No	N/A

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention and Disposition	Confidential	WHS Notification
Report for Final Disposition	<p>Report for final disposition completed by the funeral director or other person preparing the body for burial or other final disposition. The reports are filed with the local register, but may also be filed with the cemetery to serve as a record of interment.</p> <p>Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 135.06(1)(a)(1).</p>	Permanent	No	N/A

Table of Contents

## Community Development/Public Services

### Requirements Specific to Community Development/Public Services

The Community Development/Public Services section is organized by the following subsections:

- Housing Program
- Outreach
- Parks
- Public Transportation
- Sanitation

This section is intended to provide municipalities with schedules for the most common record series generally grouped under this topic. Municipalities that are in need of schedules for records not covered in this section are encouraged to review the County General Schedule for reference on scheduling similar records. The County General Schedule cannot be adopted by municipalities for use, but the schedules can be used for creating record schedules through municipal ordinances.

Municipalities that have records pertaining to Public Health should use the County General Schedule to create ordinances to schedule those records.

The retention of public transportation surveillance recordings is covered by the schedule for surveillance recordings listed under the subsection Maintenance and Operations in the Public Works section.

**Note:** Notification should be given on any records 75 years or older regardless if they are marked waived.

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention and Disposition	Confidential	Waive/Notify
<b>Housing Program</b>				
Program Files	Correspondence, breakdown of projects, HUD regulations, and supporting files.	Event+7 years; Event=Audit	No	Notify
<b>Outreach</b>				
Public Program Files	Outreach programs for municipality sponsored programs.	Event+7 years; Event=Superseded or end of program, whichever is first	No	Notify
<b>Parks</b>				
Park Master Plan	Master plans for parks and park systems. May include maps, drawings, photographs, and reports.	Superseded	No	Notify
Program Files	Records relating to programs, events, and activities.	Creation+3 years	No	Waived

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention and Disposition</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>Waive/Notify</b>
Reservation Requests, Rental Agreements, Use Permits, and Contracts	Permits, agreements, and contracts for the use of parks, shelters, and facilities.	Event+3 years; Event=Date of reservation	No	Waived
Supervisors Daily Report of Work Completed	Summarizes progress made on a particular job, noting the time required, employees assigned and vehicles used.	Creation+2 years	No	Waived
<b>Public Transportation</b>				
Accessible Boarding Reports	Reports documenting the accessibility of vehicles.	Creation+5 years	No	Waive
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Customer Eligibility Files	Files determining the eligibility of customers for ADA transit programs.	Event+6 years; Event=Termination of service or participation by customer	Yes Patient health information may be protected by Wis. Stat. § 146.82	Waive
Bus Route Schedules and Timetables	Documentation of transit schedules, timetables, routes, and route history.	Event+3 years; Event=Superseded	No	Waive

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention and Disposition</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>Waive/Notify</b>
Dispatch Files	Boarding and alighting, extra board weekly projections and assignments, daily work schedules, and bid mark-ups.	Creation+7 years	No	Waive
Fare Information Files	Research, background, studies, and other materials used to determine fares.	Creation+7 years	No	Waive
Operation Reports	Daily, weekly, or other periodic reports summarizing transit system operations and ridership and lost and found reports.	Creation+3 years	No	Waive
Operator Assignment Records	Documentation of assignment of individual operators to routes and shifts.	Creation+3 years	No	Waive
<b>Sanitation</b>				
Composting Regulations	Documents pertaining to the disposal of yard waste.	Event+7 years; Event=superseded	No	Waive



<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention and Disposition</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>Waive/Notify</b>
Curbside Recycling Program	Documentation of the curbside recycling program including policies, procedures, and administration of the program.	Event+7 years; Event=superseded	No	Waive
Drop Off Site/Recycling Yard Waste	Site operation files and records.	Creation+7 years	No	Waive
Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center	Records related to the collection and disposal of paints, corrosives, flammables, toxics, used motor oil, and car/truck batteries.	Creation+30 years	No	Waive
Landfill/Garbage Dump Sites	Location of any fill, records of materials deposited, cover materials used, reports of leachate and methane leakage and treatment, source of fill materials, (household, commercial) source of cover materials, and inspection reports.	Permanent	No	N/A

Table of Contents

## Election Records

### Requirements Specific to Election Records

Additional information regarding election records is available through the Wisconsin Election Commission. Municipalities are encouraged to review the *Election Administration Manual* available on the Wisconsin Elections Commission Website for more in-depth information about managing election related records. Retention times in this section that are not specifically stated in Wisconsin Statutes are taken from the *Election Administration Manual*.

- Federal Election records must be maintained for 22 months as specified in Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(f).
- Recounts or Pending Litigation are subject to a longer retention pending litigation or recounts as specified in Wis. Stat. § 7.23(2).
- All other material not described below are identified by Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(k) as having a retention period of 90 days after the election.

**Note:** Notification should be given on any records 75 years or older regardless if they are marked waived.

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention and Disposition	Confidential	WHS Notification
<b>Ballots and Equipment</b>				
Applications for Absentee Ballots (Federal Elections)	Includes copies of proof of identification when submitted with application. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(f).	Event+22 months; Event=Election <sup>10</sup>	No	Waived

<sup>10</sup> All materials and documentation associated with a federal election must be retained at least 22 months after the election. Federal elections include those for the office of President of the U.S., U.S. Senator, and U.S. House of Representatives (Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(f)).

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention and Disposition</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
Applications for Absentee Ballots (State, County, Local Elections)	Includes copies of proof of identification when submitted with application. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(k).	Event+90 days; Event=Election	No	Waived
Ballots (Federal Elections)	Federal election ballots. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(f).	Event+22 months; Event=Election	No	Waived
Ballots (State, County, Local Elections)	State, county, local offices. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(h).	Event+30 days; Event=Election	No	Waived
Ballots (Unused and related Materials)	Only applies to unused ballots and materials. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(a).	Event+3 business days; Event=Completion of all election canvasses <sup>11</sup>	No	Waived

<sup>11</sup> Materials must be retained in event a petition for recount has been filed.

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention and Disposition	Confidential	WHS Notification
Detachable Recording Units	Data storage devices used in electronic voting equipment. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(g).	Event+21 days; Event=Election <sup>12</sup>	No	Waived
Detachable Recording Units (Primary Elections)	Data storage devices used in electronic voting equipment. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(g).	Event+14 days; Event=Election <sup>13</sup>	No	Waived
<b>Campaign</b>				
Campaign Finance Reports	Financial disclosure reports filed by candidates during election campaigns. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(d).	Event+6 years; Event=date of receipt	No	Waived

<sup>12</sup> Before clearing or erasing the units or compartments, a municipal clerk shall transfer the data contained in the units or compartments to a disk or other recording medium which may be erased or destroyed 22 months after the election to which the data relates. The requirement to transfer data does not apply to units or compartments for use with tabulating equipment for an electronic voting system that was approved for use prior to January 1, 2009, and that is not used in a federal election.

<sup>13</sup> Before clearing or erasing the units or compartments, a municipal clerk shall transfer the data contained in the units or compartments to a disk or other recording medium which may be erased or destroyed 22 months after the election to which the data relates. The requirement to transfer data does not apply to units or compartments for use with tabulating equipment for an electronic voting system that was approved for use prior to January 1, 2009, and that is not used in a federal election.

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention and Disposition</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
Campaign Registration Statements	Statements filed by candidates for public office. Includes Notification of Non-candidacy for reelection forms. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(d).	Event+6 years; Event=termination issued by the registrant	No	Waived
<b>Reports and Lists</b>				
Official Canvassers Statements	Prepared statement showing the results of each election. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(i).	Event+10 years; Event=election	No	Waived
Election Notices	Includes proofs of publication and correspondence filed in connection with such notices. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(j).	Event+1 year; Event=Election	No	Waived
Election Notices (Federal Elections)	Includes proofs of publication and correspondence filed in connection with such notices. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(j).	Event=22 months; Event=Election	No	Waived
Election Voting and Registration Statistics Reports	Reports filed by municipal clerks on registration, voting, and absentee voting. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. §§ 6.275-6.276.	Event+22 months; Event=Election	No	Waived

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention and Disposition</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
Ineligible Elector Registrations	Elector registrations deemed ineligible for voting. Status and reasons for ineligibility should be noted. Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(c).	Event+4 years; Event=When deemed ineligible	No	Waived
Poll (Voter) Lists	List compiled by election officials on election day showing the names and addresses of electors who actually cast votes in an election defined in Wis. Stat. § 5.02(14). Authority provided by Wis. Stat. § 7.23(1)(e).	Event+22 months; Event=Election	No	Waived

Table of Contents

## Finance Records

### Requirements Specific to Finance Records

The Finance section is organized by the following subsections:

- Budget
- Fiscal
- Purchasing

Municipalities are encouraged to adopt the following general schedules in instances where this schedule does not adequately provide coverage for all types of records that could be created:

- Budget & Related General Records Schedule
- Fiscal & Accounting Related Records General Schedule
- Purchasing & Procurement General Schedule

**Note:** Records in this series may contain confidential or restricted information. Even when specific confidentiality statutes do not apply, application of substantive common law principles through the balancing test considerations under Wis. Stat. § 19.35(1)(a), may affect disclosure of the record under the public records law. Please consult Section V: Confidential Records and Personally Identifiable Information (PII) of the Introduction for more information on this topic.

**Note:** Notification should be given on any records 75 years or older regardless if they are marked waived.

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention and Disposition	Confidential	WHS Notification
<b>Budget</b>				
Approved Annual Operating Budget	Records related to establishing the base level agency annual operating budget each fiscal year.	Fiscal+6 years	No	Waived

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention and Disposition</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
Audit Reports	Reports that evaluate the financial holdings of the municipality.	Event+3 years; Event=Final report issued	No	Waived
Budget Documents/ Development	Records include final budget requests (forms or their equivalents), justifications/analysis, policy papers, related correspondence, and requests for information.	Fiscal+6 years	No	Waived
Final Budget Submittal	The final budget document for the municipality.	Fiscal+6 years	No	Waived
<b>Municipal Borrowing</b>				
Bond Records	All records associated with municipal bonds. Also includes the bond register, bond payment register, and any certificates of destruction when the bond agent has been authorized to destroy cancelled bonds, coupons, and promissory notes.	Event+7 years; Event=Bond issue expires or following payment of all outstanding matured bonds/notes/coupons, whichever is later	No	Waived



Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention and Disposition	Confidential	WHS Notification
<b>Payments and Receipts</b>				
Bank Statements/ Reconciliations	Statements received from institutions holding the municipality's funds.	Creation+7 years	No	Waived
Cashbook	Overall record accounting for receipts and disbursements, usually for fiscal or calendar year.	Event+7 years; Event=Audit	No	Waived
Collection & Disbursement Reports	Reports showing the amounts collected, amounts retained by county/local government, and portion sent to state.	Event+3 years; Event=Transaction date	No	Waived
Credit Card Receipts or Information Received from Sales	Credit card receipts and related documentation associated with credit card transactions.	Event+3 years; Event=Transaction date	No	Waived
Financial support records	Records used in reconciling bank statements and verifying expenditures. Includes, but not limited to, credit/debit notices, cash reconciliations, and deposit stubs.	Event+1 year; Event=Audit	No	Waived

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention and Disposition</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
Issued Checks	Checks issued by the municipality that are outstanding or have been cleared by the bank.	Creation+7 years	No	Waived
<b>Purchasing</b>				
Contract and Request for Bid /Proposal File	Records pertaining to the procurement of all commodities and services which may require a contract. This includes both successful and unsuccessful bids.	Event+6 years; Event=End date of resulting contract or cancellation date of contract or bid/proposal	Yes <sup>14</sup> Some information may qualify for Trade Secret protection per Wis. Stat. § 19.36(5).	Waived
Vendor Performance Files	Documentation of vendors and contractors who fail to meet the terms and specifications of purchasing contracts.	Event+6 years; Event=End of contract	No	Waived

#### Table of Contents

<sup>14</sup> Some information may qualify for other legal protection such as copyright, patent, trademark or licensing. It is possible some vendors may identify information as confidential that is not actually protected by law.

## Public Works

### Requirements Specific to Public Works

Records in the Public Works section are arranged under the following subsections:

- Building Inspection
- Engineering
- Maintenance and Operations
- Planning and Zoning
- Utilities

The Public Works section is intended to provide municipalities with schedules for the most common record series generally grouped under this topic. Municipalities that are in need of schedules for records not covered in this section are encouraged to review and consult the appropriate General Records Schedules listed below:

- Facilities Management and Related Records

Wis. Stat. § 19.21(4)(b) defines the minimum retention cities, villages, and towns may set for water stubs, receipts of current billing, and customer's ledgers of any municipal utility as 2 years. In addition, municipalities should check the schedule set by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) for Municipal Utilities. A complete list of records and schedules is located in "Investigation to Consider Proposed Changes to Records Retention Requirements for Electric, Gas and Water Utilities."

Schedules specific to Police/First Responder records are not included in the WMRS. Consult the County General Schedule for records schedules for similar records which can be used as a basis for the creation of schedules and/or ordinances.

Surveillance recording schedule applies to municipally operated security footage for public buildings, street cameras, and public transportation. The schedule **does not apply** to footage recorded by police body cameras, patrol dashboard cameras, or any similar police recording device.

Municipalities should have adequate and clear procedures in place that explain the proper handling and destruction of surveillance recordings. Clear communication with appropriate municipal personnel will help to ensure that the record is not destroyed prematurely and public requests and/or any legal or program needs are met in a timely manner.

**Note:** Notification should be given on any records 75 years or older regardless if they are marked waived.

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention and Disposition	Confidential	WHS Notification
<b>Building Inspections</b>				
Building Inspection Records	Summary of inspection history of a particular property. Records include original building permit, site plans, certificate of occupancy, conditional use documents, comprehensive design reviews, and violations for both residential and commercial structures. Also includes inspection of plumbing, electrical, ventilation, heating, and air conditioning.	Event+1 year; Event=Life of building	No	Waived
Building Plan Review and Inspection	Conditionally approved building plans, calculations, and correspondence. Authority provided by Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 361.60(5)(f)1.b.  Note: applies to certified municipalities only (see Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 361.60(2)). <sup>15</sup>	Event+4 years; Event=Construction completed	No	Waived

<sup>15</sup> Note: Refer to Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 361.60(5) for detailed information on the specific types of buildings that first class, second class, and other municipalities are authorized by the Department of Safety and Professional Services to review. Prior to applying this schedule, the Municipality must review and take the steps outlined in Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 361.60.

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention and Disposition	Confidential	WHS Notification
Building Plans: Residential 1 and 2 Family Dwellings	Includes architectural, design specs, structural and utility plans submitted for inspection review. Authority provided by Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 320.10(6)(a)2.	Event+4 years; Event=Construction completed	No	Waived
Building Inspection: Residential 1 and 2 Family Dwellings	Applications forms, correction orders, correspondence and inspection records. Authority provided by Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 320.10(6)(a)3.	Event+ 7 years; Event=Construction completed	No	Waived
Code Compliance Inspection Reports	Reports completed during field investigations to determine if buildings and system installations comply with the specifications of appropriate codes.	Permanent	No	N/A
<b>Engineering</b>				
Airport Improvement Petition File	Material submitted to the Department of Transportation when a municipality wants to make an improvement to the airport. Records may include public hearing records, briefs, reports and recommendations, and correspondence.	Event+7; Event=p petition submitted to DOT	No	Waived
Airport Master Plan	The Airport Master Plan provides information about the condition of the airport and projects development for the next 20 years.	Event+20 years; Event=new plan issued	No	Notify

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention and Disposition	Confidential	WHS Notification
Municipal Construction Projects: Final As-Built Plans	Final as-built plans and original drawings for public buildings, streets, sewers, sidewalks, etc.	Event; Event=Life of structure	No	Waive
Municipal Construction Projects: Final As-Built Plans (Historically Significant)	Use for historically significant projects. (Typically large-scale projects. May include construction of a major municipal facility, as well as projects involving facilities significant to the State of WI or United States history; buildings on the State or National Register of Historic	Event; Event=Life of structure	No	Notify
Environmental Assessment & Impact Statements	Official copies of environmental assessments, impact statements and related documentation related to municipal construction projects. <sup>16</sup>	Event+6 years; Event=Termination of municipal ownership of the land	No	Notify
Maps: Construction and Topographical	May include maps covering environmental impact/changes, development of specific areas, and the impact on public infrastructure (utilities, roads, sidewalks).	Permanent	No	N/A

<sup>16</sup> May include: environmental assessment reports and drafts, environmental impact statements (draft and final), legal notices, comments from the public, DNR and others, related correspondence and supporting materials.

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention and Disposition	Confidential	WHS Notification
Municipal Project Records	All documents pertaining to a project including, design and construction contracts, proposed and approved amendments to all contracts, bidding plans and specifications, details on materials used on each project, and all other related project materials. Use for buildings, streets, sewers, sidewalks, etc.	Event+10 years; Event=Date project is completed	No	Waived
Municipal Project Records (Historically Significant)	Use for historically significant projects. (Projects are typically large-scale and may include new construction of a major municipal facility, as well as projects involving facilities significant to the State of WI or United States history; buildings on the State or National Register of Historic Places.)	Event; Event=Life of structure	No	Notify
<b>Maintenance and Operations</b>				
American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Facility Reviews	Records cover ADA inspections, investigations, complaint investigations, facility logs and reports regarding ADA compliance relating to facilities and structures.	Event+6 years; Event=Close of review or audit	No	Waived
Asbestos and Hazardous Material and Environmental Remediation Case File	Project files on asbestos abatement and hazardous materials and environmental remediation projects at state owned buildings. <sup>17</sup>	Event+30 years; Event=Completion of the project	Yes <sup>18</sup>	Waived

---

<sup>17</sup> OSHA 29CFR 1926.1101 governs asbestos abatement projects. The records include medical surveillance records for certain people who wear protective equipment performing asbestos abatement work.

<sup>18</sup> Patient health care records in this series are confidential per Wis. Stat. § 146.82.

---



<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention and Disposition</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
Building Maintenance: Equipment Repair and Service Records	Documents the installation, maintenance, service and history of equipment commonly used to maintain facilities.	Event+1 month; Event=Removal and disposal of equipment	No	Waived
Building Lease Files	Files on leased facilities.	Event+7 years; Event=End of lease	No	Waived
Maps	Series may document road locations or surfaces, zoning information, parks, flood plains, soils, or parcel boundaries. This record series may also include indexes to maps. <sup>19</sup>	Permanent	No	N/A
Physical Plant Monitoring and Inspection Reports	Records documenting the operation of all facets of facilities: VAC; plumbing, mechanical, electrical, structural as well as special monitoring of building components.	Creation+6 years	No	Waived

<sup>19</sup> Copies of maps that are retained by local government offices after originals have been sent to other government units for retention may be destroyed 90 days after they have been transferred. An example of this are copies of certified survey maps created by local units and then sent to the county register of deeds office for retention under Wis. Stat. § 236.34(2).

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention and Disposition	Confidential	WHS Notification
Profile and Grade Books	Documentation of landscape and features.	Permanent	No	N/A
State Highway Aids Program Records	Records of state aid pertaining to road maintenance.	Creation+7 years	No	Waived
Street and Sidewalk Operations File	Documentation of the performance of tasks related to street and sidewalk maintenance. This may include solid waste management, street cleaning, repairs, snow removal, and garbage collection.	Creation+7 years	No	Waived
Surveillance Recordings	Monitoring and surveillance recordings for public buildings, street cameras, and public transportation. <sup>20</sup>	Event+120 days <sup>21</sup> Event=Date of recording (Note: Recordings may be subject to longer retention. See footnote for more information.) <sup>22</sup>	No	Waive

<sup>20</sup> The schedule does not apply to footage recorded by police body cameras, patrol dashboard cameras, or any similar police recording device.

<sup>21</sup> 120 days is the time within which a claim may be filed against a governmental body as defined in Wis. Stats. § 893.80.

<sup>22</sup> Surveillance recordings that are required for any legal or programming purpose (such as open records requests, claims, case file, or litigation holds) must be retained in accordance with any applicable records schedules and/or have completed their legal or programming requirements.

Record Series Title	Series Description	Retention and Disposition	Confidential	WHS Notification
<b>Planning and Zoning</b>				
Aerial Photographs	Aerial photographs used for planning and map creation.	Event; Event=Superseded	No	Notify
Annexation Records	Incorporation records such as petitions, hearing testimony and exhibits, court orders, notices, resolutions, and related correspondence. <sup>23</sup>	Permanent	No	N/A
Comprehensive Growth and Development Plan	Provides general goals, objectives, policies and implementation recommendations to guide the future growth and development of the city.	Event+14 years; Event=Superseded by new plan	No	Notify
Conditional Use Permits	Applications and related documents for a conditional use permit. Applications include site plan, applicate statement, and evidence evidence/documentation.  This series may also include public hearing notice, reports, public hearing documentation, and decision.	Event+7 years; Event=termination of conditional use permit	No	Waived

<sup>23</sup> Records cover proposed incorporations of town areas into cities and villages pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0201 - § 66.0209, and municipal consolidations of towns with cities and villages pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0229.

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention and Disposition</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
Easements	Grants of easement to the municipality.	Permanent	No	N/A
Final Plats	A map showing the divisions of a piece of land, this series includes vacation or alterations of plats, annexation plats, and final subdivision plats.	Permanent	No	N/A
Preliminary Plats	Created during the development of subdivisions.	Event; Event=Superseded by final plat	No	Waived
Property Survey Records	Includes field notes, benchmark books, and section corner monument logs.	Permanent	No	N/A
Zoning Appeals, Approved	Material submitted to appeal a zoning decision. May include maps, rezoning application, written local description of the proposed zoning boundaries, and drawings of the boundaries. Also includes public hearing records.	Permanent	No	N/A