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## **NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Office of Open Government Reports Its Year-End Performance Statistics for 2018**

MADISON, Wis. - In an effort to continue operating transparently and ensure accountability, the Office of Open Government today reported its year-end performance statistics for 2018.

#### **Completed Activities**

- Responded to **661** public records requests (approximately 55 per month);
- Released public records reports, video, and audio files related to **10** officer-involved critical incidents;
- Responded to **518** inquiries on its Public Records/Open Meetings Help Line (PROM);
- Issued **83** letters providing guidance concerning open government;
- Issued **2** advisories, one providing public records guidance to Office of School Safety grant applicants, and the other providing guidance to the public about public records fees;
- Released **2** updated and comprehensive open government compliance guides (Wisconsin Public Records Compliance Guide and Wisconsin Open Meetings Compliance Guide), containing updated laws, cases, and Attorney General Opinions since late 2015; and
- Provided **10** trainings and participated in educational presentations to governmental agencies and other outside groups on open government matters.

In addition, a formal Attorney General opinion on public records law notice was issued in February 2018.

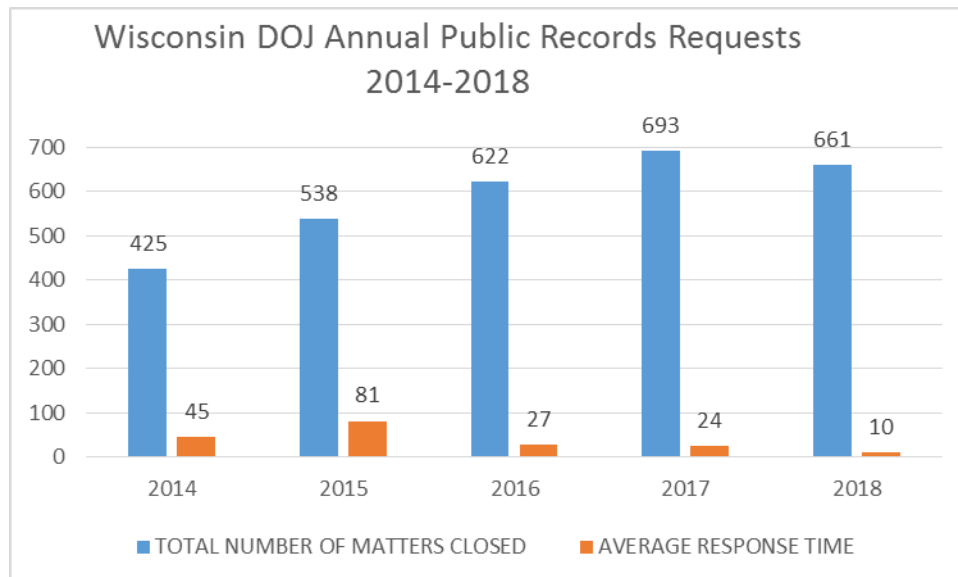
## Response Times for Public Records Requests

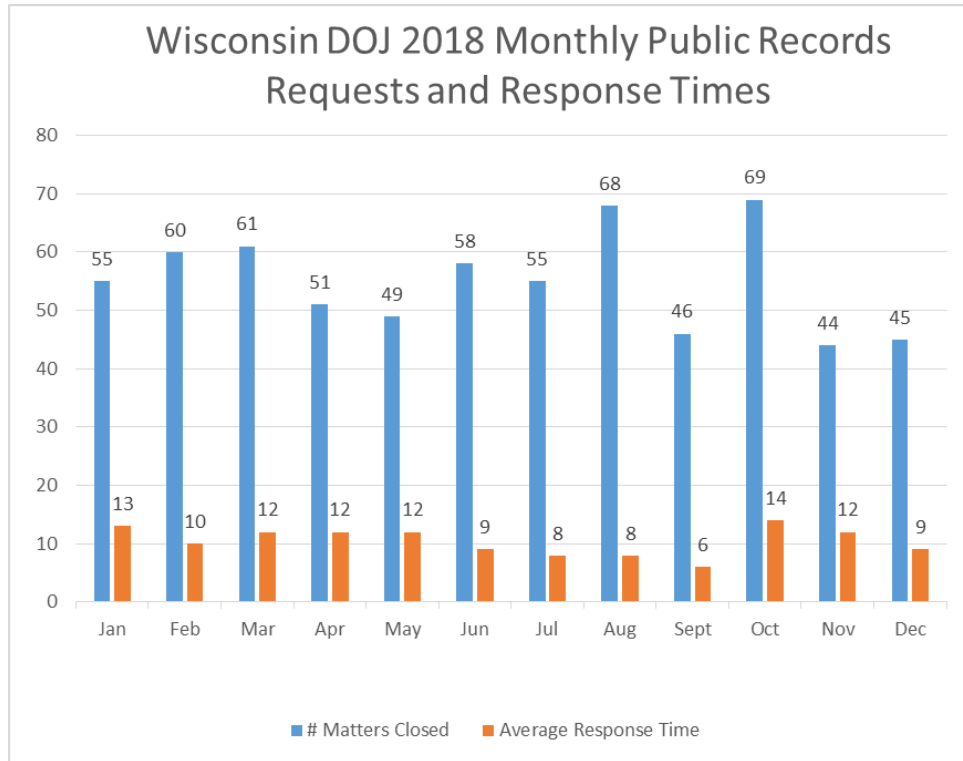
According to the Wisconsin Public Records Law Compliance Guide, “DOJ policy is that ten working days is generally a reasonable time for responding to a simple [public records] request for a limited number of easily identifiable records.”

The office continues to increase the percentage of responses fulfilled within this ten-working-day guideline. In addition, the office’s average response times overall continue to decrease. During 2018, the office:

- Responded to approximately **75%** of public records requests within the 10-working-day guideline.
  - This represents a **15% increase** in the number of responses processed in 10 working days, as compared to 2017.
- Responded to **53%** of all requests in 3 calendar days or less, and responded to **64%** of all requests in 7 calendar days or less.
- Average response time for *all* responses was **10 calendar days**, which includes those that were broader in scope or required time-intensive review.
  - This represents a **14-day decrease** in average response times for all requests, as compared to 2017.

As seen in the two charts below, the office responded to **661** public records requests in 2018, while at the same time, decreased its average response time to **10 calendar days** per request, a **42% decrease** in average response time as compared to 2017.





## Continuing Efforts

In 2018, the office also increased the public’s access to public records and will continue to do so by posting the following information on its [website](#):

- A snapshot of public records requests pending on Monday of each week;
- The average monthly response time for public records requests;
- Responses to citizen correspondence, posted quarterly;
- Specific responses to public records requests that may be of particular public interest or may be the subject of multiple requests for the same records;
- Records related to Officer-Involved Critical Incidents;
- OOG’s internal policies and procedures; and,
- “Ask the OOG” columns for frequently asked questions (FAQ’s).

The office reports directly to the Office of Attorney General. The office is headed by Assistant Attorney General Paul Ferguson, and is supported by Assistant Attorney General Sarah Larson, two paralegals, one program and policy analyst, and several other attorneys and DCI employees within DOJ who regularly interact with the office.

For more information, visit the office’s [website](#) or contact the office at 608-267-2220.