

## Finance Records

### Wisconsin Municipal Records Schedule

This section covers record series that are generally grouped under Finance Records. The schedule identifies records created by most municipalities and is applicable to all records regardless of format or media.

Municipalities must adopt this schedule or have an ordinance in place before it can be used to manage their records. Please read the Introduction section of the WMRS before applying ANY section of the schedule to your records.

To simplify the recordkeeping process for municipalities, the Wisconsin Historical Society has included a field identifying if notification is required before record series may be destroyed.

- Records identified as Waived means that the Wisconsin Historical Society has determined the record series to have low historical value and waived the notification period as indicated Wis. Stat. § 19.21(4)(a). Municipalities are free to destroy any waived records once they reach their required retention period.
- Records designated Notify require you send written notification to the WHS before destruction. Details about the notification process are available on the [Wisconsin Historical Society website](#).

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

### 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 and Related General Record 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.

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
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>				

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention and Disposition</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</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

<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

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention and Disposition</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
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
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>1</sup> Some information may qualify for Trade Secret protection per Wis. Stat. § 19.36(5).	Waived

<sup>1</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.

<b>Record Series Title</b>	<b>Series Description</b>	<b>Retention and Disposition</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>WHS Notification</b>
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