

# WHEN MADISON THRIVES, WISCONSIN THRIVES: City of Madison 2025-26 Legislative Priorities



**CREATING MORE HOUSING FOR EVERYONE**



**GROWING TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE**



**REDUCING RELIANCE ON  
PROPERTY TAXES AND  
ADDRESSING COST OF LIVING**

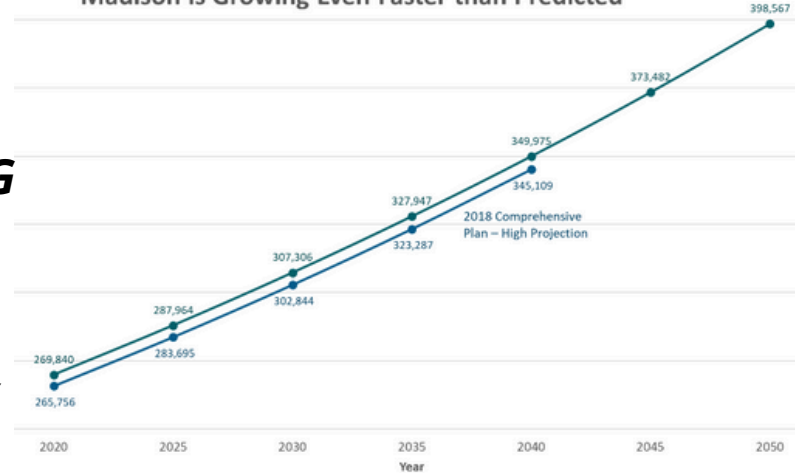


**SUPPORTING CHILDCARE  
OPTIONS**



**MAINTAINING COMMUNITY  
HEALTH**

Madison is Growing Even Faster than Predicted



We appreciate our partnership with state government and look forward to making progress on our shared priorities in this legislative session and biennial budget.

## **BACKGROUND ON MADISON:**

- ✓ Madison is the **fastest-growing** city in Wisconsin.
- ✓ **35,000** new residents since 2015.
- ✓ Another **115,000** new Madisonians are expected by 2050.
- ✓ Madison's GDP is **\$66 billion** – nearly **20 percent** of the Wisconsin economy.
- ✓ Our residents contribute more than **\$1 billion** in state taxes annually.

## ***CREATING MORE HOUSING FOR EVERYONE***

- Update the Homestead Tax Credit.
- Extend the life of tax increment districts to allow for additional housing construction.
- Change state building code to allow single stairways in buildings up to 6 floors.
- Consider adding to the Housing Cost Reduction Initiative.

## ***GROWING TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE***

- Support funding to rebuild the Badger Interchange.
- Create uniform fuel tax policy for municipalities.
- Maintain or increase state transit aid.
- Repeal the prohibition on using eminent domain for bicycle or pedestrian facilities.
- Create a mechanism for regional transit planning and operations.

## ***REDUCING RELIANCE ON PROPERTY TAXES AND ADDRESSING COST OF LIVING***

- Fully fund the Payment for Municipal Services Program.
- Maintain or increase Shared Revenue at a rate equal to the growth of State GPR.
- Establish a 2% minimum net new construction factor for the levy limit.
- Eliminate the “covered services” penalty in the levy limit.
- Establish a 1.2% minimum net new construction factor in the Expenditure Restraint Program.
- Allow local option sales tax.

## ***SUPPORTING CHILDCARE OPTIONS***

- Continue the successful state Child Care Counts Program.
- Support employers in implementing workforce solutions to address hiring and retainment challenges caused by a lack of affordable, reliable childcare for employees.
- Funding for the Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance.
- Support training for childcare workers.

## ***MAINTAINING COMMUNITY HEALTH***

- Expand Medicare, including to 1 year post-partum.
- Support local initiatives to create alternative emergency response teams for behavioral health emergencies.
- Support increased funding to cities, towns, and villages to expand and improve emergency medical services (EMS).
- Continue to address PFAS contamination.