

# City of Madison Budget by the Numbers

**50,000+**

Madison population increase since 2014

Madison is the fastest growing city in Wisconsin. The City's population is projected to be over **300,000 people by 2030**. Because of tax restrictions from the State, the City must provide services to **more people each year with less revenue** per resident.

**217**

Additional full-time City employees if workforce kept pace with population

The total number of full-time City employees **hasn't kept up** with Madison's population increase since 2014. The City is providing service to more people with **fewer employees** per resident.

**\$405M**

Operating budget total in 2024

Madison's operating budget has increased **11 percent** since 2014 when adjusted for inflation. The City's population has increased by **19 percent** in the last decade. Costs are increasing faster than available revenue.

**\$22M**

City Structural Deficit ahead of the 2025 budget

Madison's structural deficit is caused by the State Legislature **strictly limiting** the amount of revenue available to Wisconsin cities. The City is projected to have a **\$63 million deficit** by 2030 if it provides the **same level** of service as it does in 2024.

**71%**

Percentage of City revenues from property taxes

Wisconsin cities are the most **heavily reliant** on property taxes in the whole Midwest. Wisconsin also has the tightest cap on increases. Moreover, only **35 percent** of Madison residents' annual property tax bill goes to Madison. The rest goes to School Districts, Dane County, and Madison College.

**\$54M**

City's shared revenue payment if it received the statewide average

Shared revenue payments to Wisconsin cities averaged \$195 per resident. Madison would be receiving **\$46 million more annually** if it received the average. The City's yearly payment would be **\$102 million more** if it received what Milwaukee was provided in 2024 (\$400 per resident). Meanwhile the state has a **\$3.5 billion surplus** that it refuses to spend.



# 18¢

What Madison residents get back for every dollar paid to the State

Madison residents get **back less than 20 percent for every dollar** they pay in state taxes. This **includes** state aid provided to the City, School Districts, and Dane County.

# \$29 per resident

City's shared revenue payment from the State

Adjusted for inflation, Madison is receiving **\$50 less per resident** in shared revenue than it did in 2000. It also received the **lowest increase in shared revenue** in the "historic boost" to local governments that was included in 2023 biennial state budget.

# \$50M+

Annual revenue if Madison had a .5% local tax

In Gov. Tony Evers' last executive budget, he gave cities the **option of enacting a local sales tax**. Like previous state budgets, the **State Legislature rejected that proposal** as well as the ability to create a Regional Transit Authority (RTA).

# \$25M

Rainy day fund surplus

The City's Finance staff **recommends against** filling the 2025 budget gap entirely with the Rainy Day Fund surplus. The structural deficit will continue to increase annually so the surplus should be **spent prudently over several years**. Further depleting the Rainy Day Fund would damage Madison's AAA credit rating and cost the City more in the long run.

# FLAT

Funding for Madison Metro in operating budget, 2014 compared to 2024

Madison Metro is receiving **almost exactly the same amount annually** as it was in 2014 when adjusted for inflation. Infrastructure improvements in the capital budget for bus rapid transit, largely paid for with federal dollars, **do not impact** available revenue in the Operating Budget.

# \$13M

Additional annual revenue if State fully paid its Municipal Service Payment

Wisconsin cities **provide services** to State-owned facilities such as police and fire protections. In 2024, Madison **only received 38 percent** of what the State says it owes for these services.