



DANE COUNTY

Joe Parisi
County Executive

April 17, 2012

The Honorable Paul Soglin
Mayor, City of Madison
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Room 403 City County Building
Madison, WI 53703

The Honorable Lauren Cnare
President, Madison Common Council
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Room 417 City County Building
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mayor Soglin and Common Council President Cnare,

I am writing to express my opposition to the City of Madison's proposal to change property tax collections from the traditional two installment system to four installments. The proposed shift will create a number of challenges for Dane County residents and may not address perceived problems with the current two installment system.

Dane County Treasurer David Worzala has identified several concerns with moving to a four installment system. He has shared these concerns with the City-County Liaison Committee and with City of Madison Treasurer David Gwenda. The following three concerns are the most compelling.

First, the citizens of Dane County are accustomed to paying property taxes in one lump sum or in two installments. The proposed change would allow only those in the City of Madison to pay in four installments which could confuse taxpayers in all jurisdictions, including Madison, who are accustomed to the current system.

Second, adding more deadlines will only give those who are struggling to pay their tax bills more opportunities to become delinquent. In fact, the third payment under the four installment plan is due two months earlier than is required under the current two installment system. Those who are delinquent on their second payment under the current system would likely be delinquent under the four installment system as well.

Third, this change will unnecessarily complicate the disclosure of property information through the Access Dane web application. Those interested in accessing accurate and timely information about a parcel located in the City of Madison like real estate, title, legal and financial institutions will have to go through more time consuming steps due to this change.

I join County Board Chairman Scott McDonell and Treasurer Worzala in opposing this change. I also encourage the City-County Liaison Committee to serve as the venue for further discussions

on this issue and that any decision to move forward accounts for the profound impact this will have on our ability to provide accurate, consistent and timely information to our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph T. Parisi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Joe Parisi
Dane County Executive