

City of Madison 2025-26 Legislative Priorities



BACKGROUND ON MADISON:

- ✔ Madison is the **fastest-growing** city in Wisconsin: **35,000 new residents** since 2015.
- ✔ City government growth has not kept up: the City has **11% fewer staff per resident** than in 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.

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

Key Contact Information:

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Full List of Common Council Members at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/Council/>.

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.