

From: [James Buckett](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Fiscal Responsibility
Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 1:20:04 PM

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Greetings,

Growing up in the 50s, 60s and 70s a phrase often heard from my elders was, "Money doesn't grow on trees". While it might be a cliché saying by today's standard the message is still relevant. You learn fiscal responsibility by living within a budget and saving money whenever you can.

The Mayor and City Council of Madison continue to live under the impression that whenever they want to spend more money on programs their money tree is city taxpayers. Reducing expenditures should be a priority investigation; not threatening the loss of basic services if city residents don't agree to an egregious increase in our property taxes.

The last ten years of my career at UW Madison was dealing with the harsh reality of serial budgets that would never increase while the cost of serials continued to skyrocket. The only option was to cut subscriptions in order to keep within budget. There was no money tree or citizens to tap into and the cuts occurred, year after year.

I will not vote in favor of any tax referendum increases. The City of Madison needs to learn how to live within its means by reducing unnecessary expenses and cutting costs on things that are not essential city services.

Regards,

Jim Buckett
Madison, WI

From: [Mike](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: No to \$22 vote million tax hike
Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 2:19:19 PM

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I will vote no for any tax hike referendum. The shortfall caused by mismanagement and waste should be made up by cuts and fundraising.

The Mayor has 4 Deputy Mayors. The President of the United States has only one Vice President. Deputy Mayor positions should be cut 1 - 3 full positions, not the half position the 1/2 position I have heard proposed. Cutting full positions save the most due to not funding benefits and retirements for half time positions.

Garbage and recyclables could be every other week with 26 weeks garbage and 26 weeks recyclables. This would cut garbage collection 33%.

Libraries could be closed Sundays. As for night hours the other 6 days would have alternating early / late hours. 3 days with 9 am - 5 pm hours and 3 days 1 pm - 9 pm hours. Extra funding could come from fundraising "Friends of Libraries".

Social and Community Programs: Increase fundraising from private sources. Many programs I am sure already rely on the private sources of funding.

The Mayors office and City Council Members should not threaten citizens to make cuts in community safety, such as Police and Fire services.

Michael Carr
2137 Commonwealth Ave
Madison, WI 53726

From: [Sara Meredith](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [council](#); [Finance](#)
Subject: Support for Agenda Item #84443
Date: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 8:38:10 AM

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Good morning Alders, Common Council Members and City Finance Department,

Emailing to let you know of my support for having a \$22 million referendum to increase property taxes \$20 a month rather than cutting city services - including the library, parks, and elimination of arts grants (to name a few)

I'm also emailing in my capacity as an artist AND full time volunteer of arts non- profit Communication. We believe cuts to many of the city services like the library would have an unfair impact on the city's poorest and disabled residents.

We want our city to be accessible and if that means those who can afford homes and properties pay a bit extra to ensure vital and most accessible city services remain available - then that is what needs to happen.

Thank you for your time and dedication!

photo



Sara Meredith

Communication Shop Manager, Artist Smere Tactics

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From: [Emily Reynolds](#)
To: [Finance](#); [council](#); [LI Administration](#); [mpl-libraryboard](#)
Subject: Please Support our Libraries with Option C
Date: Monday, August 5, 2024 8:39:01 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from emilymargrit@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

My name is Emily Reynolds and I live in District 2.

Today I went to Central Library with a bag full of VHS tapes and audio cassettes I kept from when we cleared my mom's house out after she passed away. A library worker named Sean taught me how to use the digital archiving equipment there so I could digitize these precious memories and have them forever. Sean walked me through not just the technical stuff, but also best practices for archiving. We chatted about what kids learn in school today and that he spells his name the same way as my brother. I might never talk to Sean again, but his teaching me to digitize my tapes will be with me forever, and make it possible to easily share with relatives living in other states. The library will let me come--for free--and spend 3 hours at a time digitizing what I have using their equipment--for free! My brother's kids can watch him play Timon in his middle school's production of The Lion King from way back in 1994. I can finally listen to the tape my mom labelled "Emily, age 4, freestyles the colors of the rainbow for 20 minutes."

This is just one of many things our libraries do for us. Libraries are a foundation of a healthy community. They are a critical service and supporting them shows we care about people, learning, helping, teaching, growing, and togetherness. They are already struggling and stretched thin and can't take more cuts. *We must* fund our libraries, and not at the expense of Youth Services or Bubbler staff.

I am writing in strong support of Option C on agenda item #84443 to support Youth Services and programming and the Bubbler. I have registered my support officially, but I wanted to email you too. There are immeasurable stories about how libraries have helped our community from others out there, and this was one of mine.

Thank you,

Emily

From: [Michael J Wish](#)
To: [council](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: \$22 Million Dollar Referendum
Date: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 9:22:54 AM

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Madison Alders and Mayor:

I have never been this upset about a budget, ever. Where was the sense of sustainability, as you glibly banter about, as the lot of you overspent and decimated our resources, like drunken sailors. **Shame on each and everyone of you!** A high school freshman with a completed introductory business course, could have managed costs and revenues and balanced the budget better than any of you. Your action in incurring the \$22 million deficit isn't criminal, but should be. You were entrusted with managing the City's resources with responsibility to arrive at a balanced budget year to year. You failed miserably and now you want the taxpayers to bail you out !!! Enough said.

Taxpayer bailout, without a flat moratorium on new spending is a joke. You need your powers to spend, managed by a third party or a commission, similar to the unneeded police and fire oversight commission, or a special master with staff to curb the ravenous spending by the City. There a start to managing the budget get rid of redundant functions. If the Police and Fire Commission can't do the job, replace them with people who can.

I see that if we don't knuckle under, existing services and people will be cut. Let me see existing positions, 5 assistant mayors would be a start, pay cuts at the top positions mayor, alders, managerial positions, etc. Nothing about cuts in unimplemented new services, or projects or that are on the table, or a needed mandated moratorium on new spending . Someone must take an axe to new buildings, and other large expenditures items. If I had the power you would fire all of you for impotent and follow-the-leader-behavior, follow the lemmings over the cliff, that has placed the City in the position its in !!!

Sincerely,

Michael J Wish