

**From:** [Maddie Faull](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Do not cut social services  
**Date:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:23:45 PM

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Dear Alders,

I am writing to you in regards to the projected \$27 million deficit in our upcoming 2025 budget. I am a Madison resident in the Mansion Hill neighborhood and a graduate student studying social work. By 2025, I will be practicing social work in Madison, and it is essential that you do everything to preserve funding for our vital community services. While the nonprofit sector struggles to care for our community with its limited budget, the police continue to see increases to their budget. Policing alone is not the answer to public safety, and without adequate funding for social services like housing, employment support, community mental health care, and other basic needs, we will continue to spend more and more on policing with no real impact on safety. There is no amount of policing that can create a healthy, safe, and equitable Madison, only investing in the community can do so.

Instead of cutting essential social services, I urge you to pass a referendum to raise the tax levy ceiling and bring in additional revenue sources. Instead of continuing to funnel more and more money into policing every year, I encourage you to use some of that budget to address the root of crime in the first place (which our nonprofit sector seeks to do).

Please work with the nonprofit sector to figure out a solution to this deficit, instead of cutting essential services without acknowledging the short and long term impact. Although up front, these cuts may appear to save the city money, cutting these services will cost us greatly in the long term. Without continued investment in social services, the health of the community will suffer, and Madison will hurt financially in the long run.

Best,  
Maddie Faull (she/her)

Master of Social Work | 2025  
BA Sociology & Philosophy, Criminal Justice Certificate  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
TA for American Indian and Indigenous Studies 100  
Office Hours: Mondays 12:00pm - 1:00pm  
118 Ingraham Hall

**From:** [Jerry Folk](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Cc:** [Linda Ketcham](#)  
**Subject:** City priorities  
**Date:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:28:05 PM

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As a Christian, a Lutheran Pastor, a former Executive Director of the Wisconsin of Churches and, most importantly, as a person who cares about the well-being of those most in need among us, I appeal to all Alders of Madison to find a way to deal with next year's projected deficit without reducing support for social justice projects or the already inadequate social safety-network available to those in need. As a citizen blessed with the resources necessary to live a secure and meaningful life, I am willing to pay more in taxes if they are used to fund these projects and services. I believe many of my fellow citizens feel the same way.

Although I appreciate the necessary role of the police department in providing security for the citizens of Madison, I am convinced that social justice and measure of economic equity, along with an effective social-safety network play a far greater role in creating a safe and secure society. Police departments cannot provide those things. Only wise, courageous, and visionary political leaders can do that. Failure to do so increases social pain, dissatisfaction, and violence, making the police department's job more difficult. Rather than addressing the underlying causes of this pain and violence, political leaders too often look to the police department to solve the problem. This creates a vicious cycle of ever greater violence-repression. . Soon more and more of society's resources are invested in police, jails and prisons while social justice projects and social-safety networks are defunded and whiter. .

I hope and pray that you will have the courage, wisdom and vision to find a way to prevent this vicious cycle of violence/repression from defining the future politics of the city of Madison in the future.

## Matthias, Isaac L

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**From:** City of Madison <noreply@cityofmadison.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 10:10 AM  
**To:** All Alders  
**Subject:** [All Alders] \$27m budget deficit

Recipient: All Alders:

Wed, 02/14/2024 - 09:45

Denise Garlow

2223 Chamberlain Ave

Madison, Wisconsin. 53726 No, do not contact me. All Alders \$27m budget deficit A property tax referendum to increase taxes is a hard NO in my opinion. A mix of across- the-board staff and program cuts is the best tact to get balanced for this year's budget cycle and next. Best intentions aside, a city has to live within its means - restrictions and all. Remember, we're a city, not an experiment.

**From:** [City of Madison](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Budget  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 6:52:08 AM

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Recipient: All Alders:

Wed, 02/14/2024 - 06:49

Marty Groskreutz

605 whitehall dr

madison, Wisconsin. 53714 Yes, by email. [magpack1@charter.net](mailto:magpack1@charter.net) All Alders Budget  
Question, last night on the news the Mayor stated the budget for 2025 is in dire concerns. My  
concern we are into six weeks of the new year and have money issues for the budget  
shortages, for 2025, why not start now to reduce the pain in 2025. Sounds more like poor  
management of funds.

**From:** [Marina Haan](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** 2025 budget Please listen or I will turn into a Republican  
**Date:** Saturday, February 17, 2024 4:36:56 PM

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Do not cut police funding or no one will be re-elected  
Cut all city funds for the City Market that no one actually wants.  
The BRT is bankrupting us. Pull the plug. No one wants this either.  
Stop throwing money at the homeless problem. Housing first with no requirements is a loser for all concerned.

The last 4 years of mayoral and council member not listening to us but aspiring to trendy goals has alienated me and many others from progressivism.

Marina Haan  
Hammersley Rd  
Madison 53711  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Bruce Hansen](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** suggested budget cuts.  
**Date:** Saturday, February 17, 2024 12:01:58 PM

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Dear Alders,

The Mayor is right about involving Madison's Alders in determining how to negotiate Madison's debt and responsibilities. You are our representatives. It is more democratic to include the voices of our Alders than just accepting the agenda of the Mayor. Taxes are already too high in Madison but we must appreciate that we have to pay for Madison to remain as good of a place as it is.

Things I most value in Madison are its libraries, well paid municipal workers, its parks, roads and relatively low crime rate.

Things I least like about Madison include Madison's enthusiasm to intentionally fill in neighborhoods with higher density housing thus making Madison more crowded and its traffic worse. DEI spending and affordable home spending needs to be cut. Taxes are already too high but i support raising them no higher than inflation to at least accommodate inflation.

'Affordable home' spending is tied in with the developers' insatiable drive for rapid growth and corporate profits. I suggest revoking zoning changes made to make the new bus route theoretically more cost efficient. Affordable housing is a corporate subsidy. I first ran into 'affordable housing' when I lived in California. Marin County was getting to be so expensive that only wealthy people could live there. Instead of raising the pay levels of teachers nurses, trades people, and municipal workers so they could afford to live in Marin County, State and federal money was used to build 'affordable' housing for workers to keep profits high. Tax money from other places was used instead of forcing companies and local taxpayers to pay more for workers. Profits went to the rich instead of workers' wages. Stop moving forward on affordable housing that requires other Madison residents to pay more taxes thereby making their own housing more expensive..

Get rid of most or all DEI spending. Put deleted DEI employees to work in other vacant City of Madison jobs so as not to eliminate their means of support as DEI jobs are eliminated. A higher priority should be placed on saving jobs keeping health, safety, and educational services open.

Also, I don't know how we in Madison have so far been spared the high costs of caring for surplus migrants that Gov. Abbott is removing from Texas. Migrants are showing up in places as close to Madison as Whitewater, Marshfield, and Stevens Point. Once they are directed to or find their way to Madison, you as Alders will be faced with huge additional expenditures and will have to cut back services designed for Madison residents. Denver is having longer waits for emergency medical care because that's where migrants go for any medical care. NY City is evacuating schools of children to house migrants. New York children are supposed to go online for education. We know how that works. Some cities are evacuating motels of tourists and poor Americans including elderly Vets to make room for migrant. And dare i say it, crime is rising in some of these places. This is in our future if you allow it to happen. Whatever budget deficits Madison now faces will get much worse. If taxes get too high, there will also be more public resistance to funding Madison's public schools.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Bruce Hansen

**From:** [Miranda Hassett](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Projected deficit and cost cutting...  
**Date:** Friday, February 23, 2024 2:40:33 PM

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Dear Madison Alders,

I'm writing to you as a community member and a pastor here in Madison. In my role as a pastor, and through my parish's active outreach ministry, I hear a lot about the needs of our city and our county.

Needs are increasing, not decreasing. Demand on food pantries is up. High housing costs are forcing tough choices on so many households. It's hard for so many people to get into housing and stay in housing.

We have some big challenges in Madison, and they need sustained and holistic engagement. Our social services and support programs can't fall victim to cost cutting. That would only deepen cycles of desperation and despair.

Please keep investing in the people, families, and neighborhoods of Madison and beyond, and keep working with the many non-profits who support our neighbors and work for solutions.

Thank you.

Miranda Hassett  
Resident, District 20  
Pastor, St. Dunstan's Church, District 19



**From:** [kao466](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Budget deficit  
**Date:** Sunday, February 18, 2024 2:36:19 PM

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Legalize Marijuana.

Cut council wages .

Defer buss improvements and changes. How profitable are the city busses. Don't put money in a department that isn't making money. The schools and education should be given more money not less.

Put tolls on our interstates.

I was born and raised in Madison. Madison was great to raise my kid however I won't be able to retire here.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** [Linda Ketcham](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** City funding priorities for 2025  
**Date:** Monday, February 19, 2024 4:19:16 PM

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

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I am writing today on behalf of JustDane to support your efforts to secure additional funding in support of the Community Development Division in 2025. I understand that the projected deficit is daunting, I also recognize that public safety is much broader than policing. You may have heard on NPR or read in other news that nationally philanthropic giving has declined over the past two years leaving many of the agencies doing vital work in our community struggling to maintain their current level of programming AND pay a competitive wage to retain skilled staff. Recognizing that rarely is there any political will to reduce funding for police, the City of Madison being no exception, it is imperative that you work collaboratively with the non-profit sector to find new ways of generating revenue, of cost savings within the City, to support the vital work that actually builds a safer, healthier, and more equitable community. Policing doesn't build a healthy or safe community, investing in people, neighborhoods, in initiatives that address systemic inequities and offer support to individuals and families is how we build a safe community. Our shelters are all at capacity with waiting lists. Homelessness is increasing. The violence prevention work the City is funding is having an impact as violent crime is generally down, but we need mental health supports, AODA treatment to help continue that trend. We need truly housing, treatment, support, shelter, food access, all of these are crucial to improving the quality of life for everyone in Madison.

You do have some options - certainly going to referendum to raise the tax levy is an option and it is an option we, as an organization, would support if the funds are used to preserve the safety net and invest in our neighborhoods but they cannot be used to supplant existing CDD funds. Increasing certain fees could be an option we would support as long as they are not regressive. Administrative costs could be reduced by moving to a longer contracting cycle for initiatives as Dane County has done with five year contracts. This would reduce administrative time and allow non-profits to do more long range planning. Longer contract periods also provide more long-term data on program effectiveness.

I encourage you as a Council to reach out to the Homeless Services Consortium, the Recovery Coalition, the Affordable Housing Action Alliance, and other groups for their input on both budget priorities, needs and ideas for generating additional

revenue. The non-profit sector in Dane County is a very large employment sector with the capacity to lend its voice and support to efforts to invest in the residents of our City to continue to move toward the goal of reducing racial disparities, reducing homelessness, reducing violence, and making sure that no adult or child is without food, shelter or access to the supportive services they may need.

Thank you for starting the conversation early. I look forward to working with you and other non-profits in our City to effectively address the shortfall while increasing the health and wellbeing of all of our residents.

Sincerely,

Linda Ketcham (she, her, hers)  
Executive Director  
Madison-area Urban Ministry, Inc. (dba JustDane)  
128 E. Olin Ave. Suite 202  
Madison, WI 53713  
608-256-0906  
She, her, hers

*"Compassion and justice are companions, not choices." Wm. Sloane Coffin*

**From:** [City of Madison](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** [All Alders] 2025 projected budget deficit  
**Date:** Monday, February 19, 2024 3:06:30 PM

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Recipient: All Alders:

Mon, 02/19/2024 - 15:04

Tanya R Lettman-Shue  
5675 Polworth St

Madison, Wisconsin. 53711 No, do not contact me. All Alders 2025 projected budget deficit I understand that there are significant budgetary concerns for all governmental agencies as the ARPA funds are no longer available. It is important to continue to build on the public health initiative that have been advanced and remember that social services and public health services improve the general public's lives and decrease the need for government intervention such as police and fire response. Please continue to keep this in mind as you are looking at the budget for 2025.

**From:** [Catherine Martin](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** City of Madison budget deficit  
**Date:** Sunday, February 18, 2024 12:39:56 PM

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If you're looking for ways to cut the budget for the city of Madison ? Simply send back all those expensive and brand new EV electric buses and make do with what we have for the time being.

**From:** [City of Madison](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** [All Alders] balancing the budget  
**Date:** Saturday, February 17, 2024 1:12:07 PM

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Recipient: All Alders:

Sat, 02/17/2024 - 13:10

Valerie Mellerop

5922 MEADOWOOD DR

MADISON, Wisconsin. 53711 No, do not contact me. All Alders balancing the budget A well thought out "a little bit of this and a little bit of that" would be more helpful than going to extremes. See what can be cut back in the city AND put some additional revenue request on the ballot.

Not all one or another.

Would it be helpful to postpone some street repairs/replacement since our summers seem to be a never ending construction season and drivers might appreciate a break?

**From:** [Kristen Peterson](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** City debt  
**Date:** Sunday, February 18, 2024 11:45:46 AM

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Relieve the mayor of her duties. Let's not incur more bad debt.  
Kristen Peterson

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Bonnie Roe](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Budget Brief document  
**Date:** Sunday, February 18, 2024 1:14:37 PM

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

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Hi Alders,

I look forward to the fact that many of you are really seeking ways to narrow the \$27 million deficit for the 2025 Operating Budget. I know this work won't be easy, but I'm glad the Mayor has charged you with this direction.

I came across this really helpful document and thought I would pass it along, just in case you haven't seen it:

[https://wispolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/BudgetBrief\\_2024CityofMadison.pdf](https://wispolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/BudgetBrief_2024CityofMadison.pdf)

Thanks for serving the City,

Bonnie Roe  
District 11



**From:** [Greg Smith](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Deficit  
**Date:** Friday, March 1, 2024 8:39:21 AM

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We should never be in this position. We took the one time funds from the federal government and built that money into ongoing to spending. Surprise! No money to pay for those continuing programs. Cut spending if you have to. Don't keep raising our taxes.

Greg Smith Retelle Acadia

Sent from my iPhone