

From: [Mark Evans](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: reject suggested Alders" pay raise
Date: Sunday, January 21, 2024 9:16:56 AM

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

We know the issue of raising Alders' salaries has come up several times in the past. It's very concerning to us now, that this has come up again after voters have spoken so clearly on this issue in the past and as we know the City has other much more pressing things worthy of funding that remain significantly under funded.

We both very strongly recommend our Alders show they understand this is not a time to raise their own pay and soundly reject the suggested pay raise.

Robin Bloom and Mark Evans
7635 Widgeon Way, Madison, WI 53717
608-576-4065

From: [Rose Bottensek](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: 60% Raise
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:43:53 AM

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

I got a 3% social security increase this year. My Medicare supplemental coverage and Part D prescription coverage went up. My monthly check is now less than it was last year. And, no, I do not have a pension.

This is beyond insulting.

From: [Randy Bruegman](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Agenda Item #64
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 3:01:18 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

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The alder positions have historically attracted dedicated individuals who are passionate about public service and want to shape city policies. However, it's crucial to note that city residents have made it clear through a referendum that they want alder positions to remain part-time and not become career positions. Given the large operating budget deficits that the city is facing, it's imperative that the Common Council exercises fiscal responsibility. As the council approves the Mayor's budget proposals, they are accountable for the deficits. Therefore, it would be unwise and unacceptable to grant themselves a substantial pay raise during a budget crisis. The timing of the proposal is also insensitive, especially with Madison property owners recently receiving their 2023 tax bills and grappling with significant increases. The council must prioritize the well-being of the city and its residents over personal gain. We strongly urge the council to reconsider this proposal and take a more responsible approach to serving their constituents.

Randy and Susan Bruegman
313 Sauk Creek Drive
Madison, WI.

Chief Randy Bruegman (Ret.)
PRESIDENT + FOUNDER



<https://www.theleadershipcruciblefoundation.org/>

[!\[\]\(e474458956c9a37fbf9586ddb60a7fa1_img.jpg\) Follow us on LinkedIn](#)

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We both very strongly recommend our Alders show they understand this is not a time to raise their own pay and soundly reject the suggested pay raise.

Robin Bloom and Mark Evans
7635 Widgeon Way, Madison, WI 53717
608-576-4065

From: patriciaehackett@icloud.com
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Salary Increases
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:58:13 AM

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

Really, you want to double your salary? If you can't live on what you make now, why don't you get an additional job (or is alderperson the only income you depend on)? Shame on you all! You know you can always drive thru a food pantry and load up there since they do not require any documentation as to your need. How do you plan to cover these salary increases; on the backs of the taxpayers, yet again!!

Patricia Hackett
73 Golf Course Road, Umit E
Madison, WI 53704

From: [B H](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: I oppose agenda item #64
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 12:26:21 PM

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

I am writing to let you know that I do NOT support the raise for Alders in item #64 on tonight's agenda. My taxes have gone up dramatically and city services are declining. My house has been shot, twice, because we no longer have the budget to allow police to patrol neighborhoods and be seen. We do not have the budget to fund officers like Officer Vickersheim to do full-time work with the kids at Harmony and Meadowlands. Do not even get me started on the streets. None of our residential streets are clear, but Sun Prairie, McFarland, DeForest.... need I go on?are perfectly capable of clearing theirs.

I consider it an insult that this measure is even being proposed and it is a gross abuse.

Becky Haug
101 Kurt Drive

From: jhirsch@chorus.net
To: [Mayor; All Alders](#)
Subject: 81016 Alder Salaries
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 5:54:48 PM

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

Mayor and All Alders:

The proposal to increase alder salaries is included on the January 9, 2024 agenda. I request that you remove this from the Consent Agenda to allow for a discussion by Common Council members and a roll call vote.

I ask that you oppose this proposal. At a time when the City has dire financial obligations, it is disingenuous to seek a large salary increase. Considering the increase in Council staff and support, I would like to understand the need for the additional expense.

Thank you.

Janet Hirsch

From: jhirsch@chorus.net
To: [Mayor](#); [Conklin, Nikki](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: OPPOSE #64 Salary increases for alders
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 11:46:01 PM

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

Mayor, Alder Conklin and Alders:

I ask you to **OPPOSE** the salary increases for alders, president and vice-president. (81016)

This proposal is self-serving and does nothing to benefit the City. Considering the ever-growing staff in the council office, these salary increases are redundant. This appears to be the resurrection of the failed referendum to change the Council to full-time alders.

If you value the wishes of your constituents and consider your fiduciary duty, you will vote to **REJECT** increases.

Respectfully,
Janet Hirsch
District 9

From: jhirsch@chorus.net
To: Mayor; All Alders
Subject: Re: 81016 Alder Salaries
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 2:24:24 PM

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

Mayor and Alders:

Once again, I am requesting that you remove this item from the Consent Agenda and allow for a roll call vote.

Janet

----- Original Message -----

From: jhirsch@chorus.net
To: "Mayor" <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>, "allalders" <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 5:54:46 PM
Subject: 81016 Alder Salaries

Mayor and All Alders:

The proposal to increase alder salaries is included on the January 9, 2024 agenda. I request that you remove this from the Consent Agenda to allow for a discussion by Common Council members and a roll call vote.

I ask that you oppose this proposal. At a time when the City has dire financial obligations, it is disingenuous to seek a large salary increase. Considering the increase in Council staff and support, I would like to understand the need for the additional expense.

Thank you.

Janet Hirsch

From: [Tish Johnson](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [Ali Alders](#); [Figueroa Cole, Yannette](#)
Subject: Pay Raises for Alders
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:22:29 AM

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

Dear Mayor and Alders,

At this time I do not support the proposed pay raises you will be voting on tonight.

It is my understanding there is a salary study underway and believe, at a minimum, we should have the opportunity to see the results before you attempt to legislate additional raises and modify the salary structure.

You have continued to indicate that we are in a difficult budgetary situation . So much so that we carry a high amount of debt and foundational services are impacted by cuts, furloughs and the need to leave positions unfilled.

Please do not pass the proposed resolution related to Alder pay raises and structure.

Thank you,
Patricia Johnson
5505 Tolman Terrace

From: [Kester, Dolores](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Council raises?????
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 2:02:03 PM

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

Incredible that in budget crises making city staff cutbacks, layoffs, and furloughs next year, the council chooses this moment to try to vote itself raises. Are you crazy?

D Kester
1818 Winchester St

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tom Klinge](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Raises
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 12:20:57 PM

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

I strongly oppose raises for the city council!!
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bonita Kuenzi](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Allalders@cityofmadison.com
Date: Sunday, January 21, 2024 1:24:28 PM

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

I am opposed to any pay raise for the alders. Our taxes are high, the budget was balanced by borrowing and I am on Social Security based on low pay.

Boni Kuenzi

From: [Pat Malcolm](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Pay raises for Alders
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 9:35:31 AM

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

I SUPPORT the proposed pay raises for Alders. There is an enormous amount of material to process and information to know. Appropriate communication with constituents also takes time. As the City grows rapidly the burden on Alders grows with it. We are seeing high turnover and without appropriate compensation will see more. Please vote YES on compensation raises for Alders.
Thank you!

Pat Malcolm
206 Davidson St Apt 2
Madison, WI 53716
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mark Evans](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: reject suggested Alders" pay raise
Date: Sunday, January 21, 2024 9:16:56 AM

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Robin Bloom and Mark Evans
7635 Widgeon Way, Madison, WI 53717
608-576-4065

From: [Carol Prugh](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: City Budget and raises for alders
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 12:13:10 PM

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

I have been uncomfortable with what is going on in the City of Madison for a while. Almost daily there is a new project or another item on which to spend more. I live near Mineral Pt. Rd. and have watched the RBT being built. These projects are initially funded by the Federal Government but how much will it cost in the long run? Given what the city has already committed to financially, I am totally against the raise for alders. I would be pleased if the police department or the clerk's office (voting) were to receive an increase. What has been going on with the City Council lately has been disturbing!

VOTE NO FOR COUNCIL RAISES!

Carol Prugh

From: [Kim I. Richman](#)
To: [Mayor; All Alders](#)
Subject: NO salary increase
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:05:51 AM

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

Madam Mayor and Alders;

Now **is not** the time for this ridiculous 60% salary increase, or any increase at all. Salary increases should be earned. Madisonians see what's going on with the current budget that YOU adopted, and projections for the future are bleak. That failure alone doesn't justify any salary increase, not to mention 60%.

For you to do this at this time, shows us that you are out of touch with the citizens of Madison. There are folks on fixed incomes, who's property and school taxes are high and will continue to increase.

In the private sector (where most of you are employed) many haven't received raises and those who have, may not have received enough. Many have had to cut things out of their lives that they love and enjoy because they can no longer afford them, yet you want a 60% increase. Unbelievable.

When you ran for the common council you knew what the pay scale was. You knew what the time commitment was. You shouldn't be in it for the money or for personal gain; it's not a living wage position and isn't intended to be. You **SHOULD** be in it for the **love** of your district and the neighbors in it, and have the **passion** to represent those neighbors in your district.

About 3 years ago, substantial salary increases and other possible "changes" for alders were taken to the people and it was soundly defeated in a referendum. Now you're voting for yourselves.

I have a suggestion; put Agenda Item #64 on hold and put it on the 2025 spring election as a referendum. That's what democracy looks like.

Kim Richman
16th District
Madison

#

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

From: [Bonnie Roe](#)
To: [Rhodes-Conway, Satya V.](#); [All Alders](#); [Tishler, Bill](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 64: Alder Raises
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:38:14 AM

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

Dear Mayor and Alders,

I oppose a 60% increase in Alder pay.

The vast majority of you voted to “balance” the 2024 budget by papering over a \$6.6 million deficit with reoffering premium on the Capital Budget’s debt. This body has spent its way into a significant structural deficit that will really hit in 2025, the year this 60% raise would take effect. While your fellow city employees will be furloughed or laid off and vital departments will be cut and forced to hold positions vacant because of your decisions, you will receive a 60% raise? For what? Because you and the Mayor hold the purse strings? There are no additional responsibilities or an expectation of more hours worked. In fact you have more staff to help you with your work and outreach than before.

Beyond principle, this is more than the City can afford to pay, and largely because costs to fund your programs and initiatives are rising faster than state law allows the city to raise revenue. As you know, spending and revenue are out of balance, with a preliminary projection showing the city will have a \$32 million deficit next year, in 2025. The same year this large raise would take effect. There are no more federal ARPA funds to apply to the deficit moving forward. The City cannot fund a lot of things right now and the ones who got the city into this place don’t deserve a raise right now, in my opinion, and definitely not a 60% raise with bi-annual increases calculated at the rate of increase for managerial staff.

You voted to spend \$350,000 tax payer dollars (out of the Direct Appropriations budget) on a compensation study that should be complete by the end of the year. Why not wait until then to make your decision? The talk has largely been about making a living wage and comparing your salaries to the average Madison worker. And some of you really want to get this done.

When Alders put forth a referendum to see whether or not Madison residents wanted full-time Alders, the answer was a resounding no. Same with decreasing the size of the Council. The only part of the referendum that had broad support and passed was that Alders would have term limits. Where is the discussion and vote on that? Instead, after the concept of a large raise failed at referendum, some of you strategized to get a 60% raise (conceded to as a “step in the right direction,” not the end game on the amount). And the raise goes up annually, at the same rate as the Manager-level employees (in other words, the highest rate).

Each year there are candidates running for each seat and many contested races. Five people have applied for the current District 19 vacancy and will be interviewed by the CCEC today. The Council is the most diverse it has ever been, and that’s at the current pay. It seems like we have plenty of interested candidates from many backgrounds willing to serve our community in this way.

Please vote no on “Updating Alder Salaries,” a creative way of saying getting a raise.

Thank you,

Bonnie Roe
District 11

From: [Alice Ropella](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Pay raises
Date: Sunday, January 21, 2024 8:56:26 PM

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

You're joking!! This is a minomal part time public service job and you want your pay doubled? What have you done? The meetings are hours of going round in circles, they are embarrassing. The inexperienced, having to repeat and reask to "make sure" they understand what's said. You're all voting your own agendas. ASK THE PEOPLE WHO VOTED YOU IN WHAT WE WANT!! You're supposed to represent US! Why should you reap the benefits of cutting our police force while the city is turning into a cesspool? Taxes forcing people out. Terrible road conditions. Vision Zero? Not even close....criminals are making sure of that. I've lived here 50 years and am appalled at what this council has done to this city.....time for this council to WAKE UP! Take a pay cut until you do some REAL work!

Signed,

Alice Ropella
Disgusted in Madison

From: [Glori Sabin](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Agenda Item #64 On Tonight's Meeting
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:39:49 AM

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

This is to inform you that our entire family vehemently oppose any increase in Alder's salaries and therefore request this be turned down. Thank you.

Glori Sabin
Kim Dietzman
Logan Dietzman

From: [Norman Sannes](#)
To: [Mayor; Ali Alders](#)
Cc: [Field, Derek](#)
Subject: Pay raise for alders
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:38:32 AM

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

I am strongly opposed to any increase in compensation for the alders. 60% increase, give me a break, PLEASE! These are part time jobs and never were intended to be anything than that.

As a longtime Madison resident and a retiree on fixed income, it becomes harder to make ends meet as Madison increases spending. What used to be included in our property taxes have become ‘fees,’ or made part of statements like our “municipal Services.” Then we get stuck with a “wheel tax.”

When will it end?

Norman Sannes
5345 Queensbridge Rd
Madison

From: [Valerie Schend](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Opposition to Agenda item #64
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:30:41 AM

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

During a period when many of your constituents are struggling financially, it is nothing but tone-deaf to initiate and approve your own raises.

I appreciate your willingness to undertake the responsibility of being an alder, but now is not the time to seek increased compensation. Over my 40+ years of work history there were many years I received no salary increase, and even dealt with less compensation due to increases in the rates I paid for "perks". And of course furloughs.

Thank you for your service and attention.

Val Schend
4913 Paul Ave
Madison
608.274.3785

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From: [Keith Schlesinger](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Jan 23 Council Meeting item 64
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:36:10 AM

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

Good Morning,

I am proud of the employees in the Madison Streets Department. They are the visible part of the city in action. I can see results of my tax money at work.

I am 1000% against alder raises tonight. You yes people are simply greedy, greedy, greedy. Shame on you. I have asked my dist 16 alder for a much needed stop sign and she blew me off.

Alders are a waste of money.

Vote no on 64 and respect your district residents.

Keith Schlesinger

From: [Jacklyn Shivers](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Pay raises
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 3:10:09 PM

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

Having served as an Alder for twenty years, I can assure you that our present day Alders do not realize that in the "old days", we Alders had to really work hard for meager pay.! To days Alders have got it so much easier. No raise should be given in my opinion.

S. Michael Shivers, former 17th District Alderman

From: [Susan Tesarik](#)
To: [All Alders; Mayor](#)
Subject: Opposed to Aldermanic Pay Raises – Agenda # 64 at Jan. 23, 2024 City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 8:55:34 PM
Attachments: [LetterAlderPayRaisesFrmSusanTesarik01-22-24.pdf](#)

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

Hello,

Please see the attached letter re: the proposed Aldermanic Pay Raises – Agenda # 64 at the Jan. 23, 2024 City Council Meeting. Thank you,
Susan

--

Susan Tesarik
4303 Crawford Drive
Madison, WI 53711-4806
608-276-8554 (home)
608-512-6165 (cell)
sltesarik@gmail.com

January 22, 2024

TO: Madison Common Council members and Mayor Rhodes-Conway
FR: Susan Tesarik, 4303 Crawford Dr., Madison, WI 53711
RE: **Opposed to Aldermanic Pay Raises – Agenda # 64 at Jan. 23, 2024 City Council Meeting**

Dear Madison Common Council members and Mayor Rhodes-Conway;

I am strongly opposed to the City Council proposal to raise their salaries that you will vote on at the meeting on Tues., January 23, 2024. It's Agenda Item # 64 - Amending Section 3.50 of the Madison General Ordinances related to Salaries of Officials to update salaries for Alders. I want you all to vote against this self-serving proposal.

The current city council is completely out of touch with the voters. **We – the voters— voted down the referendum on raising alders' salaries by almost 60% in 2021.** Did you not know this?

Here is a Madison Cap Times Newspaper article about it titled, "**Madison voters oppose full-time City Council, support term limits.**" Here's the web link to the article, dated Apr. 6, 2021: https://captimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/madison-voters-oppose-full-time-city-council-support-term-limits/article_8263c82f-1b08-5d9f-b746-019a4eed770e.html (also attached PDF of article).

"With nearly all precincts reporting, voters supported term limits for City Council alders and maintaining its 20 members. They rejected moving to a full-time council with higher-paid alders who would serve longer terms."

Why is this proposal to raise your salaries even being brought up again, after it was voted down by the people you are supposed to represent?

It was never shared publicly that city council members also each have an additional \$2,150 to use for reimbursement for cell phones, internet, conferences, and anything else that individual alders want to spend that extra money on, in addition to your annual salaries.

The city council is supposed represent the residents of Madison and share policy proposals with residents to gather peoples' input and enact the will of the people. My alder person has not shared anything at all about this upcoming vote to increase alders pay with her constituents. Even though she knows quite a bit about the proposal as one of the three sponsors. That's shamefully deceitful, along with burying this action item – that will directly affect tax payers –

so deeply within a long, complicated meeting agenda. The only way that I found out about this was from another private citizen who shared it on social media.

The only items my alder person sends out as her supposed updates to constituents are news items that were already written by city staff members in the various city departments and readily available on the City of Madison web site. She's just passing along what city staff has written. Oddly, there was no email alert from her to say, "I'm going to be voting on salary increases for myself and the rest of the alders' salaries at the Jan. 23 council meeting." And certainly, no solicitation of input from the voters on this item since the April 2023 election. We voters thought this idea was defeated after the referendum results from the Apr. 2023 election.

I do not understand what work the council thinks they need to be reimbursed more for? I don't think people should be on the city council to collect full-time job, sole source paychecks. Council members are voted in to care for the neighborhood they represent, value the input from their constituents, and implement policies that fulfill the will of the people.

Council members should be spending their time engaging with their constituents and gathering authentic public input. They should not be re-sending news items that the city staff has already written. Copying and blogging what city staff has already made publicly available is not community engagement. It is passive, duplicative emailing. It would be helpful to review what are the best roles for city staff vs. council members. Maybe if council members focused on community engagement, then it could indeed be part-time work. If they are looking to make more money off this public service role, then city council is not the right place for them.

It is also inappropriate to bury an action item that will directly affect taxpayers on page 21 in the agenda. It's not even clear from the agenda when the vote will be taken? The reference for this item in the agenda is confusing. It's in a section titled, "Items Referred to in this Meeting" - -> "Ordinances." It looks like it was deliberately hidden under ordinances. I had no idea about this until Sunday afternoon (1/21) when a private citizen posted the alert on social media. This is surely a topic that my alder person should have informed all her constituents about. I am extremely disappointed.

There is a deep disconnect in "want" vs. reality by the leadership. This self-serving money grab by the city council in light of our upcoming budget shortfalls is highly inappropriate. The Mayor stated in her recent Opinion Piece in The Isthmus: "We had to cut 1% across the board from all city departments, ask for steeper savings from our largest departments, and say no to many good ideas and needed programs, including additional staffing to meet increasing service demands, increased funding for community services, and new basic life support ambulances for our fire department." Here's the link to The Isthmus piece, dated 01-15-2024, "Mayor Rhodes-Conway clears up some misconceptions about Madison's city budget:

https://isthmus.com/opinion/opinion/mayor-rhodes-conway-clears-up-some-misconceptions-about-madi/?fbclid=IwAR0HhedKJGr_U7xhBMM-Zo5AP4F4DigQJlyHBiWgpkoaQPvDmm_GCQTQ_yc

I am very concerned about the city budget shortfalls, and it is highly irresponsible to increase council members' pay when the city has these budget problems. There must be true fiscal responsibility by the City Council and Mayor. I cannot afford to continue living in Madison if all the taxes continue to go up. I have lived in the City of Madison since 1999 and owned my home in the City of Madison since 2011.

I am asking you to listen to the voters and oppose this pay raise for alders. Oppose Agenda Item #64 - Amending Section 3.50 of the Madison General Ordinances related to Salaries of Officials to update salaries for Alders.

For future council meeting agendas, please indicate clearly which agenda items you are taking up that will increase or decrease the city budget and taxes that you are making people pay.

Thank you,

Susan Tesarik

https://captimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/madison-voters-oppose-full-time-city-council-support-term-limits/article_8263c82f-1b08-5d9f-b746-019a4eed770e.html

Madison voters oppose full-time City Council, support term limits

By Abigail Becker

Apr 6, 2021



The Madison City Council and Dane County Board chambers at the downtown City-County Building are empty as meetings are streamed online.

RUTHIE HAUGE

Sign up for the Morning Update email newsletter

Madison voters largely supported maintaining the status quo of local government, according to preliminary referendum results from Tuesday's spring election.

With nearly all precincts reporting, voters supported term limits for City Council alders and maintaining its 20 members. They rejected moving to a full-time council with higher-paid alders who would serve longer terms.

The questions were prompted by an extensive study of the composition of Madison's local government.

The committee studying Madison's local government found "the city's current government structure is an impediment to full participation and representation and, therefore, that the city's structure is fundamentally unfair to a large portion of the city's population, including, most notably, the city's residents of color and low income," according to the report.

Because the referendum is advisory, the changes would not have gone into effect. City policymakers will use the information collected to measure voters' interest in pursuing possible changes.

Voters were asked to respond to the following questions:

Increase pay for City Council members?

Madison currently has a part-time Common Council with members who are paid approximately thirteen-thousand seven hundred dollars (\$13,700) per year. Beginning with the 2023 Spring Election, SHOULD the City of Madison transition to a full-time Common Council with each Common Council member earning between fifty percent (50%) to eighty percent (80%) of the Adjusted Median Income for Dane County for a single parent with two children (approximately \$45,000 to \$71,000 per year)?

Yes: 41.8%

No: 58.2%

Should the council be smaller with larger districts?

Madison currently has a part-time Common Council comprised of twenty (20) alderpersons, one from each alderperson district. Beginning with the 2023 Spring Election, SHOULD the size of the City of Madison Common Council: Be reduced, be increased or remain the same?

Be reduced? 16.5%

Be increased? 13.4%

Remain the same? 70.2%

Longer terms?

Madison alderpersons are currently elected to two (2) year terms. The Madison Mayor is currently elected to four (4) year terms. Beginning with the 2023 Spring Election, **SHOULD** City of Madison alderpersons be elected to four (4) year terms?

Yes: 44.5%

No: 55.5%

Twelve-year term limits?

Madison alderpersons are currently not subject to term limits. Beginning with the 2023 Spring Election, if the City transitions to a full-time Common Council **SHOULD** the City of Madison alderpersons be subject to term limits of twelve (12) consecutive years?

Yes: 70.9%

No: 29.1%

Share your opinion on this topic by sending a letter to the editor to tctvoice@madison.com. Include your full name, hometown and phone number. Your name and town will be published. The phone number is for verification purposes only. Please keep your letter to 250 words or less.

Abigail Becker

Abigail Becker joined The Capital Times in 2016, where she primarily covers city and county government. She previously worked for the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism and the Wisconsin State Journal.



MORE INFORMATION



Madison City Council narrowly votes to move parking enforcement out of police department

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From: [Kathy](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Pay Raises
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 10:31:56 AM

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All,

I am writing in opposition to the proposal of giving pay raises to the Council. It is an absolute insult to the residents of this city.

Please do the right thing and spend money on what we desperately need, like plowed streets and a properly funded police department.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Viets

From: [Larry and Ginny White](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Conklin, Nikki](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Proposed Alder Pay Raise
Date: Sunday, January 21, 2024 11:48:08 AM

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Dear Alders: We OPPOSE your proposed pay raise for several reasons:

1. Historically, alder positions have attracted candidates with a public service ethic. Some individuals have served many years on the Common Council, including our former alder Paul Skidmore who did so for 20 years. All past alders accepted a modest stipend in exchange for being able to help set city policy.
2. In a city of 270K residents, there's no shortage of diverse, qualified candidates for alder positions, as evidenced by the makeup of the current council.
3. City residents made clear via referendum a few years ago that they want alder positions to be part-time, not to creep toward becoming career positions.
4. The city is facing large operating budget deficits years into the future. The Common Council approves the Mayor's budget proposals, so you too are accountable for those deficits. Granting yourselves a substantial pay raise during a budget crisis would be ill-advised.
5. The timing of this agenda item couldn't be more tone deaf. Madison property owners got their 2023 tax bills last month and are feeling the sting of significant increases.

We urge you to reconsider the wisdom of this proposal.

Respectfully,

Ginny and Larry White
71 Oak Creek Trail
Madison

From: [Barbara Widder](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Proposal for alders and officers pay raises /Council meeting January 23, 2024
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 2:34:00 PM

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I would like some reasonable explanations for these questions:

1. What research have you done to justify a 40 to 60% pay increase?
2. What increased responsibilities would you have to justify this pay increase?
3. Is it ethically justifiable for you vote yourselves a pay raise now, knowing the average citizen may not be seeing any increase in income?
4. For whatever reason, it seems you want more money for the job you do. Is it possible you are spending too much time on a part-time job? How do you adjust for that kind of commitment? Why should we, as Madison taxpayers, just give you more money because you asked for it?
5. And thinking outside yourselves, who else, that works for the city, should get a pay raise? (for instance, snow removal drivers)

As a teacher, I realize it's easy to get wrapped up in your own little corner of the Madison Council world. However, please take a minute to step outside your alder job and look around to the rest of our city and decide what's in the best interest of everyone who lives here?

Barbara Widder
1 Saukdale Trail
Madison, WI 53717
bjw716@sbcglobal.net

“In a world of freewheeling chaos, find the good in something every day.” BJW 9/23