

From: [chrissey ary](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: tax money
Date: Thursday, August 8, 2024 12:24:43 PM

You don't often get email from lunchlady20101@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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As a retired person I feel that the money from our taxes should support all those who are citizens and need help and take care of the services that they are to cover. Why not have the people who want to sponsor undocumented families do so. The newcomers are stretching all of our services to the max. I have no one in school so I do not want to support a school system that is failing. As a small addition.. why not have the people who have bicycles get a license plate or tag for a few \$\$ to help pay for the new bike paths that I will never use. But I also would like to see more police and have them unshackled to enforce the laws on the books which would do a great deal to protect against crimes that effect the innocent. Hold people accountable for their actions and that may make Madison a place ALL would like to live in. DO NOT RAISE MY TAXES. Thanks (EVEN THOUGH I KNOW MY WISHES WILL BE DISMISSED!!!!)

From: [tom Beck](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Re: Over budget \$\$
Date: Thursday, August 8, 2024 2:42:56 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cnse55@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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18 people, no replies, sad.
Thanks,
Tom

Protect our 1st. & 2nd. Amendment rights
FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!

On Aug 5, 2024, at 12:14 PM, tom Beck <cnse55@yahoo.com> wrote:

to solve the budget problem, stop scare tactics about cutting FD & PD cuts. Start common sense , reduce the unnecessary positions.
See below, why does the mayor need to travel overseas?

Tom

Protect our 1st. & 2nd. Amendment rights
FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!

Begin forwarded message:

From: tom <cnse55@yahoo.com>
Date: June 19, 2024 at 10:05:37 AM CDT
To: City of Madison <district10@cityofmadison.com>, district1@cityofmadison.com, district11@cityofmadison.com, district12@cityofmadison.com, district2@cityofmadison.com, district3@cityofmadison.com, district5@cityofmadison.com, district6@cityofmadison.com, district7@cityofmadison.com, district8@cityofmadison.com, district9@cityofmadison.com, City of Madison <district4@cityofmadison.com>, district14@cityofmadison.com, district16@cityofmadison.com, Mayor <mayor@cityofmadison.com>, Our Rep <district15@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Over budget \$\$
Reply-To: tom <cnse55@yahoo.com>

Easy fix:

1. eliminate both asst.mayors
2. Mayor takes 10% pay cut, travel budget cut 20%
3. Alder's take 10 % pay cut
4. All DEI positions cut

Tom,

**Protect the 1st amendment, stop the censorship Google,
FB, Twitter, MSM!**

From: [Beverly Bednar](#)
To: [All Alders](#); TCTVoice@captimes.com
Subject: Nov. 5 Referendum
Date: Thursday, August 8, 2024 2:37:29 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from garnette85@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am not voting for the referendum or any referendum that raises taxes. Are you kidding me? This is so disgusting I can hardly stand it. Why did the city spend \$50 million on a bus system that goes nowhere? They ruined the bus system that was in place. Now it takes me 2 bus rides to get anywhere and then they don't even take you as far as the damn malls. You end walking all over, in bad weather, hot weather, cold weather, rain. So this is why the city is asking for another \$25 million, because they already spent \$50 on the dumbest bus system I ever encountered.

I rode the bus for more than 50 years. I knew global warming was on its way 50 years ago. This is my reward for riding the bus all these years; that it would take 2 buses to get anywhere that one bus took me before. I see thousands of cars go by on University Avenue when one bus alone goes by. This is the reward I get for taking all those bus rides and never owning a car.

You all have a lot of nerve asking for \$25 million when you already spent \$50 million on a terrible bus system and no one has mentioned this. Why are you out \$25 million? And by the way, I take the buses as little as possible and every bus driver I have spoken to has agreed with me how bad the bus system is.

You already knew the city would be out \$25 million when you paid \$50 for the stupid bus system. You knew it; why did you do it? And now you want the taxpayers to pay for your colossal mistake.

Beverly Bednar
Madison Wisconsin

From: [linda.carr](mailto:linda.carr@cityofmadison.com)
To: al-lalders@cityofmadison.com
Subject: Budget comments

Dear Council,

I for one will be voting NO for your referendum this fall. The mayor has spent without consideration for the future. Our property taxes are already very high, as we all know. With high taxes and inflation, and a fixed income, we have had to make daily sacrifices to stay afloat. The city could do the same. I do not appreciate the scare tactics of cutting police and fire. I think there are many other places to start.

1. The mayor's staff. Seriously, one chief of staff, 4 deputy mayors, 3 coordinators, one assistant and 2 clerks. One deputy mayor and one coordinator could go. I'm thinking back on all the staffing cuts I experienced in health care - lean staff.
2. Trash collection every other week.
3. Cut back on street sweepers. Could also reduce brush collections.
4. Trim city street workers - usually there are 1-2 watching while just 1 does the actual work.
5. Increase parking fees, tickets

I'll stop short of having out of town workers pay toll to use our roads. I live near many schools and the UW campus and watch daily September - June the amount of drivers from surrounding towns using our streets and parking. FYI...they are not riding the bus, but rather driving in individual cars causing more congestion.

Thank you,
Linda Carr

From: [Jeanette Clawson](#)
To: [All Alders](#); agarfield@captimes.com
Subject: tax hike
Date: Thursday, August 8, 2024 3:36:36 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from clawsonj15@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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To whom it may concern,

I read about the tax hike in the Cap Times and I'm curious about what a 22M hike would look like to me. Taxes in Madison are significant, but I believe that it is worth the investment. I can afford to pay some more, but I'm concerned about what the increase would be. Is there any discussion of future financial support from the federal government for any of the services listed? What options have been explored to sustain the current systems? Don't local businesses have a responsibility to the community to take on some of the expense?

The services that are listed to be cut are vital to what makes Madison a great place to live. In particular, the CARES program, police programs, bus services and library hours are vital to the care of the most vulnerable population in our community. However, raising taxes puts more people at risk of economic insecurity. Our country has abandoned so many people and I am proud to live in a community that strives to live up to its progressive ideals. I look forward to more discussion on this important matter. Thank you for your service.

Jeanette Clawson
3430 Richard St.53714

From: [Fields, Debbie](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: FW: Budget
Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 4:51:25 PM

Alders,

The following message was received in the Council Office inbox.

Best,
Debbie Fields
Program Assistant 2
Common Council Office
608-266-4297

From: Jerry Darda <jerryxdarda@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 4:11 PM
To: council <council@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Budget

You don't often get email from jerryxdarda@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Dear Madison Alders

Please consider serious cuts to the Community Development Division proposed budget before going to referendum at a time when MMSD is doing the same.

In addition there are other areas to cut such as the police oversight group which do nothing!

And make some common sense judgements distinguishing WANTS from NEEDS. Don't cut basics, police, fire, trash, etc. and don't threaten use with across the board cuts to these basics services when you have significant Wants available to cut most notably in the CDD.

And thanks to alder Vidaver for her transparency, timely, and regular communications.

Jerry & Bonnie Darda

From: [Fields, Debbie](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: FW: Budget
Date: Thursday, August 8, 2024 10:30:06 AM

Alders,

Following please find a message that was received in the Council Office inbox.

Best,
Debbie Fields
Program Assistant 2
Common Council Office
608-266-4297

From: Jerry Darda <jerryxdarda@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 8:03 AM
To: council <council@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Fwd: Budget

You don't often get email from jerryxdarda@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jerry Darda <jerryxdarda@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Aug 8, 2024 at 8:02 AM
Subject: Re: Budget
To: Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>

Alder Cole,

Thank you for your response to our budget concerns. Obviously, you and the other alders are much more privy to budget issues than we are. However as housing providers with 3 buildings (10 apartment units) all on the near West side, it pains me to have to raise rents on my hard working tenants, and get blamed by city officials as being greedy when the city council has a significant share of responsibility here by constantly raising property taxes with increased spending on arguably some non essential programs.

I suggest the following in terms of cutting the CDD budget

1) Look at using schools (after school hours) and libraries for senior, child care, and

youth services. Cut some of the \$8.5 there.

2) Cut some of the \$3M for small business employment and job training--what the heck are the schools and Madison college doing in this regard.

3) \$1.3 M community centers--use school buildings

4) \$15.5M FTE's We have no idea what this is, but it can't be more important than safety and sanitation (police fire, trash)

Simply, get creative on sharing public facilities where possible as well as eliminating non essential services

Certainly the police oversight (do nothing) committee can be eliminated immediately that's an \$0.5 M start

Every organization has waste and non essential expenses. We request you look hard at these before going to the referendum.

It's time to get Religious organizations (churches, synagogues, mosques) involved in solving some social problems such as providing meeting places for seniors and youth--and out of government hands.

At this point, although, certainly not a model for prudent budgeting either, we will support the MMSD referendums but not the city's referendum because we believe there is too much waste and we resent the implication (threats) of cutting essential services.

Thank you for your consideration to our request.

Jerry & Bonnie Darda
15 Sturbridge Circle
Madison WI 53717
608-219-1623----Jerry's cell

On Wed, Aug 7, 2024 at 6:25 PM Figueroa Cole, Yannette
<district10@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Hello!

Thank you for your email! The Community Development Division has a general fund budget of about \$15.6 Million which is 3.8% of the City Budget and about 45 Full time positions. What are you suggestion we eliminate? The Senior Center,

Neighborhood Centers, support to DAIS, Unidos, the shelter, Daycare?

Once your services selection is eliminated, do you expect MPD service calls to increase or decrease, while keeping their same budget? MPD's Budget is ~\$91M or 22% of the City Budget

2024 Budget in Millions	Example of Services (not inclusive list)
\$2.8	Renters, tenant resource services, rehabbing dwelling units to convert to low-income home ownership and rentals, the shelter
\$8.5	Senior Services, Senior Center, Childcare, MOST (out of school time), domestic violence, other VP youth services
\$3	Small businesses, young and adult employment, and job training
\$1.3	Community centers, and non-profit facility loans
\$15.6	45 FTE's

Looking forward to your input.

Thanks,
Yannette

Alder Figueroa Cole
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From: Fields, Debbie <DFields@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 4:51 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: FW: Budget

Alders,

The following message was received in the Council Office inbox.

Best,
Debbie Fields
Program Assistant 2
Common Council Office
608-266-4297

From: Jerry Darda <jerryxdarda@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 4:11 PM
To: council <council@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Budget

You don't often get email from jerryxdarda@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Madison Alders

Please consider serious cuts to the Community Development Division proposed budget before going to referendum at a time when MMSD is doing the same.

In addition there are other areas to cut such as the police oversight group which do nothing!

And make some common sense judgements distinguishing WANTS from NEEDS. Don't cut basics, police, fire, trash, etc. and don't threaten use with across the board cuts to these basics services when you have significant Wants available to cut most notably in the CDD.

And thanks to alder Vidaver for her transparency, timely, and regular communications.

Jerry & Bonnie Darda

From: [Brian King](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Against Tax Increase
Date: Thursday, August 8, 2024 7:39:11 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from brian king5@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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The city is gradually pushing us away from being a resident here. We are retired on a fixed income. No pension or health insurance subsidy by former employers do we enjoy. City, School and County property taxes as a proportion of our income have gone up every year that we have lived here - over 10 years. Get on with slimming down the city government. No tax increase or school referendum will get our support.

From: [Josh Olson](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Raising the Levy Limit is a Must
Date: Thursday, August 8, 2024 7:45:06 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jo.olson03@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Alders,

After reviewing the potential cuts proposed by city agencies (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/2024-08-05/update-on-2025-budget-process>), seeing other cities struggling with increased operating budgets and similarly going to referendum, and reviewing the data showing inflation and home values being markedly up compared to property taxes I've been convinced that we need to raise the levy limit.

It's not our fault that the State placed restrictions on property taxes. It's not our fault that we succeed compared to other cities, towns, and villages in Wisconsin so we receive less state funding. But we have to play within the existing rules.

There are only a few items on the budget cutting list I'm only mildly okay with cutting. Many of these would make me very upset, some of them are non-negotiable with how I live. It is worth a \$200 increase in property taxes a year to ensure we don't lose those services.

For alders that are looking for solutions to budget restrictions, the housing shortage, and rising property taxes that people with fixed incomes are worried about affording: let's build more housing, specifically small and more inexpensive housing. The City itself can't build it all, but we would do ourselves a great service in allowing developers (big and small) find opportunities to build Missing Middle homes to upgrade our low density, high maintenance cost single family detached homes that don't fit well in a city. That means updating the zoning codes so we can build more in traditionally SFH-only districts, which are bleeding us dry (see https://datarocks.github.io/madison_parcel_data/). If someone can turn a large, 5 bedroom SFH with only 2 occupants looking to downsize into a new duplex or triplex, let's make it easy for them to do that. And let's ensure the people looking to downsize have options so they can stay in the neighborhood too. That means increasing all kinds of housing supply and it means relying less on "planned and finished development" of communities and more dynamic, adaptable growth.

If we do this, if we build more in Madison with homes that thicken our neighborhoods, increasing quality of life, we can also make a more financially resilient city.

Please raise the levy limit and please look towards making a more prosperous city by letting people build more. Thank you.

Josh Olson

From: [hregnier](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: property tax increase, again
Date: Thursday, August 8, 2024 7:54:40 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from hsoregnier@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Please help us understand how, as retirees who worked for over 35 years and are on fixed incomes, are supposed to come up with well over \$1,000 per month to cover property taxes with the amount constantly increasing. And why are our property taxes so much higher than almost any other city in the U.S.? This system is absolutely not working and we are constantly asked to approve property tax increases to fund schools. Where is the money going? How does it compare to places like Cambridge, Massachusetts where property values are very high but property taxes are 75% LOWER?

I am happy to pay my fair share of taxes but there seems to be no end in sight here with no explanation as to why our property taxes are among the very highest in the country.

Thank you for reading -

Henny Regnier