

From: [tom Beck](#)
To: [Rummel, Marsha](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Re: Over budget \$\$
Date: Thursday, August 22, 2024 12:07:09 PM

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

Also cut mayor's travel budget to \$1,000. No Dubai trip's and Green energy crap.
Thanks,
Tom

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

On Aug 8, 2024, at 4:08 PM, <cnse55@yahoo.com> wrote:

Thanks,
Tom

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

On Aug 8, 2024, at 3:50 PM, Rummel, Marsha
<district6@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

I agree the budget is a city wide issue. All alders probably read your email and follow up email but per our custom no one is obligated to respond unless we know the emailer is one of our constituents. I was just trying to help you get an acknowledgement.

Regards-

Marsha

From: tom Beck <cnse55@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 3:08 PM
To: Rummel, Marsha <district6@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Over budget \$\$

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dist 15, but issues are pertaining to the whole city.

Thanks,
Tom

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

On Aug 8, 2024, at 2:54 PM, Rummel, Marsha
<district6@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Hi Tom-

When you share your aldermanic district or street address, the alder who represents you is expected to acknowledge receipt of your email and your suggestions/concerns.

Thanks-

Marsha

From: tom Beck <cnse55@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 2:42 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Over budget \$\$

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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

<cense55@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
<cense55@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
<cense55@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: [Jon Jon](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Shame on You.....
Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 7:55:30 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from dadyo961@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Absolutely shameful that this amendment proposed by the mayor has passed and is moving forward, especially given little opportunity for comment.

Shoving this amendment down residents' throats is despicable. Many of us are on very limited income in these trying times of hyperinflation.

Do your jobs and make the tough decisions to live within your/our means!

From: [David Oleniczak](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: City of Madison Budget Suggestion
Date: Thursday, August 22, 2024 1:27:51 PM

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

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Hello,

I'd like to thank you all for doing such an incredible job. You certainly don't get paid enough to take your positions seriously. I am grateful for everything the city does and would like to think I'm very on top of local issues. Here's a few suggestions:

- 1) Flat rate parking rate increases ACROSS the entire city. This would help immensely and not stifle economic activity in certain areas like the "localized" rate increases are sure to do. I ran the numbers and thought \$1.80 to \$2/hour across the city would be appropriate.
- 2) Delaying the construction of the new transitional housing off of Bartillion Drive. It may be too late for this, but I originally thought the old Madison Plaza Hotel or another area closer to East Washington would be appropriate. A place with a communal area and kitchen, coupled with privacy for men and women alike, along with a secured front entry and proximity to a grocery store and the new BRT/busses on East Washington seemed like it would have been a better spend to explore that option instead of building a brand new facility. I've struggled with being in transition in the past. Creating an environment too inviting where I don't have the social folks and services to support me getting on my feet seems like it would only slow progress towards my independence.

I fully believe these two changes could have balanced the budget. I still believe there is an answer somewhere within these thoughts.

- 3) Another small thought is copies at the library. \$.10/copy seems way too cheap and I don't think anyone would oppose an increase to slightly offset some increases in spending needs.

I'd hate to see the city have to cut staffing 5% or other services. I have a ton of other potential suggestions but don't want to be annoying. Thanks and keep up the good work.

Regards,
Dave

From: [Mike Roach](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Cap Times](#); [County Board Recipients@countyofdane.com](#); [Isthmus Davidoff](#)
Cc: [Dani Maxwell](#); [dmoe@madison.com](#); [Dean Mosiman](#); [News nbc15](#); [Channel 3 News](#)
Subject: -- Madison's property taxes are five times (5X), higher than that of Colorado Springs, CO, but why such a large difference?
Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 9:16:50 AM
Attachments: [Screenshot_20240602-063120.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mikeroachfox9@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

From: **Mike Roach** <mikeroachfox9@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jun 13, 2024, 4:22 PM

Subject: -----Peter, Madison's property taxes are five times (5X), higher than that of Colorado Springs, CO, but why such a large difference?

To: Peter Carstensen <pcarste@gmail.com>

----- Madison's property taxes are five times (5X), higher than that of Colorado Springs, CO, but why such a large difference?

However, Colorado Springs sales tax is 8.2% and Madison it's 5.5%

But still, why such a big difference?



LI Referen... Yesterday



to me ▾

Hello,

Here is the information that you requested.

The property tax rate in El Paso County, encompassing the city of Colorado Springs, CO is .31%.

The property tax rate in Madison, WI is 1.61%.

Best,

Sean

Librarian

From: [Sandy Schick](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Property Tax Referencum
Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 3:18:27 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sswinko123@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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WHY CAN'T THERE BE A CITY OF MADISON TAX CREATED?

That would be a lot fairer instead of burdening property owners only; everyone that buys goods and services in Madison can pay. Those that are rich can afford to spend more so the proportion would be equalized. The only items that would not be taxed is food.

This just sucks. Hopefully, eventually, the Democrats will dominate and the portion of money due Madison would increase back to where it should be.

From: [Fields, Debbie](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: FW: Media press releases need revision
Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 9:30:10 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: J W <madcitymail@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 7:14 AM
To: council <council@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Media press releases need revision

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

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

nefactors of the metro and social programs.

We wholeheartly support infrastructure expenditures, running of city services and jobs, as long as you are within budget. Fluff and pork barrel spending for pet programs too, IF WE HAVE THE MONEY! We support taxation to have a safe, clean and functional city...but we are not responsible to be our brother paycheck and keeper, UNLESS WE HAVE THE REVENUES TO DO SO. You obviously do not!

Maybe if we had more money in our pockets, we could go out to eat 2 or 3 times a week, shop on weekends for clothes and stuff like Americans do...and that generates sales taxes. When we do see owners and managers of businesses we used to frequent, they ask where we have been, we tell them its not in our BUDGET!

You seem convinced everyones income has kept up or surpassed the CPI the past 5 years, you would be wrong for the majority, and add inflation, we are sinking...most people feel poorer, because they are. We have a consistent budget shortfall, but have no choice but to adjust...how about the city?

There appears to be a public relations media blitz by the city administration to forcefully influence the passing of their budget shortfall in November per referendum.

That is fine and expected, but please stop showing whiney public employees feeling potential morale issues and veil threats of if-then budget cut threats, if you have to cut to pay for your overspending and lack of fiscal constraint, then austerity efforts might be necessary.

But that is your fault! You do not spend more than incoming revenues. And you do not report a 22 billion dollar budget crisis when it's a crisis or poor management. Maybe if Madison politicians over the course of the last several decades wouldn't have angered the opposition in state government with their bully tactics, they'd get more cooperation and state funds!

So call it budget shortfall to meet all the city projects, pet projects and social programs the ADMINISTRATION decides are needed and must have without asking the people who pay for it. It must be wonderful to sit in meetings with your Starbucks and hash over spending others' money.

If we approve this vote, what happens next year, the next year and the future? Learn to live within your budget like we do! And this just encourages and enables the city to keep overspending because we know 51 percent will vote for it...most of them who pay little or no taxes, are here for 4 years then move away...and are the best

We stopped shopping for fun, stopped going out to eat, cut our food consumption in half but pay as much or more, cut back on medications, to pay for taxes and all the other rising costs of living...do you care, NO! We don't want charity, we don't and won't ever use a social program or go to food banks. We are too hard working and too proud, unlike most of the people with hands out in this city. Yes, Madison was a nice place to live, but that is dying fast, thanks to people not being able to enjoy living here. Taxes heard from all the taxing authorities not too mention income taxes, are driving us broke—thank you for that!

In summary, please ask nicely, don't use bully, guilt ridden or veil threat press releases to gain your approval. Remember if you get a majority approval of 51 percent, the other 49 percent who voted won't too, so listen to them. They have spoken too, so a middle ground needs to be met and administration should ALWAYS balance and live within the budget, period.

We know the city council and leaders are more liberal politically, we are dead center moderates, and know many on both sides of the political fence, that's their right. But cooperation and listening and acting on behalf of both sides is only true and fair way of doing city business...stop cutting our personal quality of life here to support yours.

Thank you for your time, as we drive down Mineral Point road, we are looking forward to the traffic disasters that are to come and paying 7 million a year just to maintain this new transit system that does not come near our neighborhood...but we don't miss it either.

From: [JW](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Fwd: Please consider single family homes and not just developments
Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 11:31:34 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from phoenixrising1016@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Alders and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

I am writing to express my concerns about the direction of housing development in Madison since the mayor has taken office, and the council who has supported these efforts. It seems that apartment developments are springing up everywhere, yet there appears to be little focus on creating affordable single-family homes. This issue is one that deeply affects many residents, myself included, and I believe it requires the attention of the City Council.

I previously reached out to all the alders on February 22, 2024, to share these concerns, and while I did receive a response from Karen Kapusta-Pofahl with links to homeownership assistance programs, I felt that my concerns were not fully addressed. The response did not seem to consider the broader issue of affordable housing for single families and the overwhelming number of apartments being constructed. I fear that the voices of many in our community, who share my concerns, are being overlooked.

Most importantly, prominent figures like Kamala Harris and Tammy Baldwin have highlighted the need to stimulate the construction of single-family starter homes. Other states, such as Colorado, are already implementing programs to make homes and multifamily condos more affordable and accessible. I would like to share the story of a friend, Ashley, who suffered a traumatic brain injury that left her homeless. Through Colorado's programs, she was able to purchase a condo on a disability income, which has dramatically improved her quality of life. I believe similar initiatives could greatly benefit Madison's residents.

I would like to suggest that the city consider halting the financial incentives for developers focused on apartment buildings and instead invest in affordable single-family housing. The current trend of prioritizing apartment construction does not reflect the needs of most Madison residents. I am concerned that many of these new apartment buildings are managed by companies using AI to maximize profits, which can further distort the housing market, regardless of occupancy rates. I worked in Property Management, so I do have some direct knowledge of software that exists and is being used to price units in Madison.

Another issue of concern is the increasing trend of corporate developers and investors buying up single-family homes. Studies, such as those conducted by the Pew Research Trust, have shown that this trend has been growing since the last major recession, with corporate entities purchasing about 15% of homes sold. This is a troubling development, particularly in cities with promising growth and job rates, like Madison. When corporations control a significant portion of the housing market, it can drive up prices and reduce opportunities for individual homeownership, exacerbating the housing crisis.

I do applaud your efforts in increasing housing availability, but there are still significant challenges, especially for those who rely on programs like Section 8. Property management companies can still find ways to circumvent renting to Section 8 applicants unless they have voluntarily agreed to income-contingent terms, which is not always the case.

Finally, I would like to address the city's current budget shortfall. With the numerous new multimillion-dollar apartment buildings, one would assume that the resulting tax revenue would help bolster the city's finances. However, it seems that is not the case. I would appreciate if you could provide clarity on the budget shortfall and how much tax revenue these new developments are actually contributing. Understanding these numbers is crucial for ensuring that our city's resources are being allocated effectively and that development is truly benefiting our community.

I am kindly asking that the council reconsider the current approach to housing development in Madison. It is essential that we create opportunities for affordable homeownership and prevent our city from becoming dominated by high-rise apartments and corporate-owned properties. I would appreciate a response on what your plans are to address these concerns as I would assume you and the council are aware of them.

Sincerely,
Julia White

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

From: **J W** <phoenixrising1016@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Feb 22, 2024 at 12:14 PM

Subject: Re: Please consider single family homes and not just developments

To: Kapusta-Pofahl, Karen <KKapusta-Pofahl@cityofmadison.com>

I appreciate that, however that still doesn't solve the single family housing shortage. There aren't enough physical homes for the size of Madison and we're growing. The prices of homes

here are inflated so badly that the wages around here do not match the cost of living. I hear so many young people today saying they can't afford a home around here. Even couples. One of my coworkers has a small child and he can't even find a house and when he does the price is way too high and when a good price is found there are too many offers.

On Thu, Feb 22, 2024 at 12:02 PM Kapusta-Pofahl, Karen <KKapusta-Pofahl@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Dear Julia,

I saw your message and am sending over these links to City homeownership assistance programs.

City website: www.cityofmadison.com/homeloans

The City also supports Home Buyers Round Table <https://homebuyersroundtable.org/>

Best,

Karen

Karen Kapusta-Pofahl (she/they)

Chief of Staff



City of Madison • Office of the Common Council

Room 417, City-County Building

[210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.](http://210.Martin.Luther.King.Jr.Blvd)

[Madison, Wisconsin 53703](http://Madison.Wisconsin.53703)

Tel 608 261 9159 • *Fax* 608 267 8669

Email kkapusta-pofahl@cityofmadison.com

Web <https://www.cityofmadison.com/Council/>

In compliance with State public records law, the City of Madison retains copies of ALL email messages to and from this mailbox. Email messages may be released in response to appropriate open record requests.

From: J W <phoenixrising1016@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 11:31 AM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; council <council@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Please consider single family homes and not just developments

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I would like to address a major issue and it affects not just people in Madison, but in the surrounding areas. I am seeing all kinds of developments going up all over the place. While I applaud that, I don't see anything being said about the shortage of single family homes. We do have a serious housing crisis and the housing prices are very close to what you would find in big cities. In the case of building all these new developments, development companies agreed to only 5% of the units in those buildings are open to low-income. How does that solve the housing crisis when we also have a shortage of single family homes (SFA) and will continue until we start incentivising building homes and provide options for low to middle class residents?

You may want to consider how Denver is approaching this issue. One of my friends who has a disability was able to benefit from this program and she is living in the condo that Denver's program helped her buy. So it is possible for Madison to start looking at other options out there.

Also, one more thing I would like to add is that we also need to be more fiscally responsible and stop worrying about optics in Madison. Use the Public Market for example. Do we really need a public market? No. But the tax payers are paying for it whether we like it or not. And for what? Attraction that will help us build more culture in our community? That's exactly what was posted to a block on the Common Council's website. The fact of the matter is, everyone in this country is aware that Madison is about as progressive and cultural as you can get. With the UW and other universities and colleges in this town, we've been cultured for some time, and this city lets the whole world know we live in our bubble. I say that not to be snarky, but to put emphasis that a Public Market is an **accessory**, not a necessity.

If we want to be progressive, then we have to do what is right for the people who need it. Not bring a Public Market that the disadvantaged can't even afford to visit.

I think we all know that we desperately need to solve this housing crisis. Building a Public Market and apartments doesn't solve the problems this city faces, and that's half the battle. Access to education and training is another area to consider dispersing funds to before doing these "**pet projects**" that don't serve our community's needs.

One last thing....when I went to look for home ownership grants or assistance through the city, I couldn't find anything. I did find some pages on the website for the County of Dane haven't even been updated for nearly 4 years. There are still references to 2020 Funding Cycle being closed. Working in web design, not updating a page shows zero commitment to being open and transparent about solving the housing crisis. I'd like to hear some ideas moving forward and I truly hope this next budget cycle we start putting the welfare of our residents first and stop dumping money into unnecessary projects that could easily wait.

Thank you,

Julia White