



Posted by  
City of Madison Common Council

### Policy Overview

## Do you support the Madison Common Council allowing an alder to breastfeed on the floor during Council and committee meetings?

Policy added **2017-12-15**

Voting ends **2017-12-27**

16 opinions

154 votes

ALL RESPONDENTS:	<b>93.5 % (144) YES</b>	<b>6.5 % (10) NO</b>
Registered voters:	<b>89.0 % (65) YES</b>	<b>11.0 % (8) NO</b>

### Description

Ordinance - Amending Sections 2.31 and 33.01(9)(b) of the Madison General Ordinances to protect the right to breastfeed in the Council chambers and at committee meetings.

DRAFTER'S ANALYSIS: In a recent incident in another Wisconsin community, a member of the Common Council was denied the right to breastfeed her child, based on rules governing the Council chambers. This ordinance protects the right to breastfeed in the Madison Common Council chambers, as well as at meetings of City boards, commissions, and committees.

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The Common Council of the City of Madison do hereby ordain as follows:

1. Section 2.31 entitled "No Persons Allowed on Council Floor Except Members of Council" of the Madison General Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

"2.31 NO PERSONS ALLOWED ON COUNCIL FLOOR EXCEPT MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

No persons except members and officers of the Council or City Staff shall be allowed to come to the Council floor during the session of the Council without the permission of the presiding officer. The Council may designate certain seats in the rear of the Council Chambers for media. This section shall not apply to a child who is breastfeeding, nor shall it be interpreted to interfere with the right of breastfeeding in Council chambers, as protected by Wis. Stat. § 253.165 and Sec. 23.37, MGO."

2. Subdivision (b) of Subsection (9) entitled "Minutes and Rules of Procedures" of Section 33.01 entitled "Boards, Commissions, and Committees Procedures" of the Madison General Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

“(b) Boards, committees, and commissions may adopt rules of procedure. Such rules may not conflict with ordinances or resolutions of the Common Council. In case the Sub-unit does not adopt rules of procedure, it shall be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order, insofar as Robert’s Rules of Order does not conflict with ordinances or resolutions of the Common Council. Sub-units shall follow the procedure set forth in Sec. 2.21, MGO, on motions for reconsideration, and shall not modify this rule. A motion to reconsider shall not be in order before any sub-unit when the matter approved has been partially or fully carried out, including actions by City employees, or by the Council or another sub-unit of the City, by acting upon a recommendation made to the body. Sub-units shall review and make any changes in rules of procedure every two (2) years, which shall be filed with the City Clerk by July 1 of even-numbered years. Boards, commissions and committees shall not adopt rules of procedure that interfere with the right of breastfeeding as protected by Wis. Stat. § 253.165 and Sec. 23.37, MGO.”

## Opinions

### Edward Kuharski's opinion **FOR** (2 votes):

This should also apply to the public and to the mayor, clerk, city attorney and any other officials presiding or participating in Common Council meetings. Also any other city meetings.

### Anonymous user's opinion **FOR** (3 votes):

If a mother needs to nurse her child, she should be allowed to make that decision no matter where she is. The only reasonable restrictions I could see on breastfeeding would be if it were endangering someone's safety, which hardly seems the case here. I am puzzled that this is even an issue.

### Anonymous user's opinion **FOR** (0 votes):

How is this even an issue?

### Anonymous user's opinion **FOR** (2 votes):

This should never be a question. Breastfeeding should always be allowed.

### Anonymous user's opinion **FOR** (0 votes):

Madison Wisconsin likes to boast--especially in commissioned newspaper articles bought and paid for by certain consultants living in the area that are published in the Cap Times and other places like Business Insider via a company called Livability that it is a progressive place to live supporting equal rights--for everyone. If you are going to talk the talk and represent yourself as this you best walk the walk and not just put it in print, but SHOW IT. A no vote is in the wrong direction. As someone else said, how is this even an issue?

### Anonymous user's opinion **FOR** (3 votes):

Forbidding breastfeeding should be illegal, if it isn't already. Babies need to eat.

### Anonymous user's opinion **FOR** (0 votes):

Oh for Pete's sake! REALLY? IN MADISON? How should Madison handle breastfeeding? Just the same way you handle bottle feeding. Smile and be happy that babies are being fed. But seriously -- we aren't going there, are we? ARE WE?? If we do, you can expect massive pushback. Honestly this makes me want to scream and/or vomit.

### Anonymous user's opinion **FOR** (1 vote):

Breastfeeding is a basic need of families and mothers with babies. I would hope that the city is brave enough to walk the talk of inclusion and equity. Furthermore, as a part of public service and a public workforce, I believe it is your job to help normalize the act of giving life to a human and help remove needless stigma around one of the most natural processes of human existence.

### Anonymous user's opinion **FOR** (0 votes):

People have babies and babies are needy. If this makes life easier for people then why not.

**Anonymous user's opinion FOR (2 votes):**

We need to stop putting ridiculous boundaries in place that make it difficult for mothers to work and serve.

**Anonymous user's opinion FOR (1 vote):**

Since there is no way for an alder man to be impacted the same way, this is how systemic misogyny is entered in the workplace and government.

**Anonymous user's opinion FOR (0 votes):**

We need more diversity among elected officials, including women. By allowing breastfeeding mothers to be fully present in city council functions, we are taking a step towards supporting that diversity.

**Mark Hazelbaker's opinion FOR (0 votes):**

Breastfeeding is a personal choice by the mother. The government has no role in deciding whether or not a mother should feed her baby with her own breast milk. I answered yes to the question, but it is none of my business or anyone else. It is a matter of personal choice.

**Kristen Fish's opinion AGAINST (0 votes):**

There is a time and a place for everything. If the child needs to be fed during the meeting, the alder should excuse herself and feed the child.

**Anonymous user's opinion AGAINST (0 votes):**

Breast feeding could be allowed if done with discretion showing respect for not only yourself but to those around you

**Anonymous user's opinion AGAINST (0 votes):**

I'm not against the breastfeeding, I'm against bringing a child into an arena which doesn't need the disruption.

## All Other Communities

### City of Madison Common Council

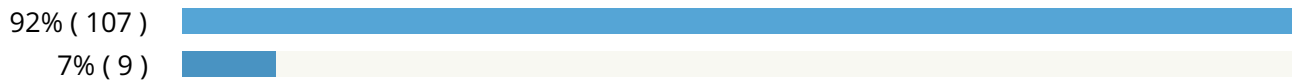
#### All respondents (154)



#### Registered Voters in City of Madison Common Council (71)



#### Live in City of Madison Common Council (116) - Self-reported



#### Subscribers to City of Madison Common Council (2091)



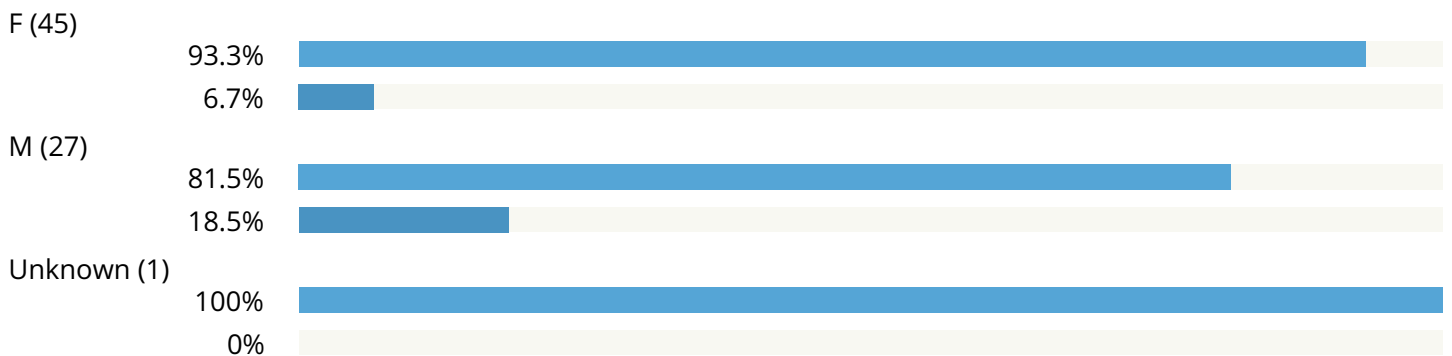
#### Registered Voters (73)



#### Abstained (0)

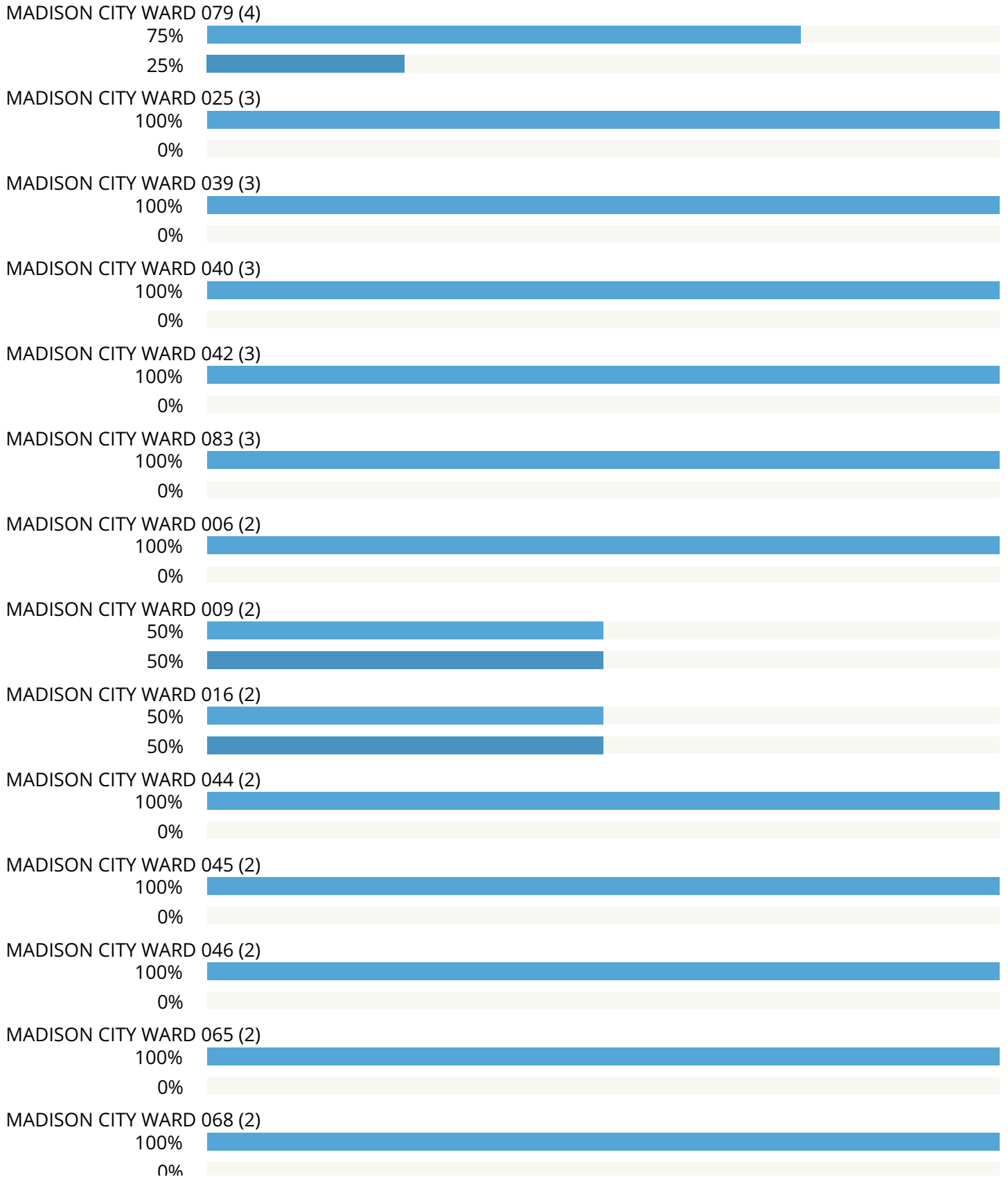


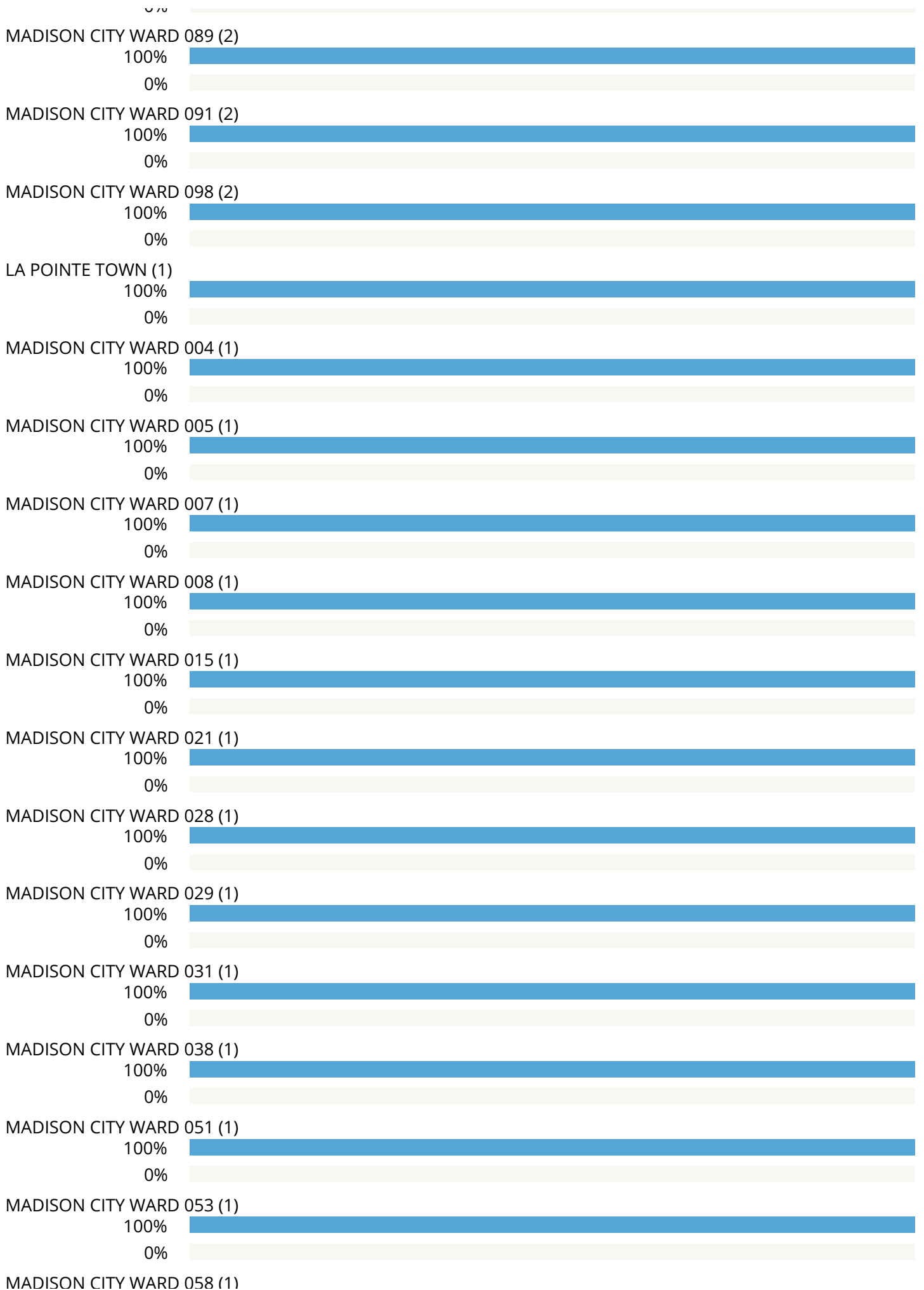
### Voters\_Gender Breakdown 73 Registered voters

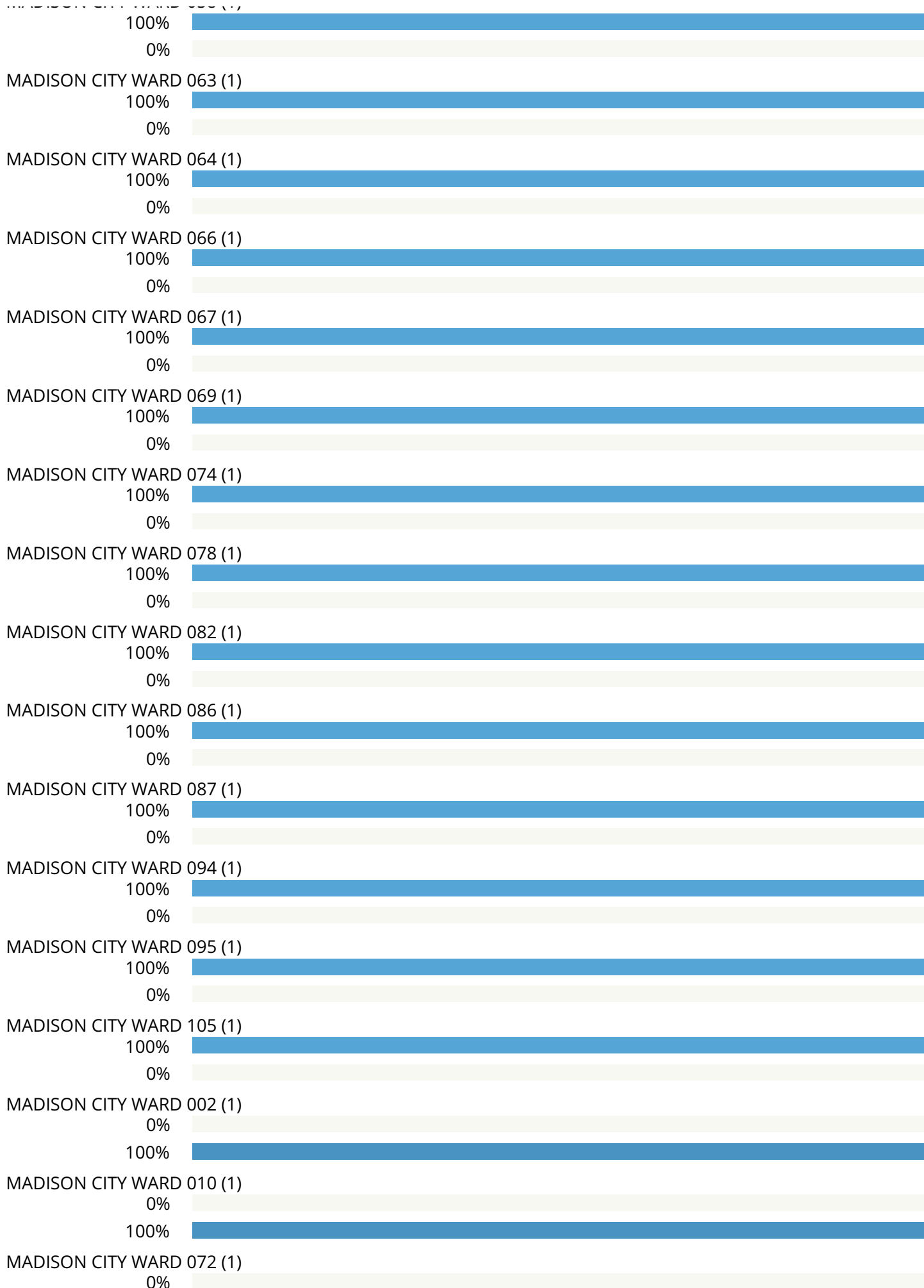




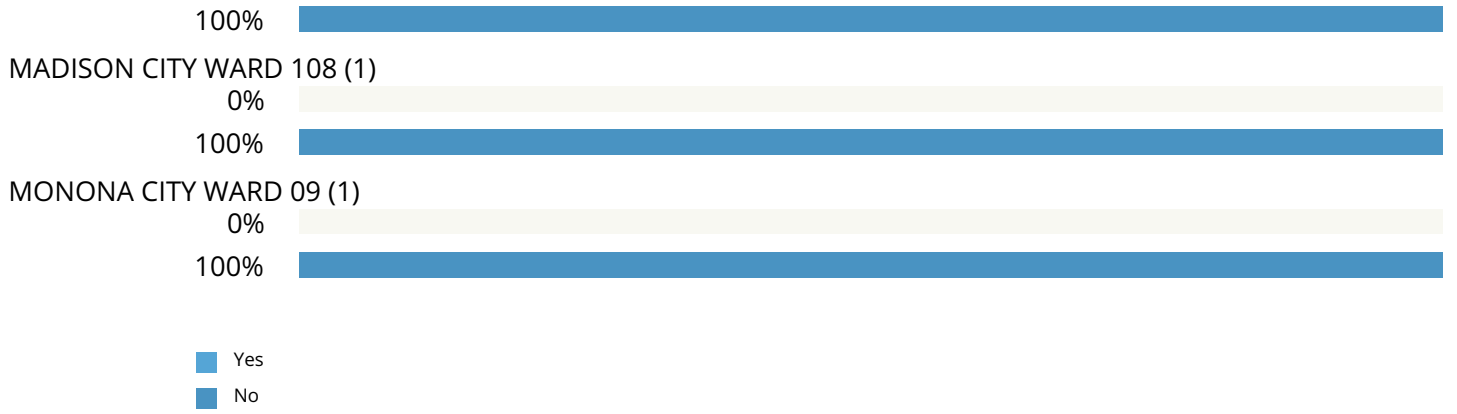
Precinct Breakdown  
73 Registered voters











age\_range Breakdown

73 Registered voters

