



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes - Approved ETHICS BOARD

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?
Who does not have a voice at the table?
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

5:00 PM

Virtual

The City of Madison is holding the Madison Ethics Board meeting in virtual format.

Written Comments: You can send comments on agenda items to ethicsboard@cityofmadison.com

Register for Public Comment:

- Register to speak at the meeting
- Register to answer questions
- Register in support or opposition of an agenda item (without speaking)

If you want to speak at this meeting you must register. You can register at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/MeetingRegistration>. When you register to speak, you will be sent an email with the information you will need to join the virtual meeting.

Watch the Meeting: If you would like to join the meeting as an observer, please visit <https://www.cityofmadison.com/watchmeetings>.

Listen by Phone: (877) 853-5257 (Toll Free) Webinar ID: 874 9628 5061

Call to Order/Roll Call

Vice Chair Eileen Harrington calls the meeting to order with a quorum present.

Staff present: Assistant City Attorney Amber McReynolds (Office of the City Attorney), Rebecca Braselton (Office of the City Attorney)

Present - Travis R. Austin, Heather Daniels, Joanna E. Frasch, Vice Chair Mary Eileen Harrington, Alder Michael E. Verveer

Absent - Nadine C. Mobley

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve January 30, 2025, Ethics Board Meeting minutes made by Travis Austin. Motion seconded by Heather Daniels. Motion to approve minutes passed by voice vote. All present members vote to approve, no objections.

Public Comment

1. [90433](#) Public comment

No public comment.

Disclosures and Recusals

Travis Austin disclosure regarding Agenda Item 5: City of Madison's Elected and Appointed Official Code of Ethical Conduct. Austin says he made public comments regarding updates to the code of conduct, and that were his own personal comments/opinions and not representative of the Ethics Board.

New Business

2. Elections for Chair and Vice Chair until June 30, 2026

Travis Austin nominates Eileen Harrington for Chair. Heather Daniels seconds the nomination. No other nominations for Chair.

Some discussion on whether a second is needed for nominations, determination is that it is likely not needed, but there is no harm in seconding a nomination.

Voice vote: All present members vote aye. No nays. Eileen Harrington is elected Chair.

Chair Eileen Harrington nominates Travis Austin for Vice Chair. No other nominations for Vice Chair.

Voice vote: All present members vote aye. No nays. Travis Austin is elected Vice Chair.
3. [90212](#) Amending Section 3.35(12)(a) of the Madison General Ordinances related to Ethics Complaints to clarify who may submit a complaint to the Ethics Board.

Alder Michael Verveer moves to recommend adoption of the ordinance amendment to Common Council. Motion seconded by Joanna Frasch.

Motion passes by voice vote, all present members vote aye.
4. [90443](#) Review and direct City Attorney's Office regarding Ethics Board Procedures

ACA McReynolds presents draft of proposed changes: primarily to change rules of procedure to make the language gender inclusive and generally easier to read. Asks if the Board recommends substantive changes.

Discussion.

Options summarized by Chair Harrington after discussion: Modify procedural rules as edited in redlined draft, with understanding that ACA McReynolds will continue reviewing and may have further edits or amendments to propose for the June Ethics Board Meeting. This would expedite compliance with Common Counsel's directive that the subunits' rules be amendment to include gender

inclusive language.

Vice Chair Austin moves to accept the amendments to the Ethics Board Rules and Procedures as currently redlined by ACA McReynolds, and direct the City Attorney's Office to continue developing further recommendations for proposal adoption at the June Ethics Board meeting, consistent with the board's discussions on the item.

Heather Daniels seconds the motion.

Voice vote: all present members vote aye. No nays.

Motion is adopted.

5. [90444](#) Annual reminder of the current "elected and official code of conduct" and summary of potential updates.

ACA McReynolds summarizes. The Common Council is working on proposed amendments to the code, potentially approving them in November 2025. Vice Chair Austin points to Legistar file 87483 for reference.

6. [90445](#) City Attorney training on Ethics Code MGO 3.35

ACA McReynolds summaries. City of Madison Organizational Development, and Human Resources, is asking for new videos to onboard and train members of Boards, Commissions, and Committees (BCCs), one of which will be an updated Ethics Code training video. When finished, the Ethics Board will review the video. Updates at subsequent meetings.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Travis Austin moves to adjourn. Seconded by Heather Daniels.

Voice vote: all vote aye.

Meeting adjourned.