

From: [Julie Banghart](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Cc: [Mark Banghart](#); [Julie Banghart](#)
Subject: Agenda #4 amendment to increase the number of chickens from 4 to 10 in Madison, WI
Date: Friday, March 10, 2023 12:42:49 PM

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The primary rationale in the drafter's analysis is to help people have a more viable egg-producing flock, since 4 chickens isn't really enough to produce eggs for a family. Given global food security concerns, this is important in thinking about creating resilient food systems.

We support the admendment to increase the number of chickens from 4 to 10 in Madison, WI

Mark Banghart

Julie Banghart

514 Caldy Place

Madison, wi 53711

608-630-4771

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Julie Banghart](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Cc: [Julie Banghart](#); [Mark Banghart](#)
Subject: Agenda #4 75678 Support
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 10:56:14 AM
Attachments: [Freezer.eml](#)
[Run.eml](#)
[Feeder 2.eml](#)

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We support the recommended action to adopt with Planning Commission condition to increase the number of backyard chickens to 8!

Since chickens lay eggs for about 4 years this allows to have a rotating flock to support the owners egg needs.

The concern John Hausbeck voiced about mice and rats being attracted is not a concern since chicken feed is kept in enclosed containers to stay fresh. Also, chickens are fed in their enclosed run feed. If they are in the backyard, they eat grass and bugs. Please view attached pictures of feeders and run.

Chicken owners are usually with their chickens when free ranging in the backyard, protecting their pets from hawks and other predators. Otherwise the chickens are in their protected run and coop.

The chickens have very low noise sounds and go to bed at twilight and get up at dawn in their coop. Unlike dogs that bark during the day and night.

Thank you for listening and please approve the amended ordinance to increase the number of backyard chickens to 8!

Mark and Julie Banghart
juliebanghart@outlook.com

From: [John Sanchez](#)
To: [John Sanchez](#)
Subject: Feeder
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 12:50:02 PM



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Julia Sanchez](#)
To: [Julia Sanchez](#)
Subject: Post
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 12:50:43 PM



Sent from my iPhone

From: [John Sandhu](#)
To: [John Sandhu](#)
Subject: Feeder 2
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 12:51:39 PM



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Courtney Bolinson](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Support for change to Madison chicken ordinance
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 4:04:16 PM

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Hello!

I'm writing in support of the change to the Madison chicken ordinance from 4 to 10 chickens. I wasn't able to attend Monday's meeting, but wanted to voice my support. Please let me know if there is another action I should take to make sure my opinion has been documented.

Thanks very much,
Courtney

--

Courtney Bolinson
she/her/hers
Evaluator | Systems Thinker | Facilitator
www.courtneybolinson.com
(c) +1 608-421-0298

From: [Elizabeth First](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Increasing Chicken Limit from 4 to 10 in City of Madison
Date: Saturday, March 11, 2023 12:20:02 PM

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Dear Members of Plan Commission and Alders,

I want to lend my support to raising the allowable number of chickens from 4 to 10. I would attend the meeting Monday night, but my husband is having surgery at UW Hospital on Tuesday, so I cannot be there.

I have been a backyard chicken owner for three years. I have a well maintained coop, enclosed run, and four healthy chickens.

We have a household of five but we still need to purchase eggs, because four chickens, especially hens that are three years old, do not lay enough eggs to meet my family's needs. I would like to be able to have more than four chickens so I could introduce a few younger hens to my flock every few years without having to "cull" my older girls.

I use sand in my coop and run which makes cleaning up chicken poop as easy as cleaning a cat box. I compost the manure in my regular backyard compost enclosure and eventually use it in my gardens. I bury the droppings under the top layer of compost and there is no smell of manure and no flies.

In addition, I save approximately 10 pounds of compostable food scraps from going into the landfill each school DAY, as I bring home the school lunch scraps from the school at which I work. My hens love the bits of bread, fruits and veggies and really think they have won the lottery if they find pasta or a bit of meat. The children love contributing their scraps and ask lots of questions about the chickens.

I am happy to answer (try to answer) any questions you have about having backyard chickens.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth First
417 MINEAU PKWY
Madison
608-695-2015

From: [Elizabeth First](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for Backyard Chickens from Lane First, Grade 6
Date: Saturday, March 11, 2023 12:32:24 PM

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

Lane R. First
417 Mineau Pkwy
Madison, Wisconsin 53711
March 10, 2023

Dear Madison Common Council members,
My name is Lane First. I recently attended my first city meeting with Boy Scout Troop 16. I heard you were considering increasing the backyard chicken limit, so I'm writing to give you my opinion on the matter. My family owns four chickens so I think this legislation is a great idea, especially because right now we are in an egg shortage. You might not know this but after three or so years chickens stop laying eggs, so when that happens we need to get more, however, we keep the old ones, so increasing the limit would help us.

Sincerely,
Lane First
Grade 6

From: [Nicholas Leete](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Cc: [Sheena Tesch](#)
Subject: Chicken Ordinance Amendment Public Comment - Legistar 75678
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:52:11 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[Regional Ag and Food Sovereignty Working Group Comment RE Legistar #75678.pdf](#)

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

Dear Alders and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,
Attached you will find comments from the Madison Food Policy Council's working group on Regional Agriculture and Food Sovereignty. Thank you for your attention.

Nicholas Leete (*he/him/his*)
Gardens Network Co-Manager
2702 International Lane, Suite 200
Madison, WI 53704
Rooted
Cell: 608-236-3478
nicholas@rootedwi.org
<http://www.danegardens.net>
www.rootedwi.org



TO: Madison Common Council and Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway

FROM: Madison Food Policy Council - Regional Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Work Group
Nicholas Leete, Chair of MFPC, Sheena Tesch, Chair of RAFS Work Group

RE: Legistar #75678 Proposed Zoning Amendment: Keeping Chickens, Increase to Ten

DATE: March 20, 2023

Dear Madison Alders,

The Regional Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Working Group of the Madison Food Policy Council was established in 2020 to focus on improve food access during the pandemic by bolstering opportunities for regional agriculture and creating support structures for food sovereignty¹ practices to foster a resilient and inclusive local food system.

The Regional Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Work Group concurs with the Plan Commission's recommendation of a change to the city ordinance that would set the maximum number of chickens to 8 (instead of 4 for households and 6 for institutions, as is currently the case).

We particularly want to call attention to this excerpt from the Zoning recommendation regarding this Amendment²:

The most common complaint about chicken keeping is about roosters. When Zoning inspectors investigate, it is not uncommon for inspectors to notice five or six chickens present, but since the complaint is about a rooster, they have not typically required a reduction in numbers of chickens. It seems that slightly over four chickens is commonly accepted, because we receive few complaints about numbers of chicken in this range. Complaints about too many birds are often about some factor or impact the birds are creating, such as noise, waste, property maintenance, and concerns for the condition of the birds – it varies.

We also want to highlight the life cycle of laying hens that was noted in Public Comments to the Plan Commission,³ i.e., in order to consistently have four hens actively laying eggs, a household will need to periodically rotate younger birds into their group, as the beginning and end of a hens' life will be non-producing.

According officials at Public Health Madison and Dane County consulted as we prepared this memo, an increase in chickens presents clear resiliency benefits. However, there are several other factors related to an increase in chickens that should be considered:

1. A relatively small increase in the number of backyard chickens would increase risks for avian influenza transmission to humans, but only by a very small amount. Risks are much higher for those interacting with large-scale livestock operations.

2. In the event that a single avian flu case in poultry in the city is confirmed, the standard response by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection is to depopulate all flocks within a 1-10 mile radius, depending on the outbreak. So an increased number of birds kept at home could lead to an increase in the number of birds that would need to be culled and a greater impact on the families keeping those animals. In a period of higher global avian flu transmission, risks of a single case in poultry arriving in Wisconsin are higher than other periods.
3. Adding or expanding agricultural practices to properties with small footprints can create additional food storage and waste elimination issues, both of which can attract pests such as rodents to an area.

Balancing these benefits and concerns further supports a modest increase, at most, rather than some higher ceiling.

Finally, a further note regarding the end of a bird's life cycle: A rural chicken keeper will cull, slaughter and process non-laying or aged hens. We recommend that as long as slaughter remains prohibited in most districts of the city, guidelines for alternate disposal of non-laying hens and chicken carcasses should be considered for eventual inclusion in the ordinance in order to ensure proper attention to the sanitary effects of urban poultry throughout their life cycle.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments,

Nicholas Leete, Gardens Network Co-Manager for Rooted and Chair of MFPC
nicholas@rootedwi.org, Cell: 608-236-3478

Sheena Tesch, Deputy Director of North Madison Programs and Director of Gardens Network,
Chair of RAFS Work Group
sheena@rootedwi.org, 608.240.0409

Footnotes:

1. Food sovereignty is defined by the U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance as “the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations.”

2. <https://madison.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11706307&GUID=2ADDFDD7-1742-4523-B09C-D71F0D725816>

3. <https://madison.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11708239&GUID=089F078C-56BF-4DBF-B97E-A119D7CC982F>

From: [Jon Jon](#)
To: [All Alders](#); pcccomments@cityofmadison.com
Subject: Council Agenda Item #4 - #75678 Backyard Chickens
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 4:35:48 PM

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

I am writing in support of increasing the allowable number of chickens a household can have within the City of Madison.

In my opinion, increasing the number of birds from 4 to even 10 is very reasonable.

I do not own chickens but am familiar with their needs. I have an Agricultural Engineering-B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The following reasons support increasing the number of birds allowed:

- A larger flock would allow the rotation of egg layers through the flock without having to resort to culling older non-egg laying birds. Hens only lay eggs for a relatively short period of time.
- Space requirements going from 4 to 10 birds really isn't that much more. Four birds require about 6'x2' (12 S.F.) of space. On the other hand, 10 birds require 6'x5' (30 S.F.) of space (Ref: Midwest Plan Service Structures and Environment Handbook).
- Chickens are actually pretty quiet animals, especially without roosters. They are in fact quieter than many barking dogs in the neighborhood.
- Responsible owners tend not to let their birds free-range in their yards due to the possibility of predation (from dogs, cats, hawks, fox, coyotes, racoons, etc.).
- Use of proper feeding systems does not create food spillage which could attract mice and rats.
- As supply chain issues and bird flu cause egg prices to sky rocket, locally sourced eggs for home owner use should be encouraged, not discouraged.

Respectfully submitted,
John Olson
540 Caldys Pl

From: [Leslie Schroeder](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Support Plan Commission agenda item #4 meeting 3/13/23
Date: Saturday, March 11, 2023 3:17:39 PM

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

To Alders and Plan Commission Members,

I am writing in support of agenda item #4, increase in allowed number of chickens.

The difference in impact from keeping four versus ten chickens in required coop structure, outdoor space, and potential for noise are all negligible. The benefits of doubling or more the access to marvelous healthy local eggs, is significant.

I urge you to please support increasing the number of allowed chickens to ten.

thank you for your consideration,
Leslie Schroeder
854 Jenifer Street

From: [Olivia Williams](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Please support the chicken ordinance
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:00:13 PM

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

Hi Plan Commission and alders,

I fully support the ordinance proposal to increase the number of allowed chickens from 4 to 10.

Food security is a real and escalating issue, and growing food in our backyards, including chicken eggs, is a basic way to increase local food security and resilience in the face of climate shocks and food production/distribution challenges we are likely to continue to see more and more of in the coming decades.

I've worked on small farms with chickens and have friends with backyard chickens, and what I know is that a hen at the prime age for laying might produce 200 eggs per year, but will likely only produce that many eggs for 3-4 years, and then her egg production will decline and eventually stop, though she might still live to be 8 or 10 years old. For people like me who eat 2 eggs a day, 4 chickens is barely enough for 1 person, let alone a whole household. A family of four really needs about 12 chickens if they regularly eat eggs, and especially if they keep their older hens alive.

Most people do keep their older hens alive because chickens make great pets! They have such interesting and unique personalities, can be very friendly and sweet, and are great entertainment for kids. Unlike dogs, hens don't bark or bite, and being able to keep them outside means you don't have to worry about floor or furniture damage like with a cat or dog, so they can be really ideal pets for some families (plus you get eggs!) So if you love your chickens and keep them after they stop laying, you eventually get to a point where you would want to add more chickens to the flock in order to have eggs to eat. The current restriction on the number of chickens makes continuing to produce eggs quite difficult.

I really would support eliminating the restriction on the number of hens completely, as we have public health ordinances for maintaining sanitary residential areas, and once you have a pen and a backyard flock, the upkeep of a chicken pen is not much more work if you add more chickens. A household may need quite a few more than 10 chickens to really produce enough eggs for 4-8 people.

thanks for your time,
Olivia