

To: Common Council Organizational Committee
From: Paul Malischke
Date: November 1, 2009

Subject: **CCOC Agenda item 6** Amending Secs. 2.01(4) and 33.01(10)(b) of the Madison General Ordinances to prohibit Common Council, Board, Commission and Committee meetings on any local, state or national election day.

This ordinance change will help free the clerk's office from the task of preparing for a Common Council meeting during the very busy time preceding and on Election Day. It will also help all committee members find time to vote on Election Day.

However, consider excluding any special elections for a referendum or any special election to fill a vacancy. These might be scheduled with only a few months notice, and it would be very inconvenient to cancel previously scheduled meetings. I suggest wording as follows:

Prohibit meetings "on days of a regularly scheduled spring primary, spring election, September primary, or general election."

The above terms are based upon definitions in chapter 5 of the state statutes:

5.02 Definitions. In chs. 5 to 12, unless the context requires otherwise:

(5) "General election" means the election held in even-numbered years on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November to elect United States senators, representatives in congress, presidential electors, state senators, representatives to the assembly, district attorneys, state officers other than the state superintendent and judicial officers, and county officers other than supervisors and county executives.

(18) "September primary" means the primary held the 2nd Tuesday in September to nominate candidates to be voted for at the general election, and to determine which candidates for state offices other than district attorney may participate in the Wisconsin election campaign fund.

(21) "Spring election" means the election held on the first Tuesday in April to elect judicial, educational and municipal officers, nonpartisan county officers and sewerage commissioners.

(22) "Spring primary" means the primary held on the 3rd Tuesday in February to nominate nonpartisan candidates to be voted for at the spring election and to express preferences for the person to be the presidential candidate for each party in a year in which electors for president and vice president are to be elected.

(19) "Special election" means any election, other than those described in subs. (5), (18), (21) and (22), to fill vacancies or to conduct a referendum.