

## Outcome 1: Increased access to City Hall

*Why this Outcome Matters*

Indicator: Council is too large to effectively govern

Data Source:

### **SIZE OF CITY COUNCILS IN SELECTED NORTHERN CITIES POPULATION BETWEEN 200,000 AND 600,000**

|    | CITY               | 2016<br>POPULATION | SIZE OF<br>COUNCIL | POPULATION<br>PER COUNCIL<br>MEMBER |
|----|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1  | Milwaukee, WI      | 600,155            | 15                 | 40,010                              |
| 2  | Sacramento, CA     | 490,712            | 8                  | 61,339                              |
| 3  | Omaha, NE          | 443,885            | 7                  | 63,412                              |
| 4  | Minneapolis,<br>MN | 410,939            | 13                 | 31,610                              |
| 5  | Cleveland, OH      | 388,072            | 17                 | 22,827                              |
| 6  | Pittsburgh, PA     | 304,391            | 9                  | 33,821                              |
| 7  | St. Paul, MN       | 300,851            | 7                  | 42,978                              |
| 8  | Toledo, OH         | 279,789            | 6 + 6*             | 46,631<br>279,789*                  |
| 9  | Lincoln, NE        | 277,348            | 4 + 3*             | 69,337<br>277,348*                  |
| 10 | Buffalo, NY        | 258,071            | 9                  | 28,674                              |
| 11 | Madison, WI        | 248,951            | 20                 | 12,477                              |
| 12 | Spokane, WA        | 213,272            | 6 + 1*             | 71,090**<br>213,272*                |
| 13 | Des Moines, IA     | 210,330            | 4 + 2*             | 52,582<br>210,330*                  |

\* Represents members of the Council elected at large.

\*\*The Spokane Council has 3 districts with 2 members from each district. The Council President is elected at large.

If representation in Madison were raised to the lowest representation on the list (Cleveland), the Council would consist of 11 members.

If representation in Madison were raised to the average of cities other than Madison (excluding at large representatives), the Council would consist of 5 or 6 members (248,951/47,025).

If representation in Madison were raised to the average including Madison (excluding at large representatives), the Council would consist of 6 members (248,951/44,368).

#### Contributing Issues

| Positive  | Negative   |
|---|--|
| Smaller Council is more powerful                                    | Each member represents more residents                  |
| Each member has wider constituency, giving a more citywide approach | Campaigns more expensive                               |
| Will likely lead to full time alderperson, with staff               | Will likely lead to full time alderpersons, with staff |
|   | Difficult to achieve without major political effort    |
|   |  |

#### What Works

- Grassroots effort to require this change

#### Partners

- ???