

MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Central Library
201 West Mifflin St.
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 266.6300
www.madisonpubliclibrary.org

BRANCH LIBRARIES: Alicia Ashman • Hawthorne • Lakeview • Meadowridge • Monroe Street • Pinney • Sequoya • South Madison

August 24, 2008

Kathleen Falk
Dane County Executive
Room 421, City County Building
210 Martin Luther King Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703-3342

Kathleen
Dear County Executive Falk:

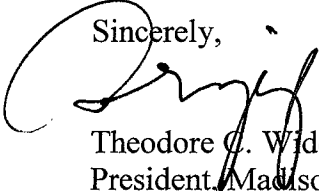
I am writing to you at this time to urge you to support library services in Dane County by funding the 2009 county library tax at a rate that will be sufficient to fund the Dane County Library Service budget at 100% of its actual costs. The Madison Public Library Board is particularly concerned about the portion of the budget that reimburses municipal libraries, including Madison, for a portion of their operational and facilities costs for extending their services to people who don't live in Madison.

The 2008 reimbursement rate to municipalities is currently at 97% of costs. Your budget directives for 2009 reduce the reimbursement rate for serving non-Madison-residents to 90.7%. This rate will increase the tax disparity that exists between residents of municipalities with libraries and residents of municipalities taxed by the county for library service. People who live in Fitchburg and Maple Bluff and Shorewood, for instance, take advantage of the same library services and amenities at Madison's libraries as do their neighbors who live in the City of Madison, but at significantly less cost. A fully funded County reimbursement program, which would require a very modest increase in the county library tax, would reduce this tax inequity and contribute to maintaining quality library services in all of Dane County, including Madison.

We appreciate your past support of libraries and library services in Dane County, and urge you to continue that support by fully funding this year's Dane County Library Service budget request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Theodore C. Widder, III
President, Madison Public Library Board

cc: Mayor Dave Cieslewicz
Madison Common Council
Dane County Supervisors representing Madison