

**SURVEY OF CURRENT AND FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REGARDING
THE STRUCTURE OF MADISON CITY GOVERNMENT**

Dear Recipient:

The City of Madison established a Task Force on The Structure of City Government to examine and make recommendations to the Mayor and Common Council on any changes for the structure of City government. In its initial meetings, the Task Force identified the critical overall question as: How do we want to be governed? As a current or former government official (including members of City boards, commissions and committees), you are receiving this survey.

Check one response for each question. You may respond to the survey on line by going to this link:

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A. The Common Council.

1. The current Common Council has 20 alderpersons. Do you support:
 - Increasing number of alderpersons.
 - Decreasing the number of alderpersons.
 - Keeping the number of alderpersons the same.
 - No opinion.
2. Alderpersons are part-time government officials. Do you support:
 - Maintaining alderpersons part-time status.
 - Making alderpersons full-time positions.
 - Making some alderpersons, such as President of the Common Council, full-time positions.
 - No opinion.
3. Alderpersons are paid between \$15-20,000 per year. Do you support:
 - Maintaining the current pay structure.

- Reducing pay to alderpersons.
- Increasing pay to alderpersons.
- No opinion.

4. The 20 alderpersons now have a staff of 4 persons dedicated to operations of the Council. Do you support:

- Maintaining the current level of staff support for alderpersons.
- Increasing staff support for alderpersons.
- Reducing staff support for alderpersons.

No opinion.

5. Alderpersons represent and are elected by identified districts in the City. Should the City consider electing some alderpersons at large, that is, in a city-wide election?

- Yes
- No.
- No opinion.

6. Under current city procedures, the Mayor appoints nearly all members of City Boards, Commissions and Committees, subject to confirmation by the members of the Common Council. Do you support:

- Maintaining the current rules on appointments and confirmation
- Giving more authority to the Council or Council President to appoint members.
- No opinion.

7. The Council almost always meets during the evening at City Hall. Do you support:

- The Council meeting at other locations or other times in the City of Madison.
- Maintaining the current meeting location and schedule.
- No opinion.

B. The Mayor.

8. Under current procedures, the Mayor has the authority to appoint, subject to confirmation by the Council, the high level employees (heads of Departments and Divisions) that operate departments and supervise city employees in the civil service. The Mayor has the obligation to supervise and discipline those Department and Division heads Do you support:

Maintaining the current appointment and supervisory powers of the Mayor

Increasing the power of the Council over the selection and supervision of high level employees

Increasing the Mayor's authority to hire, fire and discipline high level employees.

No opinion.

9. Under state law, the Mayor has the power to veto acts of the Council, which may only be overturned by a 2/3 vote of the Council. Do you support:

Changing state law to limit the Mayor's veto power

Maintaining state law on veto power

Changing state law to give the Mayor increased veto powers, such as a line-item veto on certain matters.

No opinion.

10. Under city procedures, the Mayor chairs the City's Finance Committee. Do you support:

Maintaining the Mayor as chair of the Finance Committee.

Having the Common Council president or some other alderperson chair the Finance Committee.

No opinion.

11. Under state law, the Mayor is to chair meetings of the Common Council. Do you support:

Changing state law to allow an alderperson to chair the meetings of the Council.

Maintaining the current law that makes the Mayor the chair of the meetings of the Council.

No opinion.

C. Boards Commissions and Committees (BCC).

12. The City currently has well over 100 BCC. Do you support:

Reducing the number of BCC.

Maintaining the number of BCC.

Increasing the number of BCC.

No opinion.

13. Nearly all City BCC are made up of a majority of unelected city residents, with only a few alderpersons on the BCC. Do you support:

Maintaining the current system with many residents serving on City BCC.

Reducing the number of city residents on the BCC.

Increasing the use of city residents on the BCC.

No opinion.

14. Nearly all the BCC are advisory only, that is, they make recommendations to the Council and the Council has final authority. Do you support:

Maintaining the current advisory status for most BCC

Increasing authority of the BCC to take actions without Council approval

Making all BCC advisory, so the Council has final authority on all matters.

No opinion.

15. Nearly all BCC meetings are held downtown in the evening. Do you support:

Requiring all meetings to start late enough for residents to attend.

Having more meetings during the day.

Having more BCC meet at places other than downtown.

No opinion.

D. General

16. Do you believe that the quality of municipal services provided to Madison residents is impacted by the structure of City government?

 Yes.

 No.

 No opinion.

17. Do you believe that changes to the current structure, function, and duties of the Mayor, Common Council, or BCCs could lead to an improvement in the provision of services to Madison residents?

 Yes.

 No.

 No opinion.

18. Do you believe that the ability of residents to participate effectively in City government is impacted by the structure of City government?

 Yes

 No

 No opinion.

19. Do you believe that changes to the structure, functions, and duties of the Mayor, Common Council, or BCCs could lead to an improvement in the ability of residents to participate effectively in City government?

 Yes

 No

 No opinion.

20. The upcoming 2020 census is anticipated to reflect an increasingly diverse City. Are you aware of the City's ongoing efforts in the Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative, which aims to eliminate racial and social inequities in municipal government?

 Yes.

 No.

21. Do you believe the current makeup of city staff and government officials accurately reflects the ethnic and racial makeup of the population of the City as well as varying business, social, and economic viewpoints?

 Yes.

 No.

 No opinion.

22. If you answered No to question 19, do you believe that the current structure, function, and duties of the Mayor, Common Council, or BCC's in any way contributes to this inaccurate representation?

 Yes.

 No.

 No opinion.

 I answered Yes to question 19.

E. Identification.

23. I am a current

 Elected official of the City of Madison

 Member of a BCC.

24. I am a former

 Elected official of the City of Madison.

 Member of a BCC.

25. Please provide any additional comments or suggestions for the Task Force:

26. If you wish to address the Task Force at a future meeting, please provide your contact information below:
