



# Task Force for Government Structure (TFOGS): Referendum Questions Next Steps

April 2021 Referendum Results, Implementation  
Workgroup Discussion

# TFOGS Background from 10/8/2020 Presentation

- TFOGS was created by Common Council with charge to investigate:
  - Whether Madison's government structure ensures that municipal decision-makers are representative of and accountable to all residents or only those with time, resources and knowledge of process
- Met ninety times over nearly two years
- Six resident members and five CC members
- Conducted outreach thru open houses, surveys, and work of 7 community liaisons focused on Districts 1, 7, 9, 14, 17, 20

# Key Findings - General

- “[t]he City’s current government structure is an impediment to full participation and representation and . . . The City’s structure is fundamentally unfair to a large portion of the City’s population, including, most notably, the City’s residents of color and low income.” – p.4
- City processes and procedures are a significant obstacle to resident engagement – e.g. nighttime meetings downtown, Roberts Rules, lack of robust technology to support new avenues for resident engagement including, but not limited to: remote participation, opportunity for pre-submitted and/or pre-recorded comment/ testimony, notification/alerts of matters coming before Council, one accessible web page/site to display all current and upcoming vacancies on BCCs

# Key Findings - General

- The City of Madison is an outlier among comparable cities (population, state capitol, home to Big Ten Universities)
  - Double the number of BCCs (sometimes more)
  - Alders represent fewer residents; Council has significantly more members
  - Madison lags behind in technology to support resident engagement

# Key Findings - General

- Common Council
  - “[s]ome alders already work full-time on City business, either because they are retired, do not need additional income, or have a second job with flexibility... These ‘full-time’ alders tend to spend more time working with their constituents and serving on the City’s BCCs. Not all alders can afford to do this.”
  - “[i]n its current structure, the City’s aldermanic districts have disparate levels of representation based, at least in part, on how much time their alder is able to devote to City work

# TFOGS Common Council Subcommittee

- Key CC Subcommittee recommendation
  - Transition to a full-time Council
- Key CC Subcommittee recommendations requiring referendum approval
  - Reduce the number of districts to 10
  - Increase length of Alder terms to 4 years
- Number of districts was last changed in 1987, from 22 to 20, and mayor's term extended from 2 years to 4
- TFOGS recommends 4-year terms for Alders even if other changes not made

# Why We Need a Full-Time Council from TFOGS Resident Members Presentation

(based on Final Report)

- To provide equal representation to the city's residents, rather than representation based on the amount of time an Alder has available to do the job.
- To encourage and permit residents who are not time or money rich to run for and serve on the Council.
- To recognize that serving as Alder is a full-time job and should be compensated as such.
- To provide Alders with the time needed to oversee major policy initiatives and the needed restructuring and oversight of certain city functions (e.g., BCCs).
- To allow Alders sufficient time to be essential contributors to engaging residents more fully in the City's decision-making processes.

# TFOG Recommendations from Final Report

1. Madison should transition to a full-time Common Council
2. Madison should reduce the size of the Common Council to ten (10) members elected concurrently with the Mayor. (4-year terms)
3. Madison should increase Common Council member pay to 80% of the area median income for a single parent with two children (approximately \$67,000).
5. Madison should increase aldermanic terms to four (4) years.
6. Madison should impose term limits of twelve (12) consecutive years.
7. Madison should increase Council leadership terms to two (2) years if the Council terms are increased to four (4) years.
8. That any structural changes to the Council take place at the election immediately following redistricting.
9. That any changes to the size of the Council or the terms of its members be made by charter ordinance subject to binding referendum of the electors.



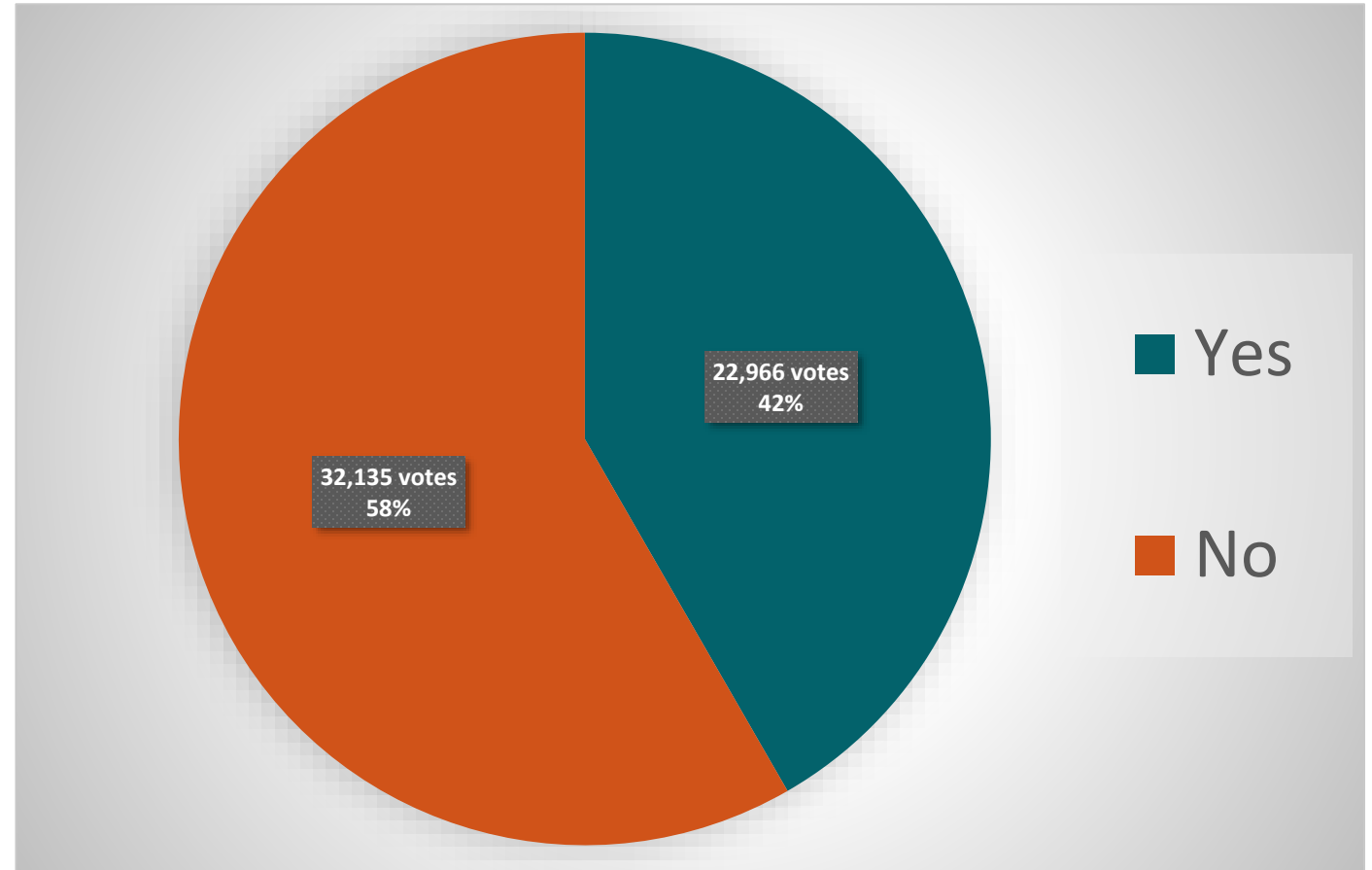
# April 2021 Non-Binding Referendum

- Approved by Council on 1/5/2021 (Legistar #62930); Question #2 format modified by Council on 1/19/2021 (Legistar #63772)
- “NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council directs City staff to take the necessary steps to place the following four advisory referendum questions on ballot in the Spring 2021 general election....”
- “NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that, after the Spring 2021 election, the Task Force Implementation Workgroup should collaborate with the Mayor’s Office to evaluate the results of the Advisory Referendum and take the necessary steps to prepare a resolution that, if approved by the Common Council, would place binding referendum questions related to the structure of Madison’s government on the Spring 2022 election ballot.”

# Referendum #1: Full-Time Council

“Madison currently has a part-time Common Council who are paid approximately thirteen-thousand seven hundred (\$13,700) per year. The Task Force on Government Structure recommends that the City of Madison transition to a full-time Common Council.

“Beginning with the 2023 Spring Election, SHOULD the City of Madison transition to a full-time Common Council with each Common Council Member earning between fifty percent (50%) to eighty percent (80%) of the Adjusted Median Income for Dane County for a single parent with two children (approximately \$45,000 to \$71,000) per year?”



# Referendum #1: Full-Time Council

Question from 2021 Non-Binding Referendum: “Madison currently has a part-time Common Council who are paid approximately thirteen-thousand seven hundred (\$13,700) per year. The Task Force on Government Structure recommends that the City of Madison transition to a full-time Common Council.

“Beginning with the 2023 Spring Election, SHOULD the City of Madison transition to a full-time Common Council with each Common Council Member earning between fifty percent (50%) to eighty percent (80%) of the Adjusted Median Income for Dane County for a single parent with two children (approximately \$45,000 to \$71,000) per year?”

On January 20, 2022, Ad Hoc Task Force On The Structure Of City Government (Tfogs) Final Report Implementation Work Group decided not to recommend this question [or something similar] be placed on the ballot in 2023.

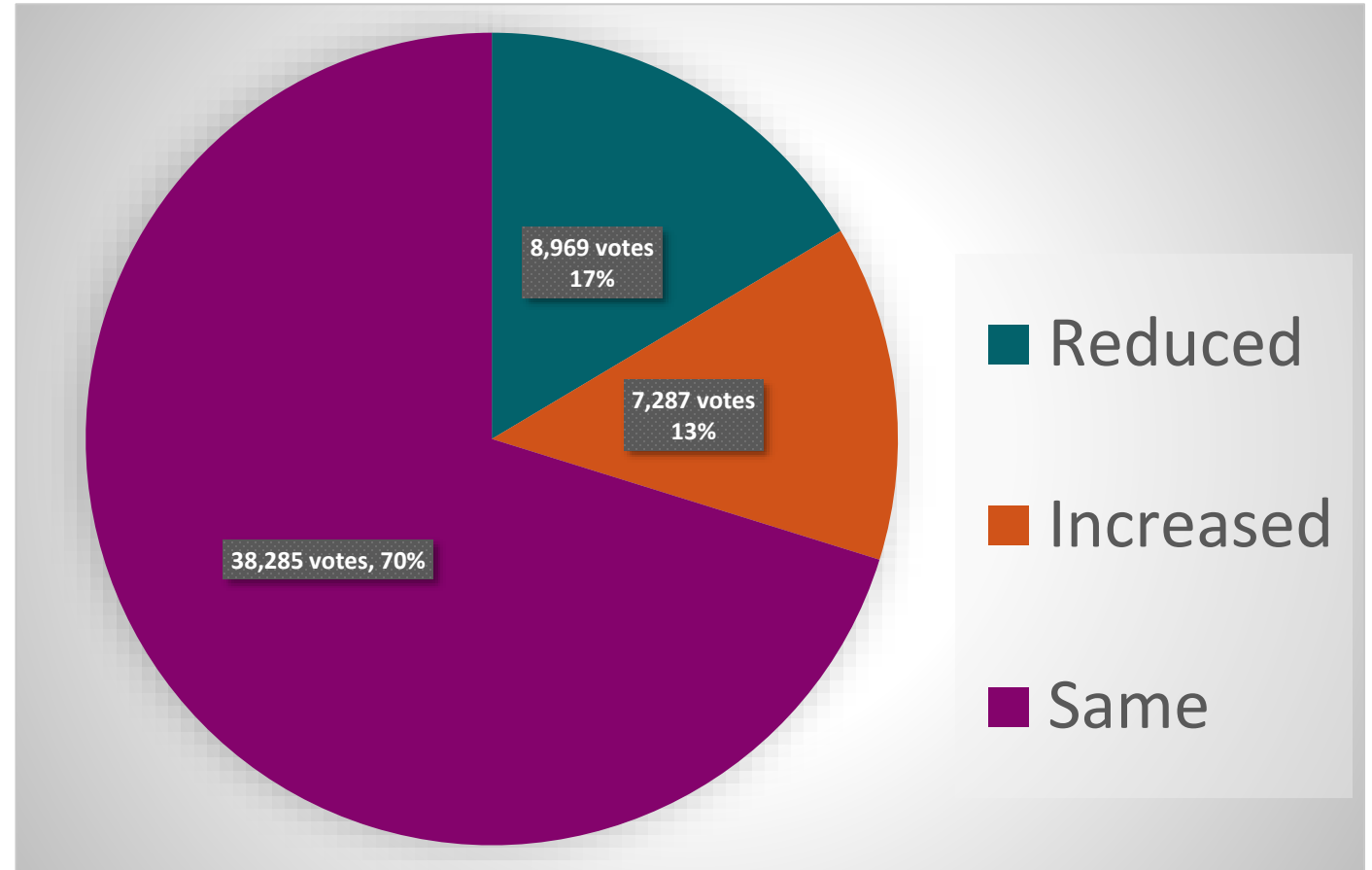
# Referendum #2: Council Size

Madison currently has a part time Common Council comprised of twenty (20) alderpersons, one from each alderperson district. Beginning with the 2023 Spring Election, SHOULD the size of the City of Madison Common Council:

\_\_\_\_\_ be reduced?

\_\_\_\_\_ be increased?

\_\_\_\_\_ remain the same?



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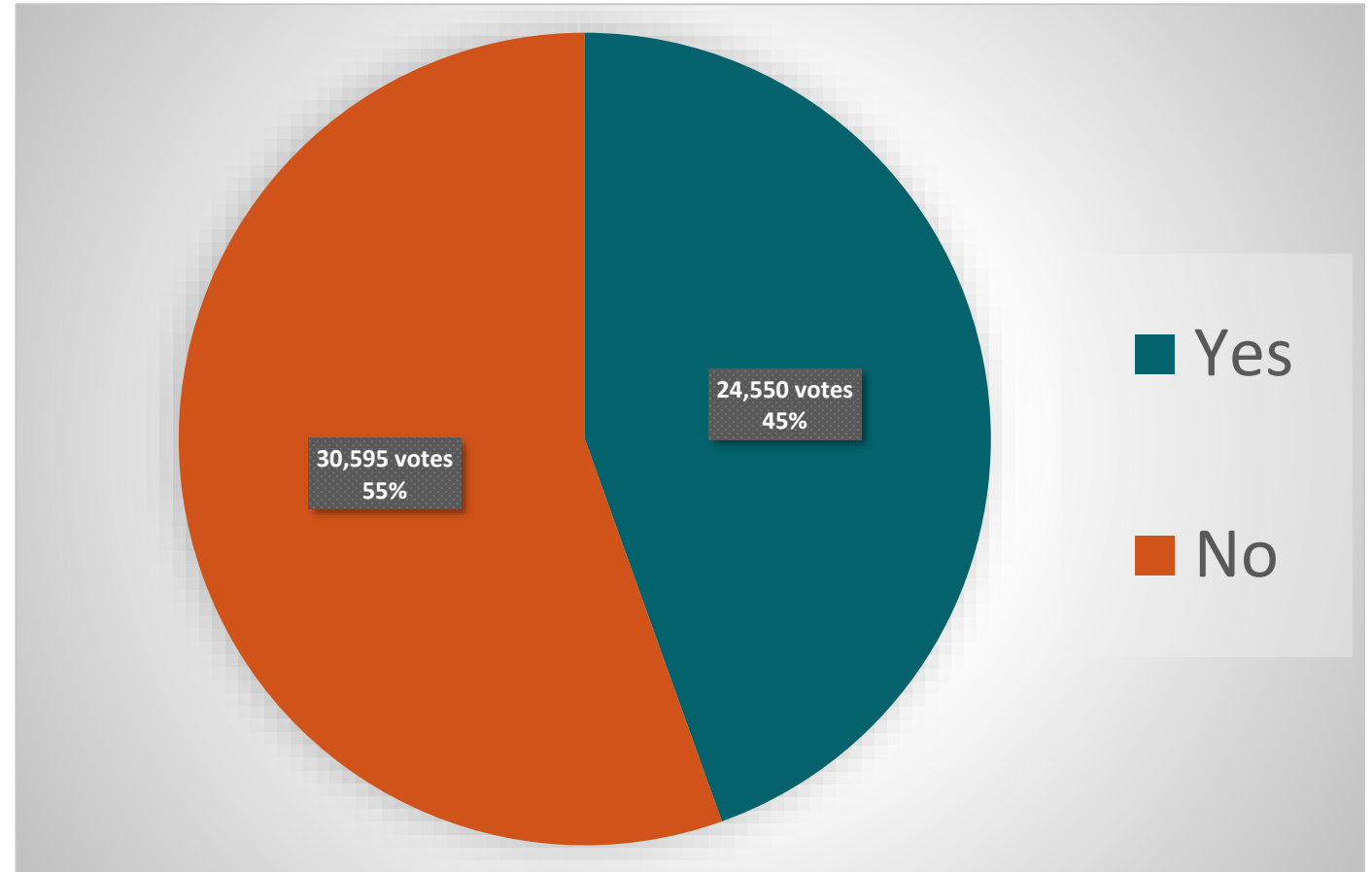
\_\_\_\_\_ remain the same?

- On January 20, 2022, Ad Hoc Task Force On The Structure Of City Government (TFOGS) Final Report Implementation Work Group recommended a version of this question focused on changing the size to 10 be placed on the 2023 ballot. Language was finalized not for recommendation.
- (Aye: Figueroa Cole, Furman, Harrington-McKinney; No: Wehelie, Foster)

# Referendum #3: 4-Year Terms

“Madison alderpersons are currently elected to two (2) year terms. The Madison Mayor is currently elected to four (4) year terms.

Beginning with the 2023 Spring Election, SHOULD City of Madison alderpersons be elected to four (4) year terms?”



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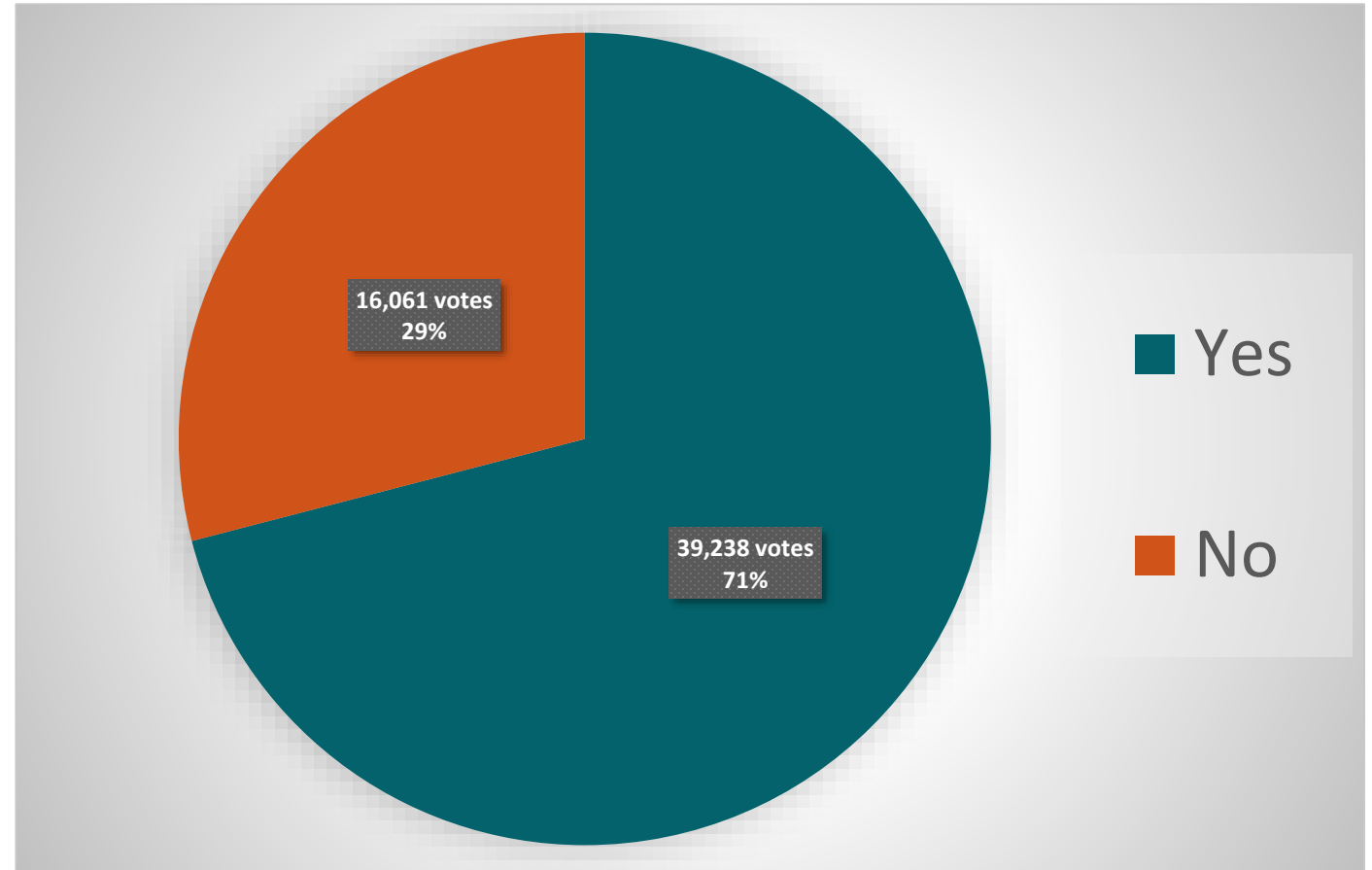
Beginning with the 2023 Spring Election, SHOULD City of Madison alderpersons be elected to four (4) year terms?”

- On January 20, 2022, Ad Hoc Task Force On The Structure Of City Government (TFOGS) Final Report Implementation Work Group recommended a version of this question focused on changing term length on the 2023 ballot. Language was not finalized for recommendation.
- (Aye: Figueroa Cole, Foster, Furman, Harrington-McKinney, Wehelie)

# Referendum #4: Full-Time Term Limits

“Madison alderpersons are currently not subject to term limits.

Beginning with the 2023 Spring Election, if the City transitions to a full-time Common Council SHOULD the City of Madison alderpersons be subject to term limits of twelve (12) consecutive years?”





# Referendum #4: Full-Time Term Limits

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Beginning with the 2023 Spring Election, if the City transitions to a full-time Common Council SHOULD the City of Madison alderpersons be subject to term limits of twelve (12) consecutive years?”

Ad Hoc Task Force On The Structure Of City Government (TFOGS) Final Report Implementation Work Group did not have a recommendation for this item.