

## CITY OF MADISON, WISCONSIN

A RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing the placement of a binding referendum question related to a charter ordinance establishing staggered terms for alders beginning with the 2025 Spring Election to the electorate on the 2023 Spring Election ballot.

PRESENTED FLOOR INTRODUCTION:  
January 3, 2023

REFERRED Common Council (1/3/23)

**LEGISTAR #: 75105**  
**VERSION #2**

Drafted by: Michael Haas

Date: December 9, 2022

SPONSOR: Alder Paulson

### Title

Authorizing the placement of a binding referendum question related to a charter ordinance establishing staggered terms for alders beginning with the 2025 Spring Election to the electorate on the 2023 Spring Election ballot.

### Body

WHEREAS, Madison General Ordinance 3.01(1) establishes two-year terms for alders with all alders being elected at the Spring Election in odd-numbered years; and

WHEREAS, Madison General Ordinance 3.01 was enacted as a Charter Ordinance and has been amended through action of the Common Council and through a binding referendum vote of the City of Madison electorate; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 66.0101(8) provides that "[a] charter ordinance enacted or approved by a vote of the electors controls over any prior or subsequent act of the legislative body of the city or village"; and

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2022, the Common Council adopted an amendment to Madison General Ordinance 3.01(1) which would, beginning with the 2025 Spring Election stagger the terms of alders so that one-half of the Common Council would be elected in odd-numbered years and one-half of the Common Council would be elected in even-numbered year; and

WHEREAS, adoption of said ordinance requires an affirmative vote of City of Madison electors at the 2023 Spring Election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Madison Common Council hereby directs the City Clerk to place the following question on the ballot for the 2023 Spring Election as a binding referendum:

Shall the City of Madison adopt the following underlined amendment to Madison General Ordinance?

**Approved as to form:**

The government of the City of Madison is organized and constituted under Wis. Stat. ch. 62 providing for the City Mayor and Aldermanic plan with a Common Council composed of twenty (20) alderpersons, one (1) from each aldermanic district. The Mayor and alderpersons are to be elected for a term of two (2) years; provided, however, that beginning with the 1991 Spring Election, the Mayor shall be elected for a term of four (4) years, and that beginning with the 2025 Spring Election, alders shall be elected to staggered terms of two (2) years, with alders in even-numbered districts elected in even-numbered years and alders in odd-numbered districts being elected in odd-numbered years. To implement the staggered terms, the 2025 Spring Election shall include one-year terms for alders in even-numbered Districts. In subsequent elections the term for all alders shall be two years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0101(8), the foregoing Charter Ordinance shall become effective if and when approved by a majority of the electors voting on the matter as provided in this Resolution.