

**From:** [noreply](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** [All Alders] 2025 city budget  
**Date:** Friday, August 16, 2024 9:16:39 AM

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Recipient: All Alders:

Friday, August 16, 2024 – 9:14am

Punky Egan

1321 Burning Wood Way

Madison, Wisconsin. 54704 Yes, by email. [punky@punkybakes.com](mailto:punky@punkybakes.com) All Alders 2025 city budget Dear Alders,

I am writing again about the proposed city's 2025 budget.

Articles keep appearing in the local news about what items could be cut if the mayor doesn't get what she wants. At the top is always cuts to the libraries.

She knows how popular and used the library system is so of course that's the first thing she always mentions. "Nice library you have there if you can keep it...". That's right out of a thug's notebook and it's POLITICAL BLACKMAIL!

I live across the street from Cherokee Park. I wasn't able to afford this house until I was in my 60's and only because of the housing crash. Because of the city's irresponsible spending my taxes have almost doubled in 10 years to the point that I can barely afford them. My retired friends in the neighborhood feel the same way. We will never vote for a referendum that raises our taxes again to the point we are forced out of our homes.

You council members need to do your job of balancing the budget with funds you already have. Stop wishing if only the Wisconsin legislature gave us more money.... It's NOT going to happen anytime soon, so start reducing and cutting to get to a balanced budget. And use some of the rainy day funds.

The job of the city is not to employ people. It's to run a city efficiently for the benefit of its citizens. Priorities need to be set and each area of the city's budget needs to be gone over individually. A 5% cut across the board is a lazy way out. I'm sure there are budgets that are large and padded like administration's. They could do with a larger reduction. The library system makes up a smaller portion of the budget and it probably shouldn't be cut at all because of the impart it has on all citizens.

While I have to live within my budget, it's beyond frustrating to be thought of as a piggybank to keep returning to because no one wants to say NO to projects. MADISON, YOU CAN'T HAVE IT ALL!

Be responsible for once and get the budget under control before asking for more, because it's not going to be there.

Sincerely,

Punky Egan

1321 Burning Wood Way

Madison, WI 54704

**From:** [sharongoss09@aol.com](mailto:sharongoss09@aol.com)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** referendum  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 12:28:43 PM

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from sharongoss09@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To: All Alders

I oppose a referendum on raising city taxes. My tax bill for school/city is outrageously high already. You will just force seniors out of their homes. (Hopefully this is not part of the city's strategy to increase density.)

I am ok with cuts. If you raise taxes now I fear it will just encourage spending without regard to income and taxes keep going up and up.

S and L Goss  
District 9

**From:** [Val Martin](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Potential referendum feedback  
**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2024 5:49:17 PM

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To our Alders,

Nice job. You apparently are unable to work within a budget. Now we need to bail you out of your shortfall, or face cuts to needed programs. How much time do you all devote to this shortsighted planning during council meetings? Good luck with that referendum.

My wife and I sign our brief note as 44 year residents of Madison, having lived with successful city planning for many years. Evidently, successful no longer.

**From:** [Finance Committee](#)  
**To:** [Munger, Sam R.](#); [Brogan, Dylan](#); [Kapusta-Pofahl, Karen](#); [Matthias, Isaac L](#)  
**Cc:** [Schmiedicke, David](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support library's budget  
**Date:** Thursday, August 15, 2024 8:05:45 AM

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FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Julia Olson <jrou747@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2024 10:15 PM  
To: Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Support library's budget

[You don't often get email from jrou747@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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Hello,

My name is Julia Olson and I live in West Madison.

I know that Madison is facing a budget shortage this upcoming year and the library's budget in particular may face cuts.

I am against the cuts going to the libraries and am asking you to support the full amount the public libraries are requesting for funding this upcoming year.

I currently do not live near a library, but when I lived in the Meadowood neighborhood I saw first hand how libraries served the essential function of third spaces, or spaces kids were able to congregate in a space supportive environment where they could engage in pro social and productive activities.

If hours were cut, this would have a profound impact on these kids and their families.

I am asking you to support the libraries full request for funding for this upcoming year. Madison's youth needs them, not only to support their educational and social needs but also to give them a space to exist while parents are working.

Without these libraries, they may be more likely to get into trouble just from sheer lack of resources and things to do. By keeping libraries open for as long as we can, we are protecting Madison's kids from both being victims of and perpetrating harm.

Thank you,

Julia

**From:** [Allen Rickey](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Letter  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 9:05:24 AM

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## YOUR VIEWS

### **City hasn't made hard choices to cut spending**

Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway says a structural budget deficit has existed since 2012 when the Republican-run Legislature and governor imposed harsh revenue restrictions.

One might ask, "Why has she spent freely during her five years in office and only now is developing a five-year plan to address the deficit?"

The mayor says a tax levy referendum is needed to fix our \$22 million deficit and, if it fails, dozens of city jobs will be lost. Framing the issue in terms of lost jobs was simplistic and intended to strike an emotional chord. Now she's using another well-known tactic from the bureaucratic playbook: threaten deep, across-the-board cuts to

popular city services.

I understand why the mayor and City Council want to stick with a cost-to-continue budget model. It's easier than having to evaluate the need for and efficacy of all budget items and make difficult choices.

I haven't yet seen good-faith efforts on the part of the mayor and City Council members to fix the deficit they helped grow. They want to be able to keep spending on nice-to-have initiatives, while declining to make strategic cuts to nonessential positions, projects and programs.

Therefore, I'll decline to vote to raise my taxes in 2025 and beyond.

**Ginny White, Madison**

**From:** [Robert Rowlands](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Tax Hike  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 7:52:15 AM

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I will vote NO

**From:** [elizabeth.ames.staudt](mailto:elizabeth.ames.staudt@gmail.com)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Cc:** [Tishler, Bill](#); [mpl-libraryboard](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of the Madison Public Library & Related Referendum Option  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 2:17:13 PM

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Dear Madison Alders,

Please approve adding a referendum option to the November 5, 2024 ballot in support of the Madison Public Library Board's suggestion.

My family and I moved to Madison two years ago and feel so lucky to live within walking distance of a library. Sequoia is our home branch, but we make regular visits to many of the branches (most recently to the Lakeview branch for a wonderful workshop with the fantastic naturalist-in-residence) and we take advantage of so many of the library's arts and community offerings. The idea of cutting arts programs and cutting Sunday hours rather than *adding* more of both is so disappointing and feels so deeply disconnected from what the citizens of Madison want, use, and need. A warm third place in the winter, a spot for families with stir-crazy kids to congregate, a space to volunteer and stave off loneliness alongside people who may become friends--the library is this and so much more. It's difficult to even enumerate the ways the library adds to my family's quality of life in Madison; we'd be here all day while I listed, and it's also so integral to the fabric of our life and our days as to almost fade into the background. But it would be a mistake to take the library and all it offers for granted, and I hope this message is one among many asking you to please approve the MPL Board's suggestion for a referendum and allow your constituents to vote and show just how vital the library and its services are to our Madison community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can speak at greater length in support of the Madison Public Library or this suggested referendum.

Sincerely & appreciatively,  
Elizabeth (in District 11)

phone: (734) 330-6308

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Elizabeth Ames  
[elizabethames.com](http://elizabethames.com)





**From:** [noreply](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Why do you want to hurt us city residents?  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 13, 2024 10:51:46 AM

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Recipient: All Alders:

Tuesday, August 13, 2024 – 10:48am

Christine Wolf

4617 Eldorado lane

Madison , Wisconsin. 53716 Yes, by email. [lwolfchris@gmail.com](mailto:lwolfchris@gmail.com) All Alders Why do you want to hurt us city residents? Why are you wanting to increase our property taxes and rents?

Last year, you gave staff a 6% pay increase and now you want to cut our income?

Last year's budget, why did you add additional costs when you knew we were going to have a deficit in 2025? Why aren't more drastic cuts being made now? What is special about not wanting to cut staff? Public service jobs are NOT jobs for LIFE! Those of us with MORE LIFE EXPERIENCE have ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD public service jobs are subject to budget constraints and citizen wishes. Same with nonprofit jobs.

It will not be the end of the world for staff whose positions are cut. employment levels are low., jobs are plentiful. Yes, some staff will need to relocate. That is the REAL WORLD.

In my public service career, I had been laid off among 414 staff whose positions were cut.

Yes, I had to search for another job. Yes, we had to relocate. Just like other folks in the real world. Get over the snowflake attitudes and make the hard decisions that must be made.

Perhaps us citizens need to request the governor to undertake an independent audit of Madison's expenditures. Just like the Governor did to Milwaukee. Looks like that's the only way to get Madison to deal with the city's growth and survivability. .

**From:** [Jean Rawson](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Madison Public Library  
**Date:** Friday, August 16, 2024 3:23:28 PM

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To: All Alders on the Madison Common Council

Please vote to include a referendum on maintaining funding for the City's public libraries on the fall ballot. Libraries are essential to civilized society, serving public needs in a multitude of ways.

Thank you for your attention,

Jean Rawson  
3226 Oakridge Ave  
Madison

Sent from Gmail Mobile