

Office of the Mayor

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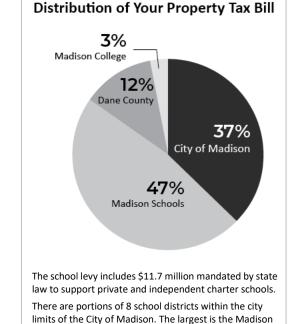
December 2024

Dear Madisonians:

The City of Madison is responsible for sending your property tax bill. However, what's due is for multiple government entities, including your school district, Dane County, and Madison College (MATC). The City's share is 37 percent of the total bill.

City services and infrastructure are the foundation that underpins Madison's success. Our libraries, parks, public events, bikeways, greenspaces, transit service, and police and fire protection all help make Madison a desirable place to live, work, and play. The 2025 City budget largely maintains current service levels, and includes the following programs:

- Adding two new Street Machine Operators for garbage and recycling pick-up to meet the needs of our growing population
- Advancing completion of The Imagination Center at Reindahl Park



- Metropolitan School District.
- · Reallocating funds in Public Health from less critical programs to violence prevention work
- Supporting the Community Alternative Response Emergency Services (CARES) team, which has been so successful that neighboring cities are looking for opportunities to expand the program into their communities
- Increasing resources for older adult services to meet the needs of that community
- Investing in affordable housing at record levels while keeping city finances strong and debt at manageable levels
- Funding important traffic safety infrastructure to keep us moving safely through the city.

This was not an ordinary budget year, and it required decision-making from the entire community. We want to extend our gratitude to Madison residents for strongly supporting City services with your vote on the referendum this November. Thank you! There are still challenges ahead but with the breathing room the referendum provides, Madison is in a much better position to continue our work towards building a healthy, equitable, and thriving City for all who call it home.

We will start 2025 with a new State Legislature and a fresh opportunity to address the challenges that many local communities face across Wisconsin. Cities, villages and towns should not have to put referendums on the ballot in order to fund the basic services residents depend on. The State of Wisconsin has a \$4.6 billion surplus and there is no reason for harmful austerity measures. In the days ahead, City leaders will work tirelessly with partners around the state to address this chronic underfunding of local governments.

Madison is a growing city with a reputation for being curious, innovative, and welcoming. We're proud that our community protects our neighbors and stands up for what's right. We believe the 2025 budget reflects those values.

On behalf of your City government, we wish you and your family a very happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Satya Rhodes-Conway

Mayor

