

City of Madison Budget by the Numbers

50,000+

Madison population increase since 2014

Madison is the fastest growing city in Wisconsin. The City's population is projected to be over **300,000 people by 2030**. Because of tax restrictions from the State, the City must provide services to **more people each year with less revenue** per resident.

217

Additional full-time City employees if workforce kept pace with population

The total number of full-time City employees **hasn't kept up** with Madison's population increase since 2014. The City is providing service to more people with **fewer employees** per resident.

\$405M

Operating budget total in 2024

Madison's operating budget has increased **11 percent** since 2014 when adjusted for inflation. The City's population has increased by **19 percent** in the last decade. Costs are increasing faster than available revenue.

\$22M

City Structural Deficit ahead of the 2025 budget

Madison's structural deficit is caused by the State Legislature **strictly limiting** the amount of revenue available to Wisconsin cities. The City is projected to have a **\$63 million deficit** by 2030 if it provides the **same level** of service as it does in 2024.

71%

Percentage of City revenues from property taxes

Wisconsin cities are the most **heavily reliant** on property taxes in the whole Midwest. Wisconsin also has the tightest cap on increases. Moreover, only **35 percent** of Madison residents' annual property tax bill goes to Madison. The rest goes to School Districts, Dane County, and Madison College.

\$54M

City's shared revenue payment if it received the statewide average

Shared revenue payments to Wisconsin cities averaged \$195 per resident. Madison would be receiving **\$46 million more annually** if it received the average. The City's yearly payment would be **\$102 million more** if it received what Milwaukee was provided in 2024 (\$400 per resident). Meanwhile the state has a **\$3.5 billion surplus** that it refuses to spend.



18¢

What Madison residents get back for every dollar paid to the State

Madison residents get **back less than 20 percent for every dollar** they pay in state taxes. This **includes** state aid provided to the City, School Districts, and Dane County.

\$29 per resident

City's shared revenue payment from the State

Adjusted for inflation, Madison is receiving **\$50 less per resident** in shared revenue than it did in 2000. It also received the **lowest increase in shared revenue** in the "historic boost" to local governments that was included in 2023 biennial state budget.

\$50M+

Annual revenue if Madison had a .5% local tax

In Gov. Tony Evers' last executive budget, he gave cities the **option of enacting a local sales tax**. Like previous state budgets, the **State Legislature rejected that proposal** as well as the ability to create a Regional Transit Authority (RTA).

\$25M

Rainy day fund surplus

The City's Finance staff **recommends against** filling the 2025 budget gap entirely with the Rainy Day Fund surplus. The structural deficit will continue to increase annually so the surplus should be **spent prudently over several years**. Further depleting the Rainy Day Fund would damage Madison's AAA credit rating and cost the City more in the long run.

FLAT

Funding for Madison Metro in operating budget, 2014 compared to 2024

Madison Metro is receiving **almost exactly the same amount annually** as it was in 2014 when adjusted for inflation. Infrastructure improvements in the capital budget for bus rapid transit, largely paid for with federal dollars, **do not impact** available revenue in the Operating Budget.

\$13M

Additional annual revenue if State fully paid its Municipal Service Payment

Wisconsin cities **provide services** to State-owned facilities such as police and fire protections. In 2024, Madison **only received 38 percent** of what the State says it owes for these services.