

BUDGET TIMELINE

Phase 1

February: Information Series

The City of Madison Finance Department created a four-part series to explain the fundamentals of the City's budget and options for closing the budget deficit. This was a first step toward deciding on an approach to balancing the 2025 operating budget.

Phase 3

June-July: Presenting Budget Scenarios

On June 17, 2024, Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway asked city agencies in the general and library fund categories - including Madison Public Library - to identify lower priority services and at least 5% in reductions from the agency's cost to continue target. These budgets are due to City Finance by July 19. The Library Board will consider the draft budget and proposed service reductions at their board meeting on July 11, with an additional meeting set for July 18 if needed.

This is where Madison Public Library is unique from other city departments. While the majority of Madison Public Library funds come from the City of Madison, by statute, the Library Board must approve the Library's budget. This means the budget will be discussed in a public forum - the Library Board meeting - earlier than other city agencies typically share their budgets.

Phase 5

October: The Mayor's Executive Budget

After reviewing each agency's budget, Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway will introduce her Executive Operating Budget to the Common Council on Tuesday, October 8, 2024. Despite initially asking that most city departments prepare a 5% reduction scenario, what the Mayor presents could be different than the requested 5% reduction.

You can share your library service priorities and feedback on all city services with your alder.

- Contact your alder to share your concerns about the budget.
- Email the City Finance Department to share your concerns or ask questions about the budget.
- Submit written comments by email to the Finance Committee or Common Council.
- Attend public budget hearings of the Finance Committee and Common Council in September, October and November.

May-June: Budget Engagement Sessions

The City of Madison hosted five Budget Engagement Sessions across the city to inform residents about the challenges facing the 2025 budget. These included an overview of City spending and current services, small group discussions, and time for attendees to provide feedback to alders on what they would like alders to consider as they evaluate options for the 2025 budget.

Phase 2

August: The Referendum Question

One solution to help close some or all of the \$22 million budget deficit for the 2025 budget is to go to a referendum to raise property taxes during the November 5, 2024 election. A referendum ballot has to be approved by the Common Council through a resolution at least 70 days prior to the election in which the referendum question will be considered. Common Council approval would be needed by August 27 (meeting August 20). If Council decides to pursue a referendum, staff would draft a resolution that sets the amount, the number of years, and includes all required language for the ballot.

Phase 4

October-November: Amendments + Adopting the Budget

After the Mayor presents the Executive Budget, the Finance Committee has time to make amendments in late October and then the Common Council has time to make amendments in early November. The final Operating Budget will be adopted on Tuesday, November 12 by the Common Council.

If a referendum is decided on in Phase 4, then the public will vote on the referendum on Tuesday, November 5, and changes will be made to the final budget.

Phase 6



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PUBLIC
LIBRARY



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