



Office of the Mayor

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Property Tax Questions?

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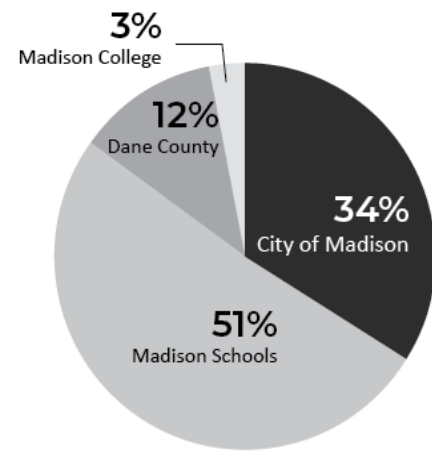
December 2025

Dear Madisonians:

Property taxes are the primary way local governments are funded in Wisconsin. It's the responsibility of the City of Madison to send out this tax bill on behalf of Dane County, Madison College (MATC), and your school district. However, the **City's share is only 34 percent** of your total property tax bill.

The City of Madison provides services to its residents and builds and maintains essential infrastructure. This includes refuse and recycling collection, the library system, police and fire protection, parks, street maintenance, business and community development, transit service, and many other important services. It's our goal to continually seek efficiencies and cost savings in order to provide a high quality of life in Madison while also minimizing the burden on taxpayers.

Distribution of Your Property Tax Bill



The school levy includes \$13.4 million mandated by state law to support private and independent charter schools. This is \$1.7 million (15%) higher than last year.

There are portions of 8 school districts within the city limits of the City of Madison. The largest is the Madison Metropolitan School District.

The 2026 City Budget preserves current service levels with the **lowest tax rate for City government services in at least 40 years**. A few key priorities were advanced in next year's budget to address emerging needs for our growing city:

- Adding a 10th ambulance company in the Madison Fire Department to maintain our current response times.
- Funding to support homeless services for the new shelter on Bartillon Drive.
- Staffing for the new Imagination Center at Reindahl Park, scheduled to open in fall of 2026.
- Constructing a new Streets facility on the far west side that will save half a million dollars in fuel costs per year, and even more savings in staff costs as the city continues to grow.
- Investing in affordable housing projects so everyone has the opportunity to live in Madison.
- Moving forward with a historic upgrade to the Madison Community Development Authority's Triangle public housing development.

Our efforts to work with other local governments for better treatment from the State will continue in earnest in 2026. Every city, village, and town in Wisconsin is severely limited by State-imposed

restrictions on how local governments raise revenue. A return of local control to local communities would provide the flexibility to let voters decide what's best for them and their neighbors.

I also want to encourage Madison residents to continue to take part in local governance. Our budget process is a year-around endeavor shaped by the input of the community. Whether it's testifying at a public meeting, volunteering your time to better your neighborhood, or voting in local elections, thank you for your engagement and participation.

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

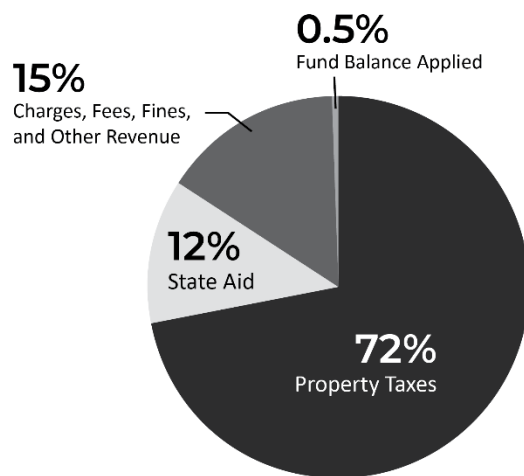
Sincerely,



Satya Rhodes-Conway
Mayor

City of Madison 2026 Budget \$452.7 million

Revenue



Expenditures

