



SUN PRAIRIE

Dear Community Members:

I am honored to have been elected as your Mayor. While I am new to this role, I have lived here for 52 years and previously served for nine years as a District 1 Alderperson on the City Council. I am deeply invested in our community — and I am certain that many of you share this love for our City! Sun Prairie is a destination for families moving to Dane County.

While we are pleased that people continue to choose Sun Prairie, it has become more difficult for the City to invest in services that our community has come to expect. This is the result of higher costs (mainly inflation) and funding limits imposed by the state. Consequently, the City is forecasting a budget deficit growing to \$4.5 million over the next four years.

This survey will explain our budget challenges and help elected officials understand if Sun Prairie taxpayers are willing to provide additional funding to close the gap. **Citizen feedback has always been extremely important to me, as this is your/our City, and in my opinion your input has always been a key driver as to what our City's future should look like. With that said, I encourage you to please take a few moments to add your voice to the survey.** To keep all feedback anonymous, survey responses are collected by Community Perceptions, an independent research firm.

Sincerely,

Steve Stocker, Mayor

City of Sun Prairie

Estimados miembros de la comunidad:

Es un honor para mí que me elijan alcalde. Si bien soy nuevo en este cargo, he vivido aquí durante 52 años y anteriormente me desempeñé durante nueve años como concejal del Distrito 1 en el Concejo Municipal. Estoy profundamente comprometido con nuestra comunidad, ¡y estoy seguro de que muchos de ustedes comparten el amor por nuestra ciudad! Sun Prairie es un destino para las familias que se mudan al condado de Dane.

Si bien nos alegra que la gente siga eligiendo Sun Prairie, se ha vuelto más difícil para la ciudad invertir en los servicios que la comunidad espera. Esto se debe al incremento de los costos (sobre todo por la inflación) y a las restricciones presupuestarias impuestas por el estado. En consecuencia, la ciudad prevé un déficit presupuestario que aumentará a \$4,5 millones en los próximos cuatro años.

En esta encuesta, se explicarán nuestros desafíos presupuestarios y se ayudará a los funcionarios electos a saber si los contribuyentes de Sun Prairie están dispuestos a proporcionar fondos adicionales para cerrar la brecha. **Los comentarios de los ciudadanos siempre han sido extremadamente importantes para mí, ya que esta es su ciudad, nuestra ciudad, y, para mí, su opinión siempre ha sido un factor clave en cuanto a cómo debería ser el futuro de nuestra ciudad. Dicho esto, los invito a tomarse unos minutos para agregar su opinión a la encuesta.** Para mantener todos los comentarios anónimos, las respuestas de la encuesta son recopiladas por Community Perceptions, una empresa de investigación independiente.

Atentament,

Steve Stocker, alcalde

Ciudad de Sun Prairie

TWO WAYS TO TAKE THIS SURVEY

Online/En línea: (Save postage expense)

Go to/Ir a:

www.Survey2000.com

Enter your code/Introduzca su código:



Paper: Return to any City office or mail it to Community Perceptions, PO Box 607, Slinger, WI 53086.

The survey code can be used only once. To obtain additional surveys for other adults in your household, please call the City Office at 608-825-1193.

Survey deadline: October 6, 2025

Financial Challenges

The City has taken steps to contain costs and find efficiencies, including:

- Secured \$7.4 million in grants for road projects.
- Implemented a forestry gravel bed system, reducing tree planting costs and enabling in-house planting instead of contractors, saving \$40,000 annually.
- Expanded opportunities for community volunteers, saving \$89,000 annually for the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.
- Collaborated with State and Federal partners for reimbursement of \$42,000 of police operational expenses.
- Partnered with the State Department of Health Services to implement supplemental payment programs for Medicaid reimbursement for EMS.
- Competitively bid health insurance and increased employee cost-sharing.

Even with these actions, the City projects a \$4.5 million deficit because:

- State and local funding has not kept up with increasing costs for equipment, supplies, compensation, and contracted services.
- State law only allows us to increase local property taxes based on the percentage of net new construction within Sun Prairie in any given year.
- Even with Sun Prairie's 24% population growth since 2015 (compared to statewide growth of 3%), net new construction has not kept pace with increasing costs.

Looking Ahead

City leaders are committed to providing a high quality-of-life for all residents by investing in public safety, parks, bike facilities, transit, sustainability, and community programming and events.

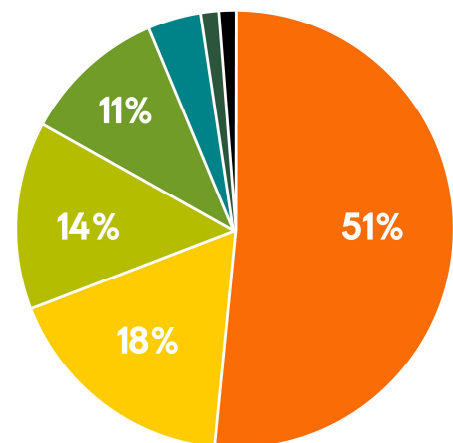
Nearly 80% of our budget pays for personnel. Therefore, any significant budget cuts would require cutting staff and reducing services.

For more information, visit:
<https://cityofsunprairie.com/gov101>



SPENDING BY FUNCTIONAL AREA

- Public Safety
- General Government
- Culture, Recreation & Education
- Public Works
- Conservation & Development
- Contingency/ Fund Balance
- Health & Human Services



Funding to Maintain Services

The City has limited options to address the budget challenges without reducing or eliminating services. Sun Prairie is not alone. Over the last 10 years, more than 75 Wisconsin municipalities have secured additional funding through a voter-approved operational referendum.

The City of Sun Prairie is also exploring this option. A referendum that provides *\$4.5 million per year on an ongoing (recurring) basis* would allow us to maintain current services for 2027 through 2029.

For more information, visit the City’s referendum page at:
<https://cityofsunprairie.com/fundingsolutions>



<i>How much would the referendum cost me?</i>			
Amount of Property Value	Estimated City Annual Property Tax Increase <u>Over the 2024 Level</u>		
	2027	2028	2029 and beyond
Per \$100,000	\$27	\$46	\$61
\$412,000 (Sun Prairie’s average home value)	\$109	\$198	\$272
Would you support a referendum that provides \$4.5 million per year to maintain current services?			<input type="checkbox"/> Definitely yes <input type="checkbox"/> Probably yes <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided <input type="checkbox"/> Probably no <input type="checkbox"/> Definitely no

If you would not support the referendum, what are the main reasons?

Is there any other information you would need before making a decision?

Cost-Cutting Options

If voters do not support the operational referendum, we would need to cut a total of 34 staff by 2029 (15% of the workforce), which will lead to service reductions. The City has not determined which departments would be reduced. Therefore, please check any areas you believe should be cut/reduced:

Conservation & Development

- Community Development
- Economic Development
- Forestry
- Planning

Culture, Recreation & Education

- Family Aquatic Center
- Media Center
- Museum
- Parks Maintenance
- Public Library
- Recreation

General Government

- Administration
- Administrative Services
- Assessing
- Building Maintenance
- City Attorney
- Clerk & Elections
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Sustainability

Public Safety

- Building Inspection
- EMS
- Fire
- Police

Public Works

- Engineering
- Public Services
- Public Works
- Transportation

To see more information on current staffing levels, visit <https://cityofsunprairie.com/2025Staffing>

Comments/questions/suggestions:



Investments in Services

The operational referendum could be expanded to provide investments in services for our growing community. These investments would be made over the next three years.

What priority would you place on expanding the services below?	
<p>Police (Estimated cost: \$1.8 million)</p> <p>The department has fewer officers per capita than similar communities and falls below the national staffing average. Community policing is a core priority, but growing call volumes will reduce the department’s ability to participate in events, school programs, and neighborhood outreach. The department has had to rely on overtime hours, which cost \$295,752 in 2024 and increases officer burnout.</p> <p>To lessen overtime demands and continue department priorities, the City could add eight full-time positions (six patrol officers, one patrol sergeant, and one crime analyst).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<p>Fire and EMS (Estimated cost: \$1.7 million)</p> <p>Annual calls for service have increased by more than 5,000 since 2015. Because of this, response times for EMS arrival increased by more than two minutes in 2023.</p> <p>To improve response times, the City could add 13 full-time positions (10 paramedics, one firefighter, one deputy EMS chief, and one fire inspector).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<p>Library (Estimated cost: \$1 million)</p> <p>Attendance at library events and programs has risen by 75% over the past 10 years and demand for technology services continues to increase. Despite this and the expansion of the library, we have fewer staff than peer communities.</p> <p>To support increased service demands, the City could add two full-time staff, seven part-time staff, three teen interns, and increase hours for existing positions.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low
<p>Public Services and Parks, Recreation, & Forestry (Estimated cost: \$300,000)</p> <p>The Public Services Department is responsible for street maintenance, snow removal, salting, and stormwater/wastewater management. Demands on this department have increased significantly. However, this department has fewer staff than peer communities and replacing equipment has become more expensive. Parks, Recreation, & Forestry maintain more than 400 acres of parkland and manage recreation programming. Staffing shortfalls mean parks are not mowed, maintenance gets backlogged, and repairs and facility openings are delayed.</p> <p>To maintain current operations, the City could add one full-time street maintenance worker. To address increasing service demands, the City could add one full-time parks maintenance specialist and a part-time neighborhood navigator program manager.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low

Comments/questions/suggestions:

Funding to Invest in Services

The total cost of all service investments in the plan is nearly \$9.3 million. We know doing all of this at one time may not be realistic. We will use our community's input to determine which services, if any, can be funded at this time.

Services	Cost
Maintaining Current Services	\$4.5 million
Police	\$1.8 million
Fire and EMS	\$1.7 million
Library	\$1.0 million
Public Services and Parks, Recreation, & Forestry	<u>\$300,000</u>
Total	\$9.3 million

Estimated Annual Property Tax Increase by 2029 For Each <u>Additional</u> Funding Amount			
Base Referendum	\$4.5 million	\$4.5 million	\$4.5 million
Additional Funding	\$1 million	\$3 million	\$4.8 million
Total	\$5.5 million	\$7.5 million	\$9.3 million
Per \$100,000*	\$74	\$102	\$126
\$412,000 (the average home value in Sun Prairie)*	\$333	\$456	\$565
How much additional funding would you support?	<input type="checkbox"/> I would support an additional \$4.8 million. <input type="checkbox"/> I would support an additional \$3 million. <input type="checkbox"/> I would support an additional \$1 million. <input type="checkbox"/> I would <u>not</u> support additional funding to expand services. <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure/need more information.		
* Over the 2024 level			

Comments/questions/suggestions:

Respondent Information

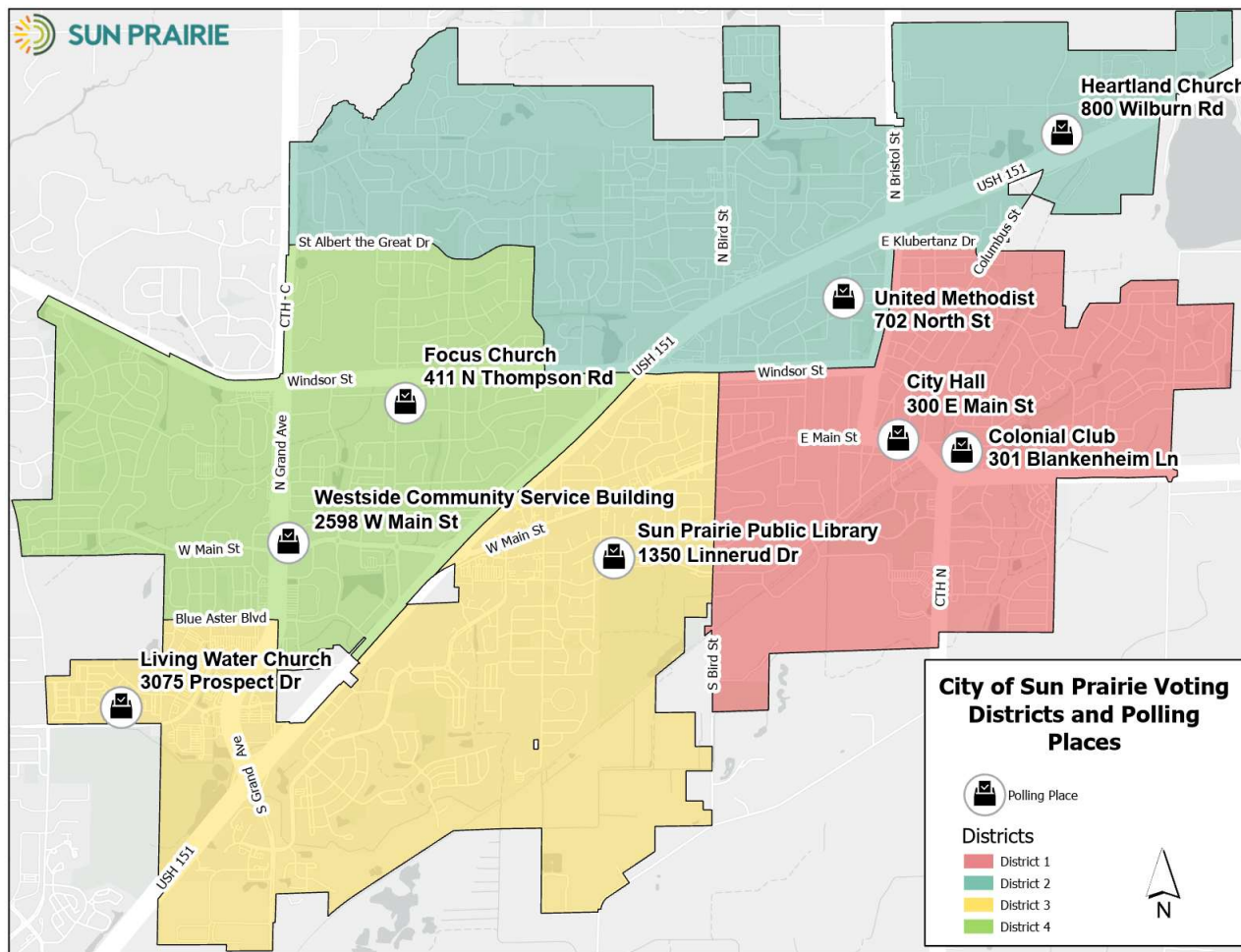
What is your age? 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+

Is your primary residence in the City of Sun Prairie? Yes No Not sure

Are you registered to vote in the City of Sun Prairie? Yes No Not sure

In which District do you live? (See map below.)

District 1 (Pink) District 2 (Blue) District 3 (Yellow) District 4 (Green)



How would you like to receive City information? (Mark all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City website | <input type="checkbox"/> City newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Text notifications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Emails | <input type="checkbox"/> X (Twitter) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook/Instagram/LinkedIn | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Mailing/Notices | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Star Newspaper</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KSUN Now or KSUN Life
(Sun Prairie Media Center) | <input type="checkbox"/> 103.5 The Sun Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Thank you for your participation! We sincerely value your time and input.

Survey results will be reported at City Council and available on the City of Sun Prairie's website at cityofsunprairie.com/stayconnected.

City of Sun Prairie
300 E. Main Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

**IMPORTANT SURVEY FROM
THE CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE
ENCLOSED**

Questions?

Contact City Hall at
608-825-1193.



SUN PRAIRIE

*Please complete this City survey
by October 6, 2025.*