

*Statement emailed to the Madison Common Council on October 17, 2019.*

The League of Women Voters of Dane County is very pleased that the Mayor included an additional 1.4 staff for the City Clerk in the Executive Budget. We understand that the cost will be partially offset by salary savings from decreased overtime.

In recent years several experienced staff have transferred to other positions in the building, citing as one factor in their decision the excessive overtime required in the Clerk's Office during peak periods.

The clerk's office staff provide excellent support to Madison's citizens and to voter outreach groups, helping to ensure that as many citizens as possible register to vote, obtain the required ID's for voting, and obtain absentee ballots if needed. A high City of Madison turnout is crucial in county, state, and federal elections, in part to ensure that the city receives fair consideration from elected officials in funding decisions affecting municipalities.

The League of Women Voters strongly encourages your support for this critical staffing increase in the Clerk's budget.