



Madison Governance Transition Committee

Recommendation to City Council

January 10, 2022

Committee Members

Arthur Brackett

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Mike Oliver

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James Ross

Cecilia Showalter

Megan Zingarelli (staff advisor)

Background

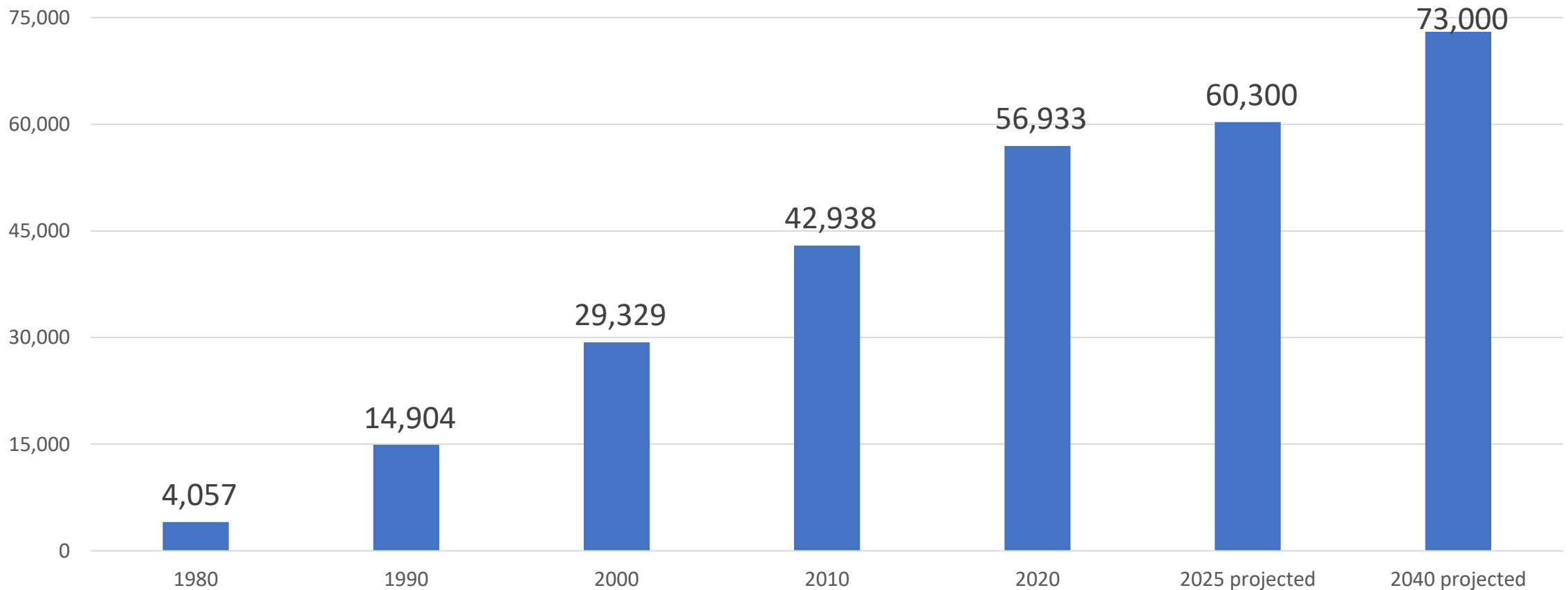


Committee designated by Mayor Paul Finley and presented to Madison City Council on August 9, 2021



First meeting of the committee was on August 31, 2021

City of Madison Population



Madison Form of Government Timeline

- 1869—Formally incorporated as a City
- 1869-1988—Commission form of government
- 1988—Transition to Mayor-Council form of government
- 2015—Madison Governance Committee 2025 recommends change to Council-Manager form of government
- 2015-2020—Population growth continues, and Madison takes place in Big 10 Alabama cities
- 2021—Mayor convenes new Governance Transition Committee to take a fresh look at what form of government will serve Madison best into the future

Committee's Research Work



Learning stance—Listening sessions



Leadership of 6 Alabama cities



Current Madison City Department Directors



Former Madison City leaders

Scope of Work

Should Madison change its current form of government and if so, why?

Should Madison stagger its Council-Mayor elections and if so, when?

Should Madison change its current form of government and if so, why?

- **Yes, the committee unanimously recommends that Madison change to a City Council-Manager form of government.**
 - The committee recommends following the procedures outlined in the Alabama Council-Manager Act, starting with a petition, then proceeding to a special election in which the citizens of Madison will vote.

Benefits of Council-Manager Form of Government

Places a credentialed city management professional in charge of daily operations of the city

Provides continuity of city management even as elected officials change

Policy making and vision casting resides with elected officials

Mayor and Council share legislative functions—Mayor serves as President of the Council

City Manager carries out the policies set by the Mayor and Council

Clarifies reporting chain and responsibilities for Department Heads and staff

City Manager can be removed by Mayor and Council if not executing duties

Keeps politics out of city's administration; city is run like a business

Roles of the Mayor in a Council-Manager Form of Government

Retains Chief Executive Officer capacity

Works on overall strategic vision of the city

Serves city as at large representative and is President of the City Council

Speaks on behalf of the city and represents city at events

Works with city partners, including other municipalities

Engages public on a regular basis

Promotes city activities and represents city on municipal/community boards

Should Madison stagger its Council-Mayor elections and if so, when?

- **The Committee, by majority vote, recommends that elections for the Council and Mayor be staggered.**
 - **These elections would begin in 2025 and will be put in place following a request to the Alabama Legislature for approval.**

Benefits of Staggered Terms

Continuity of experience on City Council at all times

Reduces risk of full Council turnover during an election

Momentum continues even when elections come around

Continuity in carrying out strategic growth plan

Potential for fresh perspectives every two years

Next Steps to Consider

- Follow procedures of the Council-Manager Act
- Petition from citizens for governance transition
- Pursue staggered term legislation
- Define process to select and hire qualified City Manager
- Educate public on roles of Mayor, Council, and City Manager
- Develop a plan for redistricting to six districts; Mayor elected at large
- Provision of written report from Committee and availability of Committee to Council and Mayor at future work session



Questions