

City of Madison: D7 Lunch and Learn: Understanding property taxes with Alder Badri Lankella

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District 7 Alder Badri Lankella will continue his Lunch & Learn series on Monday, March 9th, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. Join us on Zoom for an informative hour with Michelle Drea from the Assessor's Office and David Schmiedicke from the Finance Department. They will explain the role of property assessments in determining property taxes.

Drea and Schmiedicke provided the following joint statement:

Local governments in Wisconsin rely heavily on property taxes to fund critical services like education, police and fire protection, parks, roads, libraries, and even the courts. Property assessments determine how the taxes are distributed but do not establish how much property tax is collected. This distinction and relationship are often misunderstood. Our goal is to provide helpful information to better understand and navigate the process.

Bob Soldner, the Assistant Superintendent for Financial Services at MMSD, will also be present to address how district funding fits into the taxation process. This is a unique opportunity to hear from three individuals directly involved in the tax process and gain valuable insights into how your property is affected.

Following the speakers' presentations, attendees will have the chance to participate in a question-and-answer session for any lingering questions. Alder Lankella acknowledges the importance of this topic to residents and community members

and hopes this Lunch & Learn will “provide clarity, answer questions, and help neighbors better understand the local property tax process.”

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You don't want to miss out on this; register [here](#)! After registration, you will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom link and login information to join us day-of. Your confirmation email will be sent from NeighborhoodMeeting2@cityofmadison.com. If you cannot find your confirmation email, or you have questions, concerns, or requests for accommodation, please contact Lorissa Banuelos, Community Engagement Strategist, at Lbanuelos@cityofmadison.com. She is happy to assist you.

If you can't attend but have questions, feel free to email Alder Badri Lankella at District7@cityofmadison.com, using the subject line: Property Taxes. Your input is important!

Meet the Speakers



Michelle Drea, Assessor's Office

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- 608-266-4531
- assessor@cityofmadison.com

Biography

Michelle Drea is an attorney with unique expertise that lies at the nexus of the property assessment and legal worlds. Currently, she is the Assessor for the City of Madison. Prior to her position with the City, Michelle served as an attorney charged with oversight of the Wisconsin Property Assessment Manual and Guides Editor for the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. This position deepened her knowledge and subject matter expertise in property tax assessment in Wisconsin including Boards of Review, assessment standards and law, and property tax exemptions.



David Schmiedicke, Finance Department

Contact Information

- 608-266-4671
- finance@cityofmadison.com

Biography

David Schmiedicke is a career budget and finance professional with over 35 years of experience in Wisconsin state and local government and has been the Finance Director for the City of Madison, Wisconsin since 2011. He was appointed by Governors of both parties to serve as State of Wisconsin Budget Director and Deputy State Budget Director from 2001 to 2011. Prior to that David was the administrator of the State of Wisconsin Building Program, served as Secretary of the State of Wisconsin Building Commission, and was a team leader and analyst in the Wisconsin State Budget Office.



[Bob Soldner, Assistant Superintendent for Financial Services at MMSD \(link is external\)](#)

Contact Information

- rasoldner@madison.k12.wi.us

Biography

Soldner has more than 35 years of financial and budgetary management experience at state level. He possesses in-depth knowledge of the PK-12 education landscape as well as compliance expertise with state and federal laws and regulations. Soldner

