

Play the City "Budget Game" so we all can win

What can you do about the most difficult City budget in several decades? We suggest you make your voice heard by being a "player" in the game, not just an observer.

Here are three ways to make your voice heard.

1. Join us on October 10 as Northsiders gather at Warner Park Center to demonstrate the value of the City's investment in Northside neighborhoods by celebrating the many positive outcomes that investment has yielded over the past 15 years. *See page 3.*

2. Literally "play the game". The Wisconsin State Journal has unveiled a new tool in the form of a game to help citizens understand, and weigh in on, some of the difficult choices faced by City decision-makers. The "Madison Budget Game" can be accessed at the State Journal home webpage or www.madison.com/wsj/media/budget/index.html

If you take it seriously, this tool isn't really a game. In contrast to poring through the dozens of detailed pages in the City's budget, the "Budget Game" offers a graphic, easy to understand overview of key operating budget choices.

We encourage Northside News readers to "play" the game – experiment with different combinations of budget cuts and tax increases. If you think you've come up with a good plan that reflects your priorities, print the plan out. Send it, along with any comments you want to make, to Mayor Dave and

From

**TIM
CARLISLE**



**NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL
LEAD ORGANIZER**

your alder. Include your name and contact information, including street address (and aldermanic district).

If enough people use the "Budget Game" to submit their budget input to City officials, the State Journal's "game" may turn out to provide a new form of citizen input so that our City officials will be able to make budget choices based on the expressed wishes of their constituents, as well as their own values.

3. Contact your City representatives. Regardless of whether you play the "Budget Game" or not, please do contact our Northside Alders Satya Rhodes-Conway (District 12) and Michael Schumacher (District 18), and Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and share your thoughts about budget priorities. See our elected officials page for contact information. Or attend the Common Council meetings and speak up yourself -- see calendar at right.

Talk to your neighbors. Speak up for our community, not just yourself. These cuts are going to be painful, but we'll survive them as long as we stick together and work together as a community. That's what's gotten us this far as a Northside community.

We hope to see you all on October 10 at Warner Park Center!

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Candidates

I was able to share my passion with my children and inspire people who had never voted before to vote for the first time. For this I owe each and every one of my volunteer, supporters, opponents, and the voters of the 81st district a great big THANK YOU for believing in the little guy who dreams big. I could not have done it without you.

Having been a candidate I encourage everyone to vote in the upcoming Presidential election on November 4th. Voting gives you a voice in a world full of people ready to speak their minds. By voting, you have the opportunity to have an opinion and make it stand for something. On Election Day, it does not matter if you make \$7/hr or \$700/hr, if you are Caucasian, Asian American, African American, or Latino American we are all equal (one person one vote). Go out and vote!

~ Peng Her, former candidate for Assembly – Dist. 81

Dear Editor:

Dear friends, family, and neighbors, Thank you to those who warmly greeted my family as we campaigned for State Assembly at doors and events across Madison's Northside. Thank you to so many on the Northside that supported me in this endeavor.

We ran a tremendous grassroots campaign that was positive and focused on issues vital to the Northside like strong local schools, a vibrant economy, affordable health-care, and a healthy environment.

When I first contemplated campaigning to work for the people of the 81st district, I knew that I would put my heart and soul into the job. However, I had no idea that so many of my friends and family would not only join me, but deeply inspire me during this journey.

A special thank you to my wife Melissa, and our three boys Devin, Bailey, and Keanan. Their love, understanding, and support has been un-wavering.

In closing I want to congratulate Kelda Helen Roys on her primary victory and I want encourage my supporters to join me in supporting her and other Democrats in November.

~ Justin Sargent, former candidate for Assembly – Dist. 81

Public Hearing on 2009 Operating Budget

Oct. 28, 6:30 pm Room 201 City-County Building (CCB)

Common Council 2009 Budget Meetings

Tues., Nov. 11, 5:30 pm	Room 201, CCB
Wed., Nov. 12, 5:30 pm	Room 201, CCB
Thur., Nov. 13, 5:30 pm	Room 201, CCB

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