

Craig, Sondra

From: City of La Crosse Notices - No Reply
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 7:54 AM
To: Craig, Sondra; Elsen, Nikki; Janssen, Barb; Kahlow, Chris; Sleznikow, Larry; Trost, Jennifer; Mindel, Mackenzie; Dickinson, Tamra; Goggin, Erin; Steele, Annette; Washington-Spivey, Shaundel; Weston, Lisa; Newberry, Aron; Bedford, Crystal; Padesky, Gary; Stine, Olivia; Northwood, Rosanne
Subject: City Council Contact Form: No to a City Administrator

Submitted on: 2/12/2026

Name: Robert A Spencer

Email Address: RASpencer54601@gmail.com

Is this related to a legislative agenda item: Yes

Agenda item number: 24-1287

Subject: No to a City Administrator

To the Honorable Members of the La Crosse City Council,

Thank you for your service to our community. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to add a City Administrator position to La Crosse's organizational structure.

While I understand the intention may be to improve efficiency, I do not believe this is the right solution for a city of La Crosse's size or current needs. Our population is approximately 52,000–53,000 residents, and we already have an elected mayor and city council responsible for policy direction and oversight. Creating an additional, high-level administrative position would duplicate many existing responsibilities rather than address our most pressing challenges.

According to public estimates, the total annual cost for a City Administrator including salary, benefits, and associated support could range from \$200,000 to \$250,000 or more. This is a significant investment at a time when many core services are in need of additional funding and support.

Our community continues to face critical infrastructure needs, including deteriorating streets, substandard sidewalks, stormwater issues, and understaffed public works crews. Many residents and business owners have consistently voiced their concern about road conditions and the need for maintenance and improvements. Allocating scarce resources to an additional administrative role diverts funds from these essential services.

Rather than increasing administrative capacity, I respectfully urge the City Council to prioritize investments in:

- Road and bridge maintenance
- Public works staffing and equipment
- Neighborhood infrastructure improvements
- Support for frontline service departments

These are the areas that directly affect quality of life and economic vitality in our community, and they have an immediate, visible impact on La Crosse residents.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I encourage thoughtful deliberation on how best to allocate limited resources that reflect the priorities of our citizens.

Sincerely,
Robert A Spencer