

I Vote Madison  
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## **Being an informed citizen just got a little easier with Madison Civic Search, I Vote Madison's new simple-to-search video archive of Madison's government meetings**

I Vote Madison, a dedicated advocate for civic participation, proudly introduces Madison Civic Search, an innovative project aimed at simplifying civic engagement for Madison residents. This groundbreaking initiative leverages cutting-edge software created and generously provided by the nonprofit Open Media Foundation, allowing residents to easily access and explore government meeting footage recorded by I Vote Madison since December 2020. With Madison Civic Search, users can effortlessly search through the extensive 190+ video archive by entering keywords, enabling them to stay informed about local government discussions and decisions. In a world where time is precious, this tool provides busy residents with a convenient means to keep up to date on issues that matter to them within Madison. Madison Civic Search promises to be a transformative force, fostering a stronger connection between citizens and their government.

After previewing Madison Civic Search, Madison resident Mike Sheehy stated, "This tool is an absolute game changer. It capitalizes on cutting edge communication technologies to enable citizens (including city officials) to easily find and review historical video and documents in order to have informed, fact-based discussions. Just enter a name or subject, and within moments a wealth of information is at your fingertips. Simply spectacular!"

Tara Bailey, Founder of I Vote Madison, said, "We are dedicated to dismantling barriers within government to boost civic involvement and ensure information is within reach for all. Local-level decisions frequently wield the most influence over our daily lives, underscoring the crucial need for citizens to stay well-informed."

Madison Civic Search utilizes software created by the nonprofit, Open Media Foundation. The Open Media Foundation, based out of Denver, Colorado, is an innovative media and technology nonprofit organization dedicated to putting the power of the media in the hands of the people, enabling everyone to engage in their community and bring about the change they wish to see in the world.

Brandon Stiller, Creative Director with the Open Media Foundation said, “Open Media is excited to partner with I Vote Madison to increase constituent engagement and awareness. We are honored to provide this technology to I Vote Madison and the citizens of Alabama.”

About I Vote Madison:

I Vote Madison is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization that envisions a Madison shaped by residents. Its mission is to increase civic engagement in Madison, Alabama by providing education to residents and removing participation barriers at the community level.

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## **General Information about Madison Civic Search**

### **Madison Civic Search**

Simple, searchable archive of Madison’s Government Meetings.

Searchable content includes: City Council Meetings, City Council Work Sessions, Planning Commission Meetings, City Council Town Hall Meetings, Board of Education Meetings, Madison Police Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings, and I Vote Madison Special Meetings. Search them all at once with a single keyword search!

### **Why use Madison Civic Search?**

- Results display in seconds.
- The search feature enables you to locate when your search term was said in any of the archived videos.
- You can track and research issues you care about in Madison.
- You can easily share video moments from meetings on Facebook, Twitter, or with a custom link.
- Meeting documentation is easily accessible and user-friendly.