



## Markdown (MD) for Madison

*The Ridiculously Easy-to-Use Way to Open Legislation for Public Collaboration*

### What Is Markdown?

Markdown is a web language that allows anyone to easily create content online that web applications like Madison can use. Everything you can't do with a PDF or Word document, you can do with Markdown.

### Entering a Document in Markdown

When posting a document in Madison you have two options:

1. Copy, paste, and edit an existing document from Word.
2. Write directly in Madison using Markdown.

### Styling Text With Markdown

#### Line breaks:

Enter two spaces at the end of a line of text to create a line break.

#### Paragraphs:

To create separate paragraphs, add a blank line between sentences by hitting enter twice. To indent a paragraph, enter four spaces in front of the the first line of the paragraph.

#### Headers:

You can create up to six levels of headers. There are two ways of doing this:

1. Highlight the line you want to make a header; click on the header icon at the top of the page. Click on the icon again to change the level of header.
2. Add hashtags in front of the text you want to be your header; the number of hashtags determines the level of header.

#### Emphasis

##### *Italics*

You have two choices:

1. Highlight your content and click the *I* icon at the top of the page
2. Place asterisks before and after a word (\*word\*).

#### Bold

You have two choices:



1. Highlight your content and click the **B** icon at the top of the page.
2. Place double asterisks on either side (\*\*word\*\*).

You cannot underline text in Markdown.

## Listed Items

### Bulleted Items

You have two choices:

1. Click on the “Bulleted List” icon at the top of the page.
2. Enter an asterisk (\*), followed by one space, in front of each list item

### Numbered Items

You have two choices:

1. Click on the “Numbered List” icon at the top of the page.
2. Enter a number, followed by one space, in front of each list item.

Note that you must enter the asterisk or number in front of each item in the list.

### Block Quotes

You have two choices:

1. Click the “ icon at the top of the page. To indent further, click the icon again.
2. Enter > in front of the first word. To indent further, add another >.

This styling will affect the entire paragraph, but once you add a blank line and start a new paragraph the styling will return to normal.

### Link to Text

If you want to link to an external source, place the URL within a set of brackets:

[<http://www.opengovfoundation.org>].

### Images

The only way to insert an image into Markdown is to link to its location online. Madison allows you to do this with a helpful icon at the top of the page.

If you want to use a symbol in your content that Markdown uses to create styling, such as an asterisk, simply place a backslash in front of the the symbol. For example: /\*emphasis/\*

### Further Resources

You can contact us with any questions by email at [sayhello@opengovfoundation.org](mailto:sayhello@opengovfoundation.org) or on



Twitter with @FoundOpenGov.

The following websites contain additional helpful information on how to use Markdown:

<http://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/syntax#overview>

<http://whatismarkdown.com/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Markdown>

<http://stackoverflow.com/help/formatting>

[http://greg.brim.net/markdown\\_cheatsheet.html](http://greg.brim.net/markdown_cheatsheet.html)

<http://stet.editorially.com/articles/why-markup-and-markdown-matter/>