

Draft 2026 State Legislative Platform

Vision, Mission, and Goals

Vision

A vibrant community where all are valued and thrive.

Mission

A county of excellence working with you to enhance our quality of life.

Goals

Strengthen individual, family and community health, safety and well-being.

Cultivate economic prosperity and invest in neighborhoods with concentrated financial poverty.

Enhance access to opportunity and mobility for all residents and businesses.

Model fiscal accountability, transparency and strategic investments.



WELL-BEING



PROSPERITY



OPPORTUNITY



ACCOUNTABILITY

Legislative Themes in 2026

- No new unfunded mandates on counties.
- Protect counties from further cuts and cost shifts.
- Counties must be at the table for any service delivery change.
- Reduce reliance on property tax.

Capital Improvement Requests

Park at RiversEdge (\$20 million)

Aldrich Arena (\$8.5 million)

Legislative Top Priorities

Pursue	Bonding for Park at RiversEdge
	Bonding for Aldrich Arena
	Establish Capitol Complex County Host Program (CCCHP), a program similar to Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for Ramsey County as host of the Capitol Complex.
	Amend MN Statute 383A to clean up human resources-related language; to raise small business contract threshold to \$500,000; and to extend/eliminate sunset on Environmental Response Fund (Phase 1).
	Seek funding extension for the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA).
	Establish a statewide homelessness funding program, to be funded in the 2028-29 budget, that would provide ongoing, separate funding for counties and providers.
Leading advocate	Preserve current reimbursement method for MnCHOICES assessments, to ensure sufficient funding for Ramsey County's MnCHOICES division budget and staffing.
	Enhance efficiencies in Home & Community-Based Services, where program changes have increased administrative burden, increasing pressures on workforce and wait times for residents.
	Modernize state human services systems to better serve residents and reduce counties' administrative burden.
	Preserve or increase formula-based transportation funding for Ramsey County.
Support	Address the comprehensive substance abuse, mental and behavioral health needs of the community, including youth and those with acute and/or complex needs.
	Enhance public safety and reduce gun violence
	Support the Catalyzing Underutilized Buildings (CUB) Tax Credit to encourage redevelopment efforts and to increase housing stock.
	Protect counties from increased costs resulting from federal changes to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medical Assistance (MA).
	Move MAAFPCWDA case review responsibility to the state.

Other Legislative Priorities

Pursue	Adjust adult protection funding allocation formula to a more equitable balance between screened-in cases and referral volume.
Leading advocate	Increase access to secure mental health treatment options in the East Metro to better address residents' complex behavioral health needs.
	Allow local governments to restrict guns on properties they own, especially buildings.
	Allow a portion of state housing and homelessness funds to be used for administrative costs.
	Repeal 2028 sunset of Local Homeless Prevention Aid
Support	Address racial disparities in healthcare quality, access and outcomes, especially those likely to result from recent federal legislative changes that will cause residents to lose access to healthcare.
	Classify residential addresses of elected officials and government officials as private government data.
	Transition the special property tax refund to a property tax credit that is automatically calculated and issued
	Increase state allocations to 40% of Operations & Maintenance costs for regional parks and trails.
	Support legislation aligning with Climate Equity Action Plan
	Allow recovery of costs of special elections for state and federal offices.
	Expand the responsibilities of Office of Broadband Development to include Digital Opportunity

Pursue indicates that these are typically issues that impact Ramsey County in a unique way. The County anticipates playing a leading role in advocating for these items and will invest substantial time and resources towards advocacy.

Leading Advocate indicates that Ramsey County provides active advocacy efforts but anticipates that another entity will play a leading role in advocating for the item.

Support indicates that Ramsey County anticipates that another entity or entities will play leading roles in advocating for these items. Ramsey County will invest time and resources towards advocacy only on an as-needed basis.

Ramsey County Support of Other Positions

In addition to the initiatives contained in this platform, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners generally supports the legislative recommendations of the local units of government within the county and organizations in which it holds membership, including, but not limited to:

- Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and its associated professional organizations, including:
 - Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (LPHA)
 - Minnesota Association of County Social Services Administrators (MACSSA)
 - Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO)
 - Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC)
 - Minnesota County IT Leadership Association (MCITLA)
 - Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA)
 - Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers (MACVSO)
- Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM)
- Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA)
- Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD)
- Minnesota County Engineers Association (MCEA)
- Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB)
- Minnesota Association of Assessing Officers (MAAO)
- Partnership on Waste and Energy (PWA)
- Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy (R&E)
- Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County (WIB)

The county board may choose to take a different position on individual items within the platforms of these and other organizations whose platforms they generally support. The county board may also consider additional positions in response to issues that emerge during the legislative session.