



2024 State and Federal Legislative Platforms

Legislative Committee of the Whole



Agenda

1. Introductions

Commissioner Martinson

2. Workshop Overview

Jennifer O'Rourke, Government Relations

3. State Platform Changes

Government Relations

4. Federal Platform Changes

Government Relations

5. Discussion

Government Relations

2024 Proposed Ramsey County Platform Priorities

Family and Community Stabilization:

- Investing in housing stability—affordability and transitions out of homelessness.
- Addressing racial disparities in out-of-home displacements.
- Preventing and responding to youth violence through innovative community programming and investments.
- Funding an increase in County Program Aid.

Systems Transformation:

- Improving mental and behavioral health systems and support.
- Reforming criminal justice approach, centering community.

Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion:

- Funding transportation, including new revenues for transit, roads and bridges.
- Investing in workforce supports for all residents.
- Responding to climate change by prioritizing adaptation and resiliency.
- Funding for Ramsey County bonding requests.

2024 Proposed Ramsey County Bonding Items

RAMSEY COUNTY BONDING REQUESTS

- Rice Creek Commons Infrastructure \$25M
- The Park at RiversEdge ~~\$26M~~ \$20M
- Aldrich Arena & Community Event Center \$12.8M
- Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health Facility \$10.5 M
- Youth Detention Center \$16 M
- ~~Rice Street Revitalization \$3.9M~~
- ~~Bruce Vento Trail Extension \$5M~~

SUPPORT FOR OTHER BONDING REQUESTS

- Gibbs Farm-Pathways to Dakota & Pioneer Life, Ramsey County Historical Society ~~\$9M~~ \$9.9 M

2024 State Platform Changes



Items Removed

LIBRARY GOVERNANCE CHANGE

- Pursue legislation, in partnership with Anoka County, to establish the county library board as an advisory committee to the county board, mirroring a governance structure currently used by five counties across the metropolitan area, that ensures that county services most effectively support residents and employees. (Achieved)

ACCELERATED FORFEITURE FOR TARGETED NEIGHBORHOODS

- Pursue special legislation allowing Ramsey County to retroactively cancel forfeitures that occurred in 2022 under this program, and to apply the three-year redemption period to properties that will be impacted by this in the future. This special legislation will allow for all properties across Ramsey County to have the three-year redemption period uniformly applied, beginning in 2022, thereby eliminating the disparities caused by the statutory accelerated forfeiture provision. (Achieved)

Items Removed

FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS FOR HOMESTEAD APPLICATIONS

- Pursue legislation to allow use of Federal Identification Numbers in lieu of social security numbers on homestead classification applications to expand access to Minnesota's Property Tax Homestead Credit Refund. (Achieved)

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT FUNDING

- Support state legislation alongside MnDOT and the Great River Rail Commission to fund future operations of the Second Train to Chicago (TCMC). (Achieved)
- Support legislation that would authorize MnDOT to spend Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding on state road construction and also provide new funding for state matching funds for IIJA grant programs. (Achieved)

Items Removed

HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

- Adjust MFIP so that families report on their income every 6 months, rather than monthly. (Achieved)

CHILD CARE REFORMS

- Support legislation to make permanent strategic waitlist changes that allow more families who have not used MFIP to access essential work-related support. (Achieved)

HUNGER RELIEF

- Support legislation to permanently provide no-cost school lunch to all children in Minnesota schools. (Achieved)

Items Removed

EVICTION PROTECTIONS

- Support creating a right to counsel for tenants in cases brought by landlords alleging breach of lease in public housing evictions, which tend to raise more complicated issues that are harder for tenants to address without a lawyer's help. (Achieved. Funding need addressed elsewhere.)

PROBATION REFORMS

- Support legislation to codify the Sentencing Guidelines Commission guidance to cap probation lengths to five years, address racial disparities and give offenders the best shot at positive community and family involvement while improving public safety and saving taxpayer dollars. (Achieved)

Items Removed

FELON VOTING RIGHTS

- Support legislation to clarify the reestablishment of voting rights for residents with felony convictions who are living, working and paying taxes in their home communities so they do not have to complete extensive probationary and supervised release periods before they are able to vote. (Achieved)

GUN SAFETY

- Support mandated background checks for all firearm purchases to reduce firearm-related crime. (Achieved)
- Support legislation to provide a legal means for families and others to initiate the temporary seizure of firearms from an individual who is exhibiting erratic and violent behavior. (Achieved)

Items Removed

EXPUNGEMENTS

- Support legislation to align with federal action to pardon or expunge state convictions for people charged with having a small amount of cannabis in their possession, with no intent to sell or distribute it. The charge must also not be connected with any additional crime, such as robbery or assault. (Achieved)

PROSECUTOR-INITIATED RESENTENCING

- Pursue legislation to enable prosecutors to initiate a motion to the court to reduce a person's sentence based upon their success in programming, abiding by conditions of supervised release, furthering their rehabilitation, and/or other factors that have subsequently reduced the person's risk for recidivism or indicate that a sentence reduction is in the interest of justice. (Achieved)

Items Added

FUNDING FOR PARKS AND TRAILS

- Support legislation to ensure that the Ramsey County park system and other local metro park systems receive the full 40 percent for operations and maintenance as mandated in state law. Currently the state only funds it at nine percent.

COUNTY PROCUREMENT CHANGES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

- Support legislation that would authorize the county to use cooperative contracts resulting from competitive solicitations. Currently, the county can use cooperative contracts for supplies, equipment, materials, labor services and construction resulting from competitive bids or quotes. This change to allow solicitations will enable Ramsey County to allow use of cooperative contracts for supplies, equipment, materials, labor services and construction regardless of the type of solicitation so long as there was a competitive solicitation process, align the use of cooperative contracts with the State and further Ramsey County involvement with the cooperative contract initiative lead by NACo.

Items Added

STATE-LOCAL FISCAL PARTNERSHIP

- Pursue changes to County Program Aid (CPA) that artificially cap the formula and create inequities for Ramsey County. (PLACEHOLDER)
- Support additional state funds for elections implementation by local entities.
- Support changes to the county share formula for cannabis tax revenues to reflect the disparate impact cannabis prohibition has had on certain communities. (PLACEHOLDER)
- Pursue a clarification amendment to the 2023 Special Guerilla Unit's (SGU) Museum appropriation that would expand their options for leasing from just St. Paul to Ramsey County.

Items Added

REGIONAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENTS

- Pursue state investment in Ramsey County Driver's License Academy which is successfully supporting young adults obtain critical job credential.
- Pursue state investment in Training Stipends as part of all workforce programs.
- Pursue state investment in Ramsey County to create more employment and training supports and opportunities for those who are justice impacted. Ideas include re-entry navigators in WFS.
- Pursue state investment in digital navigators and digital literacy training in Ramsey County to support job seekers.

TAX FORFEITURE

- (PLACEHOLDER, Supportive of AMC position)

Items Added

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT FUNDING

- Pursue a clarification to the 2023 \$1 million appropriation for the Rice Street Revitalization that allows the funds to be used for planning, design, environmental documentation and right-of-way acquisition. The 2023 language as passed referred to reconstruction, and MMB has asked for more specificity.
- Support reform of the governance for Metropolitan Council with a focus on accountability, transparency, and cooperative partnership.
- Support a sales tax exemption on transit projects.
- Support a requirement that Metro Transit consult with locals when they ask for state or federal funds so all parties are aware of project costs.
- Support legislation that requires mapping of private utilities, especially in public works projects.

Items Added

MENTAL HEALTH

- Added language referencing youth to Rule 20 transformation support item.
- Support legislation to address acute, complex behavioral health placements and community services and clarify the state's safety net role in providing and funding these critical services.
- Support legislation and funding to support the families, especially children, of murder, suicide, or murder-suicide victims.

PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORT

- Pursue legislation to ensure adequate funding to support increased response expectations for local public health agencies to investigate elevated blood lead level testing in children.

Items Added

HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

- Support legislation to change the requirement to complete a full MNChoices assessment from annually to once every 2-3 years, unless there is a change in condition.
- Support legislation to increase reimbursement rates for providing waiver case management services.

HUNGER RELIEF

- Pursue legislation directing the Department of Human Services to seek a federal waiver to allow disabled, elderly, or unstably housed persons to use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to purchase hot prepared meals.

LIBRARY FUNDING

- Pursue legislation to create a task force to review and suggest recommendations for funding to support the statewide law library system.

Items Added

RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH

- Support funding for the creation of family support groups, community-based sites for conflict or crisis de-escalation, and other resources to support youth and families through all stages of the justice process and to prevent incarceration or further systems involvement.
- Support legislation to align licensing requirements for service providers across state agencies to reduce barriers, along with additional investments for providers to sustain and improve programs that can fully support youth and their families.

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION FUNDING

- Support full funding for the community supervision formula and further refinement of the policy language enacted in 2023.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- Support funding to fully address the shelter and other needs of domestic violence victims.
- Support funding for programs targeted at reducing domestic violence rates in our community.

Items Added

COURT SYSTEM FUNDING

- Pursue state funding to support the four specialty treatment courts run by the Second Judicial District. These courts provide alternative adjudication of certain DWIs, mental health related criminal cases, cases involving veterans, and cases involving substance abuse.
- Pursue legislation to ensure reimbursement for county costs to provide state-mandated defense attorneys for Child in Need of Protection Services (CHIPS), civil commitment, and public housing eviction cases.

ALLIED RADIO MATRIX FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE (ARMER) FUNDING

- Support sustainable, ongoing funding to update and maintain the ARMER Radio System that services public safety and public service radio users statewide.

Items Added

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

- Support legislation directing the Department of Human Services to submit a Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver application to:
 - (1) allow incarcerated individuals to access to proper health care in jails;
 - (2) update Medicaid's prohibition on paying for mental health treatment delivered in institutions for mental disease; and
 - (3) allow incarcerated individuals to submit an application for SNAP and other benefits prior to their date of release.

WASTE AND ENERGY EFFORTS

- Pursue, in collaboration with Washington County, \$30 million in funding to support the creation of a new anaerobic digestion facility for the east metro.

2024 Federal Platform Changes



Items Added

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

- Support efforts to raise the minimum benefit level and to eliminate three-month time limits on SNAP eligibility for certain working-age adults and college students.
- Support legislation to allow persons to use SNAP benefits to purchase hot prepared meals.

HUNGER RELIEF

- Support efforts to continue increased summer EBT for children and youth who wouldn't receive the School Lunch Program.

MISSCLASSIFICATION OF HMONG

- Support efforts to ensure the Hmong peoples are not misclassified as East Asian. The U.S. Census Bureau has historically misclassified them which as led to confusion in data, resources and perceptions of Hmong.

A photograph of a large, multi-story brick building with arched windows and a prominent red brick chimney. The building is partially obscured by large, leafy green trees. In the foreground, there is a sidewalk, a brick wall, and a decorative metal fence. The scene is set in a well-maintained outdoor area.

2024 Platforms Discussion

Developing 2024 Platforms Timeline

Estimated Date	Activity
Sep. 13-15	AMC Policy Conference – set committee priorities.
Oct. 17	Board workshop: 2024 State and Federal Legislative Platform Development.
Oct. / Nov.	Update priorities and positions – Executive Team, Commissioners, senior staff and community.
Nov. 14	Platform drafts presented at Legislative Committee of the Whole.
Dec. 4 – 6	AMC Annual Conference
Dec. 12 / Dec. 19	Platforms considered for approval by Ramsey County Board.
Jan. 2024	Official Delegation meeting with State Legislators.
Feb. 12, 2024	First day of 2024 State Legislative Session.



Questions?

November 14, 2023