
Sponsor: Human Resources

Meeting Date: 6/4/2024

Title: Proposed Ramsey County Commissioner's Salary Ordinance for 2025 - Waive First Reading and Set Public Hearing Date

File Number: 2024-214

Background and Rationale:

The Ramsey County Home Rule Charter section 5.01.A.1 requires that certain acts of the Ramsey County Board shall be by ordinance. The provisions of the Ramsey County Home Rule Charter relating to compensation for the Board of Commissioners in section 2.01.D state that:

- a. The Ramsey County Board may determine the amount of the annual salary of its members by passage of a salary ordinance; and
- b. The salary ordinance must be passed by July 1 of the year prior to the effective date of the ordinance; and
- c. The ordinance shall not become effective until the first business day of the following year (January 1, 2025).

Ramsey County employees with settled bargaining agreements and unrepresented employees received a general wage increase of 2.25% in 2024. It has normally been the intention of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners that future salary increases for the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners be set at a rate that matches the general increase in wages given to employees in the previous year, though the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners chose to forgo the 0.5% wage increase in 2021 due to the difficult economic climate at the time. An increase of 2.25% for the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners will result in a salary increase equivalent to the general wage increase given to employees in the calendar year 2024. However, in order to achieve parity with the general wage increases given to employees since 2020, an additional increase of 0.5% for the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners should be applied. Further, and in order to compensate the role of the County Board Chair more equitably for the additional duties and responsibilities of the elected position, the County Board Chair's salary should increase to reflect a differential equal to 5%. The current annual salary of the Board of Commissioners is \$101,280 for County Board Members, and \$104,447 for the County Board Chair. The proposed salary ordinance would increase commissioners' salary to \$104,077 for County Board Members and to \$109,338 for the County Board Chair.

The Ramsey County Home Rule Charter section 5.02 states each proposed ordinance shall receive two readings: first, at the time it is presented, and second, at the time of the public hearing as required by law. Both readings may be waived if a copy of the ordinance is supplied to each member of the Ramsey County Board prior to its introduction. In accordance with these requirements, the proposed Ramsey County Commissioner's Salary Ordinance for 2025 was provided to each commissioner prior to its introduction on May 24, 2024. Therefore, the first reading may be waived by duly made motion and majority vote.

The Ramsey County Home Rule Charter section 5.02 states that every proposed ordinance shall hold a public hearing as required by law. A notification of the public hearing, which includes the draft ordinance will be publicized in advance of the public hearing.

This action sets the date of the Public Hearing as June 18, 2024 at 9 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers. Persons who intend to testify are encouraged to sign up online at ramseycounty.us/chiefclerk or contact the Chief Clerk at 651-266-9200 prior to June 18, 2024. If in-person testimony is not feasible, comments may alternatively be provided via the following methods:

- Email: chiefclerk@ramseycounty.us <<mailto:chiefclerk@ramseycounty.us>>
- Phone: 651-266-9200
- Written letter to: Chief Clerk, 15 West Kellogg Blvd, 250 Courthouse, Saint Paul, MN 55102

The entire proposed Ordinance can be found on Ramsey County's website <https://www.ramseycounty.us/sites/default/files/Ordinances/Proposed%20Commissioners%20Salary%20for%202024%20v2.pdf>

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Waive the First Reading of the proposed Ramsey County Commissioner's Salary Ordinance for 2025.
2. Set the Public Hearing date of June 18, 2024 at 9 a.m. or as soon as possible thereafter, in the Council Chambers, third floor of Ramsey County Courthouse - 15 West Kellogg Boulevard, Saint Paul, MN 55102 to afford the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed Ramsey County Commissioner's Salary Ordinance for 2025.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Reinhardt, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Martinson, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

Absent: - 1: Frethem

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board