
Sponsor: Finance

Meeting Date: 12/16/2025

Title: Approval of the 2026-2027 Operating Budget

File Number: 2025-514

Background and Rationale:

The Home Rule Charter for Ramsey County, Chapter 3, Section 3.02 F states that the County Manager shall prepare and submit the annual budget proposal to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. Along with the Home Rule Charter, the Minnesota Statutes, Sections 134.07 and 134.34 authorizes the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners to levy a tax to establish and maintain a public library, which levy is to be made upon taxable property in Ramsey County, outside of any city or village where in a free public library is located, or which is not already taxed for the support of any free library.

The County Manager presented the 2026-2027 proposed biennial budget to the Ramsey County Board on September 2, 2025.

The Ramsey County Budget Committee of the Whole met with county service teams to discuss their proposed budgets:

- September 15, 2025: Strategic Team
- September 16, 2025: Information and Public Records Service Team
- September 18, 2025: Economic Growth and Community Investment Service Team
- September 19, 2025: Health and Wellness Service Team
- September 22, 2025: Safety & Justice Service Team

The Ramsey County Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on September 22, 2025, to receive public input on the 2026-2027 proposed budget. The Ramsey County Board also held a public meeting on December 11, 2025, to hear additional comments on the 2026-2027 proposed budget.

The Truth in Taxation Law requires the county to certify a proposed levy each year to the County Auditor on or before September 30. On September 23, 2025, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners certified a proposed maximum tax levy of \$434,565,563 to finance the 2026 budget, which was a 9.75% increase over the 2025 Tax Levy of 395,960,717.

On November 4, 2025, the Ramsey County Board held two workshops to discuss addenda changes to the 2026-2027 Proposed Budget. This in conjunction with other board actions taken between September and December 2025 resulted in a 1.5% levy reduction in 2026 from the maximum levy passed by the Ramsey County Board. The addenda changes result in a decrease to maximum 2026 tax levy of \$5,836,229. The final 2026 tax levy to approve is \$428,627,201.

Staff are now requesting approval of the 2026-2027 Biennial Budget and the 2026 Tax Levy based on the County Manager's 2026-2027 proposed biennial budget as amended by addenda presented to the Budget Committee of the Whole, and with additional changes approved by the Ramsey County Board during county board meetings and workshops in 2025. These actions are detailed in the 2026-2027 Addenda.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Approve the 2026-2027 Ramsey County Operating Budget:

1. Approve the 2026 budget of \$924,063,479 and the 2027 budget of \$962,473,868 with all the changes noted in the attached budget addenda.
2. Approve the 2026-2027 Fee Schedule, as amended.
3. Authorize the County Manager to continue to fund the Internal Service Fund for Employee Health and Dental Insurance to account for health and dental premiums.
4. Authorize the County Manager to move, transfer, or reallocate existing Full Time Equivalents and budget resources within and between the service teams and departments to support the service teams in their ability to achieve and implement the Ramsey County Board's vision, mission, goals and strategic plan.
5. Authorize the County Manager to make all necessary budget adjustments, including transfers and increasing estimated revenues and expenditures to implement the Ramsey County Board's vision, mission, goals and strategic plan along with Requests for Board Actions that have been approved by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Moran, seconded by Commissioner Miller.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, McMurtrey, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

By: 
Jason Yang, Chief Clerk - County Board