



Legislative Committee of the Whole

Agenda

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

November 14, 2023 - 10:30 a.m.

Council Chambers - Courthouse Room 300

ROLL CALL

1. **Agenda of November 14, 2023 is Presented for Approval** [2023-490](#)
Sponsors: County Manager's Office
Approve the agenda of November 14, 2023.
2. **Minutes from November 15, 2022 are Presented for Approval** [2023-491](#)
Sponsors: County Manager's Office
Approve the November 15, 2022 Minutes.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

3. **2024 Ramsey County State Legislative Platform** [2023-484](#)
Sponsors: Policy & Planning
 1. Approve the 2024 Ramsey County State Legislative Platform.
 2. Authorize Ramsey County representatives to work with members of the Legislative and other interested parties to promote legislation reflective of the positions contained in the platform.
4. **2024 Ramsey County Federal Legislative Platform** [2023-483](#)
Sponsors: Policy & Planning
 1. Approve the 2024 Ramsey County Federal Legislative Platform.
 2. Authorize Ramsey County representatives to work with members of Congress and other interested parties to promote legislation reflective of the positions contained in the platform.

ADJOURNMENT



Legislative Committee of the Whole

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

Request for Board Action

Item Number: 2023-490

Meeting Date: 11/14/2023

Sponsor: County Manager's Office

Title

Agenda of November 14, 2023 is Presented for Approval

Recommendation

Approve the agenda of November 14, 2023.



Legislative Committee of the Whole

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

Request for Board Action

Item Number: 2023-491

Meeting Date: 11/14/2023

Sponsor: County Manager's Office

Title

Minutes from November 15, 2022 are Presented for Approval

Recommendation

Approve the November 15, 2022 Minutes.

Attachments

1. November 15, 2022 Minutes

November 15, 2022 - 10:30 a.m.

Council Chambers - Courthouse Room 300

The Ramsey County Legislative Committee of the Whole met in regular session at 9:49 a.m. with the following members present: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Chair McGuire. Also present were Ryan O'Connor, County Manager.

ROLL CALL

Present Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

1. Agenda of November 15, 2022 is Presented for Approval [2022-605](#)

Sponsors: County Manager's Office

Approve the agenda of November 15, 2022.

Motion by Reinhardt, seconded by MatasCastillo. Motion passed.

Aye: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

2. Minutes from November 16, 2021 are Presented for Approval [2022-606](#)

Sponsors: County Manager's Office

Approve the November 16, 2021 Minutes.

Motion by MatasCastillo, seconded by Carter. Motion passed.

Aye: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

3. 2023 Ramsey County State Legislative Platform [2022-602](#)

Sponsors: Policy & Planning

1. Approve the 2023 Ramsey County State Legislative Platform.
2. Authorize Ramsey County representatives to work with members of the Legislature and other interested parties to promote legislation reflective of the positions contained in the platform.

Motion by MatasCastillo, seconded by Frethem. Motion passed.

Aye: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

4. 2023 Ramsey County Federal Legislative Platform [2022-603](#)

Sponsors: Policy & Planning

1. Approve the 2023 Ramsey County Federal Legislative Platform.
2. Authorize Ramsey County representatives to work with members of Congress and other interested parties to promote legislation reflective of the positions contained in the platform

Motion by McDonough, seconded by Ortega. Motion passed.

Aye: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

ADJOURNMENT

Chair McGuire declared the meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Request for Board Action

Item Number: 2023-484

Meeting Date: 11/14/2023

Sponsor: Policy & Planning

Title

2024 Ramsey County State Legislative Platform

Recommendation

1. Approve the 2024 Ramsey County State Legislative Platform.
2. Authorize Ramsey County representatives to work with members of the Legislative and other interested parties to promote legislation reflective of the positions contained in the platform.

Background and Rationale

On October 17, 2023, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners held a workshop on the 2023 State and Federal Legislative Platforms. Government Relations staff and Goff Public presented an analysis of the upcoming state legislative session as well as proposed draft platform items for discussion by the members of the board.

In preparation for the review of the proposed platform by the Legislative Committee of the Whole, Government Relations staff have included in the latest draft suggested changes from the commissioners and further input from department leadership staff. The 2024 State Legislative Platform draft includes Legislative Guiding Principles, Ramsey Funding and Policy Priorities, Bonding Proposals and a statement of support for platforms of named organizations.

The Legislative Committee of the Whole reviews the draft Ramsey County State Legislative Platform and recommends its submittal to the Ramsey County Board. The documents presented here are drafts. Underlined text represents language to be added and stricken text represents language to be deleted.

County Goals (Check those advanced by Action)

Well-being

Prosperity

Opportunity

Accountability

Racial Equity Impact

The racial equity impacts of each item or position included in the draft of the 2024 State Legislative Platform were considered as part of the solicitation for proposed items and positions from service teams, departments and staff. Most of the proposed items have direct impact on racial equity, particularly those items that provide increased access to services or benefits specifically targeted to low-income individuals, families or communities, which disproportionately include more people of color and American Indians. These services or opportunities include improved access to health care, stable housing, childcare subsidies, employment opportunities and program and service refinements designed to positively engage cultural values. These efforts are reflected in the proposed top legislative priorities of the platform draft, which include housing stability and affordability and addressing racial disparities.

Community Participation Level and Impact

Government Relations will share the 2024 State Legislative Platform with appropriate Ramsey County advisory committees. This platform will also be discussed with other county organizations and advocacy

groups.

Inform

Consult

Involve

Collaborate

Empower

Fiscal Impact

Many of positions in the state platform have financial implications and would require state and/or county appropriations if legislation is enacted. The platform items that require county expenditures may do so in the form of a state-imposed maintenance of effort, a required local funding match (which is common for bonding projects), or through a new or revised operating cost. When there are implications for the current budget, necessary budget adjustments can be brought before the Ramsey County Board through a Request for Board Action; through adjustment to the current fiscal county budget; or through changes to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), depending on the specifics of the funding change.

Last Previous Action

On October 17, 2023, a Ramsey County Board workshop was held on the State Legislative Platform.

Attachments

1. Draft 2024 State Legislative Platform
2. Presentation

LEGISLATIVE TOP 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 approaches, 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.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REQUESTS

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 Facility \$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

Advancing Racial and Health Equity and Shared Community Power

INCREASED HEALTH CARE ACCESS

- Support legislation to address racial disparities in health care access, quality and outcomes.
- Support legislation to increase Minnesota Eligibility Technology System funding to develop needed technological improvements that help county financial aid workers more efficiently and accurately determine public program eligibility, amidst increased demands for services and state-mandated data matching activities.
- Oppose legislation that would change or remove key Affordable Care Act provisions such as coverage for dependents up to age 26 and prohibiting the denial of coverage for preexisting conditions and the use of lifetime caps for coverage.

MENTAL HEALTH

- Support legislation to develop additional community-based mental health placement options and services to shorten stays in state facilities and reduce costs after inpatient care is no longer necessary.
- Support legislation to address the comprehensive substance abuse, mental and behavioral health needs of the community, foster coordination among partners and ensure parity in services across populations.
- Support policy changes to provide clarity within the use of force protocol regarding transport holds for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Individuals who are in crisis due to mental illness where a transport hold is requested but not enforced are more likely to be arrested and funneled through the correctional system than given proper medical care.
- Support legislation to address student health needs, including increased reimbursement for school-based clinics as well as embedding social workers in schools to assess needs and support mental health. The social workers would also ensure families had information about and direct access to county services.
- Support legislation to resolve the gaps between the criminal court process and a person's access to mental health care when the court deems someone, an adult or a youth, incompetent to participate in their defense due to a mental illness. This includes increased capacity for Rule 20 evaluations, increased community-based supports and increased local hospital capacities to quickly readmit people who either resume drug abuse, discontinue prescription medication compliance or otherwise decompensate, so that they can obtain necessary care and avoid any further police interactions.
- Pursue adequate ongoing funding support for the Youth Mental Health Urgency Room created by the 2022 legislature.
- 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.

COMMUNITY-CENTERED CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS

- Support legislation that further reforms the investigation and prosecution of fatal shootings and wrongful actions by police, increases police accountability and transparency, raises standards of conduct and supports officer excellence, partners officers with the communities they serve, repairs and builds community trust, and enhances community-centered public safety.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (ERA)

- Support the ratification of the ERA to bolster pay equity, domestic violence laws and pregnancy discrimination protections, among other equity goals.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESPONSE PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORT

- Support funding resources directed to infectious disease response, including, but not limited to: building and maintaining our workforce, specifically for our 24/7 facilities, community education, engagement and outreach, case investigation and contact tracing, testing, delivery of essential services, and distribution of vaccines with specific focus on underserved communities, kids, youth and young adults.
- 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.
- Pursue \$10.5 million in state bonding funds to support the renovation or construction of a new St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health and Wellness facility.

RACIAL EQUITY IN BUDGETING

- Support legislation to develop a state-based racial equity budgeting tool that will help provide racial equity impacts for legislative budgeting decisions.

Residents First: Effective, Efficient and Accessible Operations

DATA PRACTICES ACT AND PRIVACY REFORMS

- Support maintaining flexibility in local governments' data retention schedules and reporting requirements to avoid overwhelming local technical capabilities.
- Support legislation that considers local costs and improved public access when considering updates to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and address the use of intentionally disruptive and expensive data requests that provide little or no public benefit.

HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

- Support legislation to ensure state compliance with federal background check requirements that endanger Title IV-E reimbursements to foster care providers.
- Support continuing program modifications that demonstrate administrative efficiency and support the modernization of human services programs and processes to improve outcomes and service delivery.
- Support a health care eligibility system that serves as a sustainable platform for performing health care functions and fully integrates with other technology systems.

- Support legislation to simplify and modernize the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), General Assistance and Minnesota Supplemental Aid reporting requirements in order to align budgeting methods with nationwide best practices, encourage earned income and employment, and create equity across the program. ~~This includes adjusting MFIP so that families report on their income every 6 months, rather than monthly. This will allow for longer periods of stability and decrease the likelihood of MFIP recipients becoming income ineligible due to a brief increase in income.~~
- Support legislation, to address workforce challenges and resource shortages in the home and community-based services and disability services system, including increasing wage minimums and other incentives, to expand the worker pool of personal care assistants, nurses, social workers and other support staff, and county employees to enroll residents in these necessary services.
- Support substantial continued investment in new, modern technology infrastructure for counties to streamline health care, financial assistance and social service program administration, enhance data and program integrity, and promote efficient service delivery, with a focus on programs connected to MNBenefits applications.
- Support funding to add triage capabilities and improve responsiveness for technology systems tied to the MNBenefits application program.
- 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.

FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES

- Support legislation to increase Regional Library Basic System Support funding for residents' access to diverse digital and database resources that reflect the needs of the community.
- Support library construction and remodeling grants to fund safety and renovations at libraries.
- Oppose reductions to Arts & Cultural Heritage Legacy funding for regional public library systems to support arts, arts education and arts access, and to preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage.
- Pursue legislation to create a task force to review and suggest recommendations for funding to support the statewide law library system.

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.~~

FUNDING FOR PARKS AND TRAILS

- Support legislation to ensure that the Ramsey County park system receives a fair share of revenues from Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment funding, Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources funding or other environmental stewardship grants.

- ~~Pursue \$5 million in bonding for the extension of the Bruce Vento Trail.~~
- Support inclusion of \$50 million in state bonding for capital projects for Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails, which leverages Metropolitan Council dollars and benefits projects in Ramsey County.
- Support legislation to ensure that the Ramsey County park system and other local agencies in the metro regional park system receive the full 40 percent for operations and maintenance as mandated in state law. Currently the Legislature only funds it at nine percent.

COUNTY PROCUREMENT CHANGES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

- ~~Support~~ Pursue legislation that would authorize the county to expand the amount for bids to no greater than \$500,000. Currently, the county can solicit small businesses for bids no greater than \$250,000. This change will enable counties to increase its overall spending with small businesses, which includes businesses owned by women and people of color. Increasing county expenditures with small BIPOC-owned businesses is an important part of Ramsey County's overall strategy to reduce racial disparities.
- 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.

DIGITAL INCLUSION

- Pursue and support state and federal efforts and funding for digital inclusion and equity to ensure all residents have access to affordable broadband choices, computing devices and training and internet safety skills. This includes, but is not limited to: increasing the federal standard for broadband speeds; increasing the availability of high-quality and competitive broadband choices for residents in single family homes, public housing, and apartment buildings and condominiums, particularly in urban digital desert census tracts; and supporting perpetual funding of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and other affordable, sustainable and subsidized device ownership programs and multilingual digital literacy navigation and skills training that ensure all residents can participate in the economy and digital life.

Advancing a Holistic Approach to Strengthen Families

CHILD PROTECTION REFORMS

- Support African American Family Preservation Act legislation encouraging county case management and support services to accommodate cultural differences, address challenges and build on strengths to remedy the disproportionate placements of children of color into foster care and other out-of-home displacements.
- Support Families First legislation allowing states and counties to use federal Title IV-E funds to focus child protection efforts on engaging families, building support networks and providing culturally informed services that help avoid compounding the trauma out-of-home displacements often cause while ensuring the funding and operational mechanisms are efficient and sustainable.
- Pursue legislation to create an exception or variance to the background check policy, enabling county staff to make an informed placement decision without relying on the state.
- Pursue legislation to allow autonomy to determine which applicants to Ramsey County's Children's Services Review Panel have been impacted by our system, represent the community we serve and should be selected to participate on the panel. Current law requires approval from the county board and DHS to accept new members.
- Support legislation requiring coordination between law enforcement and county child protection agencies to occur prior to a child being removed.
- Support legislation to increase required training for law enforcement officers on child protection and the use of emergency holds, particularly regarding the impact of child protection removals on children and families.
- Support child protection and foster care systems change and reform developed in partnership with community.

CHILD CARE REFORMS

- Support child care licensing practice improvements to simplify rules and promote improved relations between providers and regulators.
- Support efforts to implement refinements to training, county liability insurance requirements and other requirements to foster best practices in all childcare settings.
- Support additional state investments in childcare infrastructure, wages and workforce needs.
- ~~Support legislation to make permanent strategic waitlist changes that allow more families who have not used MFIP to access essential work-related support.~~

HUNGER RELIEF

- Support additional funding and policy changes to address hunger and food insecurity relief needs in Ramsey County for children and adults. As a result of systemic racism and other long-standing issues exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity continues to disproportionately affect our racially and ethnically diverse communities.
- Support state funding to allow community-based organizations to significantly expand food and crisis services for people in Ramsey County. This includes support for culturally-connected and medically appropriate foods, as well as food rescue programs to divert food waste.
- ~~Support legislation to permanently provide no-cost school lunch to all children in Minnesota schools.~~

- 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.

ECONOMIC SUPPORTS TO FAMILIES

- Support legislation to provide cash payments or other economic supports, like the federal child tax credit expansion, to families in a way that will not make them ineligible for income, food or medical assistance, with the goal of removing barriers so families can self-stabilize.

IMMIGRANT, REFUGEE, MIGRANT AND ASYLUM-SEEKING FAMILIES (PLACEHOLDER)

- Support budget legislation and policies that ease navigation and access to essential wraparound services such as emergency and transitional shelter, medical assistance, emergency food, basic cash support, and legal assistance.
- Support legislation pursuing budgetary, programmatic and legal resources that help new arrivals secure work authorization and enter the labor market to gain financial independence and exit out of the emergency shelter system.
- Support the acceleration of processing work authorization applications by USCIS for new arrivals, including those with temporary protection status (TPS), those granted humanitarian parole, and asylum applicants.
- Support legislation and policies that increase access to immigration legal resources aimed at keeping families and children together as they undergo immigration proceedings.

Intergenerational Prosperity for Racial and Economic Inclusion

THE PARK AT RIVERSEdge

- Pursue ~~\$26 million~~ \$20 million in funding bonding for the Park at RiversEdge. RiversEdge is an innovative public-private project revitalizing the historic riverfront and expanding public access to the Mississippi River. The funds are for acquisition, design, furnishing and construction of a land bridge extension of the public realm space called The Park at RiversEdge. This new nine-acre urban park space includes: expanded public access to the river from the downtown bluff to the shoreline, community gathering space for public events, and trails that connect to the river and to other downtown destinations and park trail systems.

RICE CREEK COMMONS

- Pursue \$25 million in funding for the Rice Creek Commons spine road project in Arden Hills. (PLACEHOLDER)

STATE-LOCAL FISCAL PARTNERSHIP

- Pursue changes to County Program Aid (CPA) that artificially cap the formula and create inequities for Ramsey County. (PLACEHOLDER)
- Support efforts to maintain County Program Aid (CPA) with indexing funding and increasing the base appropriation after the COVID-19 economic recovery.
- Support an annual state omnibus bonding bill ~~an early 2023 omnibus bonding bill~~ that addresses the backlog of the state's growing public infrastructure needs and invests in important regional projects.
- 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.

REGIONAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENTS

- Support efforts to align local, regional and statewide investments for workforce development programs to ensure the unique needs of businesses are met while supporting job seekers with career pathways needed to obtain family sustaining wages and benefits.
- Support legislation to address existing economic, racial and gender disparities, especially among Black/ African American, American Indian and other racially/ethnically diverse communities, by coupling training and education with equity efforts in housing, transportation, child care and other stabilizing factors.
- Support legislation to dedicate sufficient, ongoing state funding to provide workforce programming targeted to those who are unemployed, under-employed or under-represented in the workforce as a means to reduce disparities and to promote a diverse and inclusive workforce.
- 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.

AFFORDABLE AND STABLE HOUSING

- Pursue legislation in partnership with the continuum of care Heading Home Ramsey to fund homelessness work over the next five years until more affordable housing comes online. This funding will support:
 - Shelter capacity for single adults.
 - Shelter capacity for families with children.
 - Day service shelter capacity.

- Development of a “Familiar Faces” program to address frequent users of shelter and emergency services.
- Critical supportive services for individuals and families seeking shelter.
- Pursue clarifying language to the Metro Housing Sales Tax statues that allow the revenues to be used for county administrative purposes.
- Support budget and bonding legislation that increases public funds and brings attention to the preparation for homeowners and the production and preservation of affordable housing.
- Support legislation that advances policy and practice reforms that reduce barriers to affordable homeownership, such as reducing the cost of production.
- Support new state funding of more loan counseling for the refinancing of special loans, such as rehab/down payment assistance. Currently there is not enough organizational capacity for the amount of refinancing that is happening in the market.
- Support increased funding for affordable housing and housing programs focused on specific populations in need of additional assistance, including those experiencing mental illness, or other disabilities, individuals with criminal records, large families, families seeking reunification, veterans and those who are homeless.
- Support housing infrastructure bonds for buildings that are 50% Area Median Income (AMI) with at least 10% of units at 30% AMI in order to better leverage American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.
- Support legislation to create a dedicated fund for the development of affordable housing that enrolls private investors into the production of affordable housing to benefit local businesses, creates jobs and contributes to the overall growth of the economy.
- Support expanding the Housing Support Demonstration capacity to include all seven metro-area counties to increase access to Housing Support for traditional rental assistance and support services for people experiencing homelessness. Consider legislative changes that would allow distributing vouchers based off priority populations in order to maximize ARPA and Housing and Redevelopment Authority funding.

PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE

- Support transitioning the special property tax refund to a property tax credit that is automatically calculated and issued to qualifying homeowners on their annual property tax statement, thereby reducing property tax regressivity and helping keep home ownership affordable. Currently, state statute requires homeowners to apply for the special property tax refund.

~~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.~~

~~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.~~

INTEREST RATES ON TAX-FORFEITED PROPERTY

- Support legislation to allow flexible interest rates on contracts for deed for tax-forfeited properties to reduce barriers for low-income families interested in purchasing or repurchasing these properties and provide a low-barrier pathway to homeownership for those with more modest incomes.

TAX FORFEITURE (PLACEHOLDER, Supportive of AMC position)

~~EVICITION 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.~~

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT FUNDING

- Support statewide transportation funding that adequately invests in the long-term sustainability of local communities and addresses deferred basic maintenance, safety concerns, mounting congestion and missed economic growth opportunities for businesses and commuters. A comprehensive, balanced and sustainable transportation solution should include robust funding for a multimodal transportation system including roads, bridges, sidewalks/trails and transit and address the varying needs in different parts of the state.
- ~~Pursue \$3.9 million in bonding funds for reconstruction of the Rice Street Revitalization Project from Wheelock Parkway in Saint Paul to County Road B in Roseville and Maplewood. These funds would offset \$7.805 million in county and city construction costs currently programmed in the Ramsey County 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program.~~
- Pursue a clarification to the 2023 \$1 million appropriation for the Rice Street Revitalization that specifies the funds are to be used for planning, design, environmental documentation and right-of-way acquisition. The language as passed referred to reconstruction, and MN Management & Budget has asked for more specificity.
- Pursue Support legislation alongside Hennepin County to amend the Motor Vehicle Leased Sales Tax (MVLST) to include Ramsey and Hennepin counties as recipients so revenues can be spent in the metro-area counties where most funds are collected.
- Support investments in MnDOT's Local Bridge Replacement and Local Road Improvement Programs to fund the replacement, rehabilitation or removal of deficient bridges on the local road systems and for the construction or reconstruction of local roads.
- Oppose attempts to shift transit costs to counties. ~~The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority has been approving the maximum levy for the last several years, and Ramsey County has adopted a 0.5% sales and use tax for the development of the transitways within the county, including:~~
 - ~~Green Line Light Rail Transit.~~

- ~~Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit.~~
- ~~Purple Line (Rush Line) Bus Rapid Transit.~~
- ~~Riverview Transitway.~~
- Support federal and state funding for major transportation and transit projects in Ramsey County that are extremely complex in nature, involve multiple jurisdictions and communities, span many years for project development, and require funding from multiple sources to complete. Some of these include:
 - ~~I-35E/County Road J interchange.~~
 - Highway 36/Century Avenue (Highway 120) interchange.
 - Purple Line (Rush Line) Bus Rapid Transit. ○ Riverview Corridor Transitway. ○ Rondo Community Land Bridge.
 - UP Railroad /BNSF Railway grade separation adjacent to Westminster Junction.
- Support for equity in funding of transportation development that helps to repair and acknowledge past wrongs with infrastructure investments.
- 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.
- ~~Support state legislation alongside MnDOT and the Great River Rail Commission to fund future operations of the Second Train to Chicago (TCMC).~~
- ~~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.~~

Putting Well-being and Community at the Center of Justice System Transformation

RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH

- Pursue ~~legislation to create~~ ongoing funding for culturally appropriate, intensely therapeutic, community-based home placement options for youth involved in the justice system.
- ~~Pursue funding for the creation of family support groups and resources to support families during the time a young person is placed out of home and support the family through the period of post-placement reentry.~~
- ~~Pursue funding for the creation of community-based sites for conflict or crisis de-escalation to prevent incarceration or further systems involvement.~~
- 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.
- Pursue \$16 million in state funding to support the renovation of a new Youth Detention Facility.

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION FUNDING TRANSFORMATION

- ~~Support changes to the community supervision funding model so that state fund allocations are transparent, needs-based, and equitable among county and state supervision providers. Counties need a substantial increase in community supervision funding to achieve this model.~~
- Support full funding for the community supervision formula and further refinement of the policy language enacted in 2023.

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.~~

EXTENSION OF POST-CONVICTION RELIEF

- Support legislation to extend the current two-year post-conviction relief time limit for immigrants who face deportation proceedings or are otherwise unable to apply for immigration benefits due to improper, defective or outdated misdemeanor convictions.

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.~~

GUN SAFETY

- ~~Support mandated background checks for all firearm purchases to reduce firearm-related crime.~~
- ~~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.~~
- Support legislation that reduces gun violence through a community-centered approach to violence prevention, as well as supporting including funding for focused deterrence, non-fatal shooting investigations, and funding for the development of new response types and enhancements to dispatch countywide resources.

UNIFORM COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES OF CONVICTION ACT

- Support legislation that gives those who have become permanently or temporarily ineligible for employment, housing or some licenses a means to apply for a restoration of their rights and notifies individuals when they are criminally charged, and again when they are sentenced and released, about the sanctions that apply to them.

FINES & FEES

- Support legislation to increase flexibility to waive fines and fees charged in the criminal justice system.
- Pursue legislation to eliminate the removal of a driver's license as a penalty for past due medical payments or allow counties the authority to waive the debt owed to them. Low-income workers whose drivers' licenses are suspended can lose their jobs, leaving them unable to earn the income necessary to pay their court debt or meet other basic expenses such as groceries and rent.

CASH BAIL REFORM

- Support legislation to eliminate the harm to community caused by the cash bail system by allowing the use of a risk assessment tool to release individuals back into the community if they are determined not to be a risk to society.

EXPUNGEMENTS

- Support legislation to centralize and automate the process of sealing criminal records for low-level felonies and lesser crimes after the waiting periods in the expungement statute. Criminal records and the collateral consequences that follow long after people have fulfilled their obligations to the justice system serve as barriers to jobs, housing, education and more, preventing people from serving as productive members of our community.
- ~~• 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.~~

~~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.~~

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.

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.

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.

Responding to Climate Change and Increasing Community Resilience

EQUITABLE CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND RESILIENCE

- Support legislation that addresses climate change, protects and enhances natural environments, addresses the need to expand adaptation and resilience efforts, responds to the potential impact of severe weather events, and promotes sustainability in county operations.
- Support legislation that focuses on increasing use of local energy to create jobs and diversify the local economy.
- Support legislation and funding that addresses reforestation needs for local governments impacted by the Emerald Ash Borer.

WASTE AND ENERGY EFFORTS

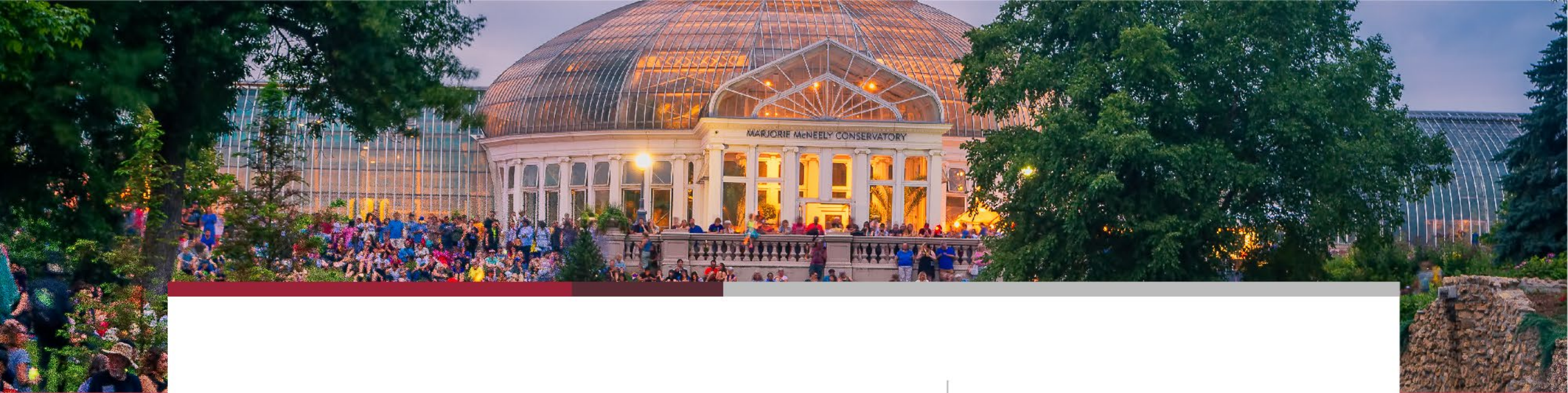
- Support legislation to encourage the development and use of new technologies to address organic waste and create renewable energy resources, including by streamlining and adopting modern permitting requirements to implement new technologies.
- Support the legislative efforts of the Partnership on Waste and Energy and the Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy Board.
- Pursue, in collaboration with Washington County, \$30 million in funding to support the creation of a new anaerobic digestion facility for the east metro.

Aligning Talent Attraction, Retention & Promotion

EMPLOYEE SUPPORTS

- Pursue legislation to make any necessary changes to Ramsey County statutes in order to implement initiatives that advance our primary goal of attracting, retaining and promoting talented employees across races, classes, cultures, genders, ages and abilities.

- Support legislation that allows county assessors to use more virtual and online tools in their appraisal work.



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 iron fence. The scene is set outdoors on a bright day.

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

Request for Board Action

Item Number: 2023-483

Meeting Date: 11/14/2023

Sponsor: Policy & Planning

Title

2024 Ramsey County Federal Legislative Platform

Recommendation

1. Approve the 2024 Ramsey County Federal Legislative Platform.
2. Authorize Ramsey County representatives to work with members of Congress and other interested parties to promote legislation reflective of the positions contained in the platform.

Background and Rationale

On October 17, 2023, the Ramsey County Board held a workshop on the 2024 State and Federal Legislative Platforms. Government Relations staff and Aurora Strategic Consulting presented an analysis of the upcoming Congressional session as well as proposed draft platform items for discussion by the members of the board.

In preparation for the review of the proposed platform by the Legislative Committee of the Whole, Government Relations staff have included in the latest draft suggested changes from the commissioners and further input from department leadership staff. The 2024 Federal Legislative Platform draft includes summaries of positions regarding appropriations, programs and policies of importance to Ramsey County.

The Legislative Committee of the Whole reviews the draft Ramsey County Federal Legislative Platform and recommends its submittal to the Ramsey County Board. The documents presented here are drafts. Underlined text represents language to be added and stricken text represents language to be deleted.

County Goals (Check those advanced by Action)

Well-being

Prosperity

Opportunity

Accountability

Racial Equity Impact

The racial equity impacts of each item or position included in the draft of the 2024 Federal Legislative Platform were considered as part of the solicitation for proposed items and positions from service teams, departments and staff. Most of the proposed items have direct impact on racial equity, particularly those items that provide increased access to services or benefits specifically targeted to low-income individuals, families or communities, which disproportionately include more people of color and American Indians. These services or opportunities include improved access to health care, stable housing, childcare subsidies, employment opportunities and program and service refinements designed to positively engage cultural values. These efforts are reflected in the proposed top legislative priorities of the platform draft, which include housing stability and affordability.

Community Participation Level and Impact

Government Relations will share the 2024 Federal Legislative Platform with appropriate Ramsey County advisory committees. This platform will also be discussed with other county organizations and advocacy

groups.

Inform Consult Involve Collaborate Empower

Fiscal Impact

Many of positions in the federal platform have financial implications and would require state and/or county appropriations, if legislation is enacted. The platform items that require county expenditures may do so in the form of a federally-imposed maintenance of effort, a required local funding match, or through a new or revised operating cost. When there are implications for the current budget, necessary budget adjustments can be brought before the Ramsey County Board through a Request for Board Action; through adjustment to the current fiscal county budget; or through changes to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), depending on the specifics of the funding change.

Last Previous Action

On October 17, 2023, a Ramsey County Board workshop was held on the Federal Legislative Platform.

Attachments

1. Draft 2024 Federal Legislative Platform
2. Presentation

LEGISLATIVE TOP 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.

Systems transformation:

- Improving mental and behavioral health systems and support.
- Reforming criminal justice approaches, 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 capital improvement and infrastructure requests.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REQUESTS

RAMSEY COUNTY BONDING REQUESTS

Rice Creek Commons Infrastructure \$25M

The Park at RiversEdge \$26M \$20M

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 million

Advancing Racial and Health Equity and Shared Community Power

PROTECT BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS

- Support immigrants and refugees in navigation and access to core programs and wrap around services such as public assistance, housing, medical assistance, basic cash support and safety and protection from domestic violence and with law enforcement. Continue to be welcoming and inclusive to immigrants/refugees and invest in culturally-specific services and community engagement to build stable lives for themselves, their families and to contribute to the communities in which they live. Address barriers that make connecting to services and supports especially challenging for new arrivals, specifically Afghan and Ukrainian communities who are still trying to adjust to their displacement. Further, permanent pathways for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Deferred Enforced Departures (DED), post-conviction relief for Southeast Asians in repatriation agreements and access to legal representation continue to be unresolved pressing issues for families and communities. Support legislation and policies aimed at keeping families and children together and united as they undergo immigration proceedings.

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.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA)

- Oppose legislation that would change or remove essential provisions of the ACA, including coverage for pre-existing conditions, dependent coverage until age 26, no limits on annual/lifetime coverage, no-cost coverage for preventative care and the mandate for individual coverage. Support the local-state-federal partnership structure for financing health care access and oppose measures that shift federal and state costs to counties. This law has proven effective in significantly expanding access to insurance to more low and moderate-income families and individuals. Ramsey County supports premium assistance to help keep the cost of insurance within reach.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

- Support efforts to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to provide equal protection under federal law to all people, regardless of gender. The ERA amendment would bolster pay equity, domestic violence laws and pregnancy discrimination protections, among other equity goals.

MEDICAID SERVICES FINANCING

- Support legislation to enhance flexibility in the Medicaid program to support local care systems. Preserve the ability to match local funds and receive targeted supplemental payments and bolster the federal-state-local partnership structures for Medicaid services.

COMMITMENT TO VETERAN SUPPORT AND OUTREACH (CVSO) ACT

- Support legislation providing funding to states to carry out programs that improve outreach and assistance to veterans and the spouses, children and parents of veterans, to ensure that such individuals are fully informed about, and assisted in applying for, any veterans and veterans-related benefits and programs for which they may be eligible.

MENTAL HEALTH

- Support consistent funding for mental health services provided through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, as well as legislation that will increase Ramsey County’s ability to provide local systems of care. Funding for the Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) block grant should be funded at current levels or increased to rise with demand for services.
- Support the Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act which will reimburse federal student loans up to \$250,000 for those who pursue a career in the mental health field where there are shortages.
- Support legislation focused on helping schools to work with community groups to bring in more mental health professionals, as well as to train school staff to recognize the signs that a student may be struggling and connect them to help.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE FUNDING

- Support efforts to provide local and state governments flexible funding that can be used for public health response and community needs related to outbreaks of infectious diseases. Support a robust and flexible budget package that includes direct funding for municipalities of all sizes to aid in local and state economic recovery.

Putting Well-being and Community at the Center of Justice System Transformation

FIREARM REGULATION

- Support legislation to reinstate the Firearms Assault Weapons Ban to take a strong first step in addressing the epidemic number of mass shootings and other gun-related violence. When the 1994 ban sunset in 2004, a surge of automatic weapons shootings occurred, which has not subsided. The ban was effective and should be reinstated.

ICE DETENTION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Support the release of immigrants in ICE detention who do not pose a threat to public safety during the length of their removal proceedings, starting with individuals in high-risk categories such as people 60 and over, women who are pregnant, and people with chronic illnesses, compromised immune systems or disabilities.

- Support efforts to ensure ICE detention facilities currently holding detainees are adhering to CDC COVID-19 safety guidelines, are providing effective and timely testing, and offering health supports including medical treatment.

BILLABLE MEDICAL SERVICES FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

- Support legislation allowing Medicaid/Medicare funding to pay for all billable medical services for incarcerated individuals. Most of the patients who are incarcerated qualify for Medicaid and Medicare and many have it before incarceration. Keeping Medicare and Medicaid insurance current and active for individuals increases access to care and ability to receive timely care after release, improving healthcare outcomes and decreasing local and county government cost.

Responding to Climate Change and Increasing Community Resilience

EQUITABLE CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND RESILIENCE

- Support legislation that addresses climate change, protects and enhances natural environments, addresses the need to expand adaptation and resilience efforts, responds to the potential impact of severe weather events, and promotes sustainability in county operations.
- Support legislation that focuses on increasing use of local energy to create jobs and diversify the local economy.
- Support legislation and funding that addresses reforestation needs for local governments impacted by the Emerald Ash Borer.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ACT (LAWCON)

- Support continued funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. LAWCON was established to provide grants for outdoor recreation projects and to date Ramsey County has received nearly \$1 million for park projects.

CLEAN WATER

- Support investment and funding for infrastructure improvements relating to any contamination of water systems, as well as improved corrosion control, lead monitoring and public notification of contaminants in public drinking water. Support improvement of storm water, wastewater and drinking water infrastructure.
- Support passage of the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI), which will create a new, non-regulatory Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) geographic grant program to provide federal planning and funding support to enhance river restoration, resilience projects and program activities in the Mississippi River states from the Headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico.

RECYCLING AND ENERGY

- Support increased investments in sustainable and renewable energy. Environmental concerns, particularly climate change, bring waste generation, recycling and energy production into sharp focus. With international recycling markets stalling, federal efforts are necessary to incentivize industry to invest in innovative recycling practices and to spur communities and individuals to reduce waste and engage more intently in local and national recycling practices.

Advancing a Holistic Approach to Strengthen Families

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT FUNDING (SSBG)

- Support legislation to maintain or increase SSBG block grants at the current funding level. SSBG supports services such as adult protective services, special needs childcare, child welfare and child abuse prevention.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

- Support efforts to preserve and expand the SNAP program to address hunger and food security issues for no and low-income residents, including 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. SNAP provides food assistance to nearly 63,000 low-income families in Ramsey County. The SNAP Education and Training program, which provides support services (such as childcare and transportation) to SNAP-enrolled students, is a central component to helping families achieve and maintain economic stability.
- Support legislation to allow persons to use SNAP benefits to purchase hot prepared meals.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

- Support efforts to increase investment in TANF. TANF funds are a major component of the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), which provides financial assistance to nearly 18,000 low-income Ramsey County families. TANF also helps pay for childcare assistance for MFIP families and supports county employment services.

FAMILIES FIRST (TITLE IV-E)

- Support efforts to implement full funding and rollout of the Families First promises to address long-standing issues with state and county child protection and foster care systems, including racial disparities of out-of-home displacements. Enriching financial support for prevention, wraparound services that are culturally attuned is essential to improvements in the nation's child protection and family support programs.

PARENTING TIME ORDERS

- Support legislation allowing the use of Title IV-D funds to get parenting time orders set for Recognition of Parentage (ROP) families like what is currently allowed for court-ordered paternity adjudication families. Currently county staff cannot talk about parenting time with ROP parents, except to give them resources to do this on their own, if they do the responsible thing and sign a Recognition of Parentage (ROP).

HUNGER RELIEF

- Support additional funding and policy changes to address hunger and food insecurity relief needs in Ramsey County for children and adults. As a result of systemic racism and other long-standing issues exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity continues to disproportionately affect our racially and ethnically diverse communities.

- Support legislation to permanently provide no-cost school lunch to all children.
- Support efforts to continue increased summer EBT for children and youth who wouldn't receive the School Lunch Program.

ADDITIONAL CASH PAYMENTS OR ECONOMIC SUPPORTS TO FAMILIES

- Support legislation to provide cash payments or other economic supports, like the child tax credit expansion, to families in a way that will not make them ineligible for income, food or medical assistance, with the goal of removing barriers so families can self-stabilize.

Intergenerational Prosperity for Racial and Economic Inclusion

THE PARK AT RIVERSEEDGE

- Pursue ~~\$26~~ \$20 million from federal partners for acquisition, design, furnishing and construction of a land bridge extension of the public realm space called The Park at RiversEdge. RiversEdge is an innovative public-private project revitalizing the historic riverfront and expanding public access to the Mississippi River. This new nine-acre urban park space includes: expanded public access to the river from the downtown bluff to the shoreline, community gathering space for public events, and trails that connect to the river, the rest of downtown and the other regional park trail systems.
- Pursue \$25 million for the Rice Creek Commons spine road and utility work. (PLACEHOLDER)

PASSENGER RAIL

- ~~Support increased funding to the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements grant program and authorizing the State of Good Repair grant program. Funding for rail improvements from Union Depot in Saint Paul, MN to Chicago, IL, which will enable a second daily passenger train for this corridor, for operating funds and for the completion of an environmental assessment of existing rails.~~

TRANSPORTATION

- Pursue funding for critical Ramsey County projects. Including, but not limited to:
 - Riverview Corridor: Between Union Depot and the Mall of America.
 - METRO Gold Line Corridor (Gateway): Between Union Depot and Woodbury.
 - METRO Purple Line (Rush Line Corridor): Study underway 2023.
 - Bruce Vento Trail: From Buerkle Road to Highway 96.
 - Rice Street Revitalization: From Pennsylvania Avenue to Wheelock Parkway.

DIGITAL INCLUSION

- Pursue and support state and federal efforts and funding for digital inclusion and equity to ensure all residents have access to affordable broadband choices, computing devices and training and internet-safety skill. This includes, but is not limited to: increasing the federal standard for broadband speeds; increasing the availability of high-quality and competitive broadband choices for residents in single-family homes, public housing, and apartment buildings and condominiums, particularly in urban digital desert census tracts; and supporting perpetual

funding of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and other affordable, sustainable and subsidized device ownership programs and multilingual digital literacy navigation and skills training that ensure all residents can participate in the economy and digital life.

HEADING HOME RAMSEY CONTINUUM OF CARE

- Pursue legislation in partnership with the continuum of care Heading Home Ramsey to fund homelessness work over the next five years until more affordable housing comes online. This funding will support:
 - Shelter capacity for single adults;
 - Shelter capacity for families with children;
 - Day service shelter capacity;
 - Development of a “Familiar Faces” program to address frequent users of shelter and emergency services; and
 - Critical supportive services for individuals and families seeking shelter.

AFFORDABLE AND STABLE HOUSING

- Support an increase in public funds for affordable homeownership and the production and preservation of affordable ownership housing.
- Support legislation to advance policy and practice reforms that reduce barriers to affordable homeownership, such as reducing the cost of production.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

- Oppose legislation to change or eliminate the HOME Program, which provides important funding for affordable housing units in market-rate multifamily new construction, foreclosed/forfeit property acquisition, rehabilitation and resale, and down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers throughout suburban Ramsey County cities. Ramsey County is part of a four-county consortium and currently receives approximately \$400,000 per year from HOME, a reduction of more than \$350,000 per year over the past 10 years.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

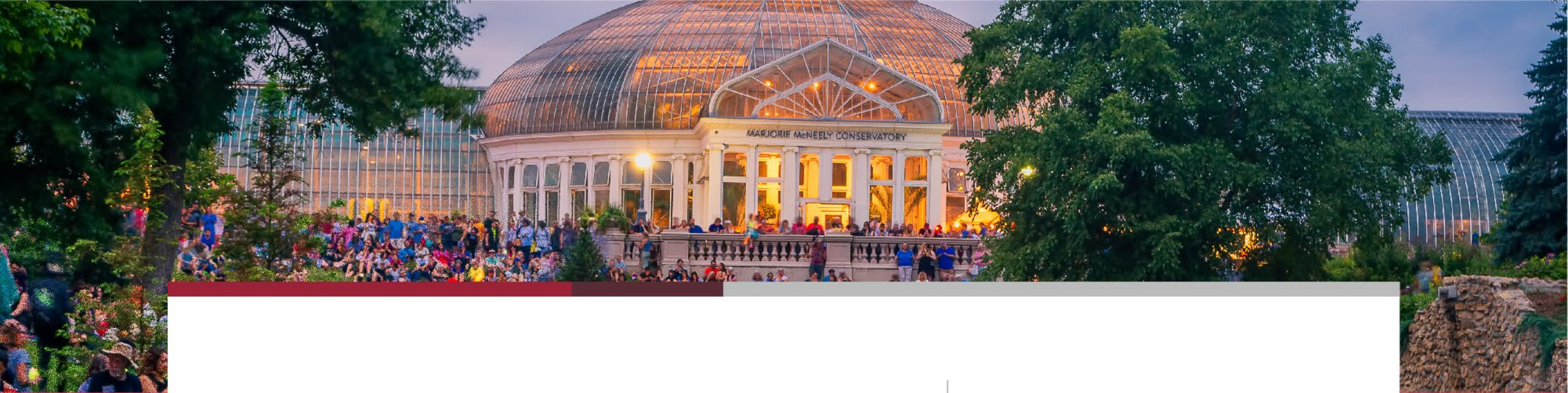
- Support legislation to restore funding to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). CDBG supports community development programs for low- and moderate-income families in suburban Ramsey County. Ramsey County currently receives approximately \$1 million, down 50% from historic levels. The county supports the restoration of funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant.

TAX INCENTIVES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Support passage of the Affordable Housing Improvement Act to increase the development of affordable housing nationwide by approximately 450,000 housing units. The bill provides incentives to developers by increasing the housing credit allocation by 50%, phased in over five years. It would also lock in the 4% LIHTC credit rate for financing with housing bonds and tax credits.

RAMSEY COUNTY SUPPORT OF OTHER POSITIONS

In addition to the recommendations contained in this platform, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners generally supports the legislative recommendations of the organizations in which it holds membership, including, but not limited to: The National Association of Counties (NACo) and its associated professional organizations, not including any recommendations that are inconsistent with Ramsey County's values and strategic goals.



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 outdoors on a bright day.

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