

# County Funding Sources

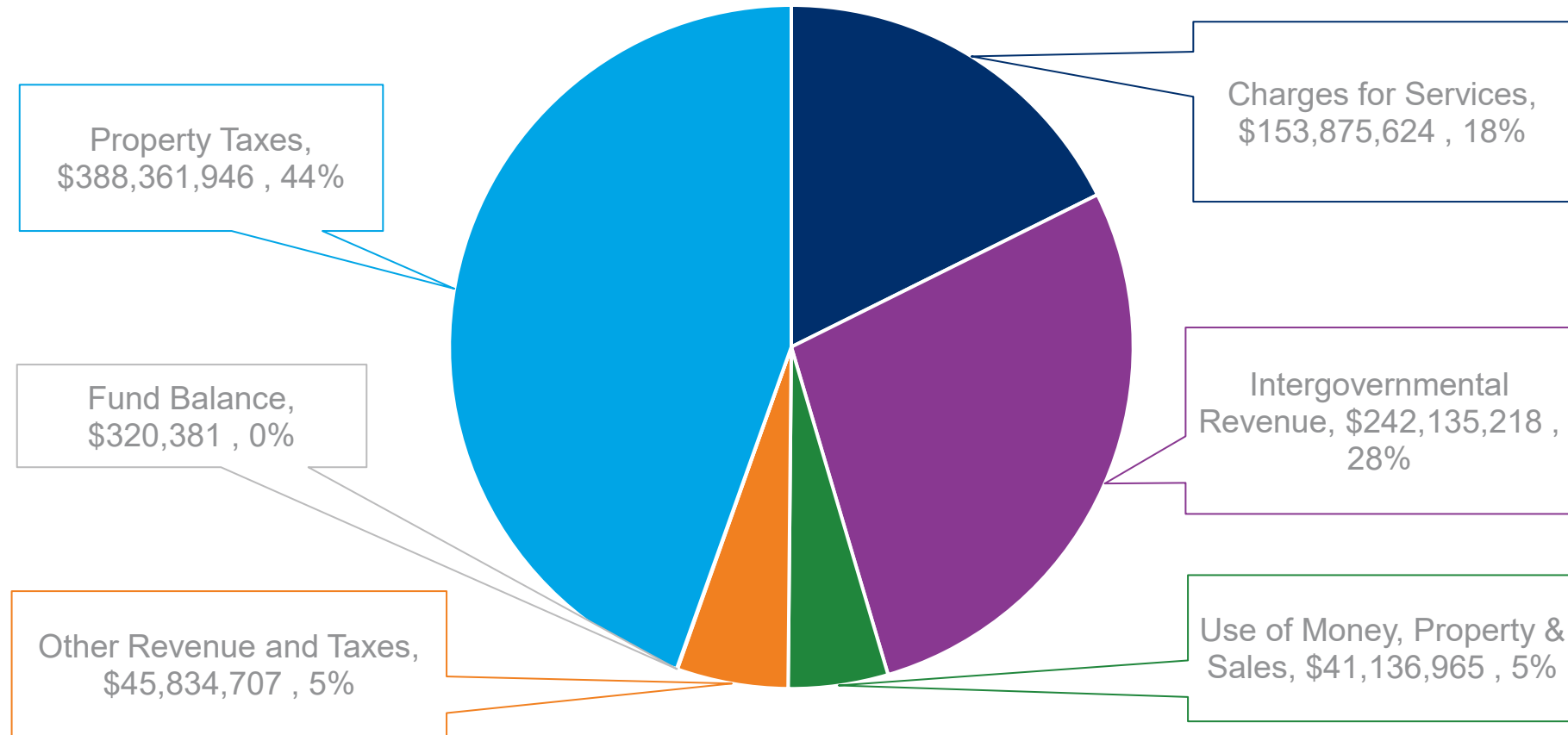
August 19, 2025



# Funding Sources Agenda

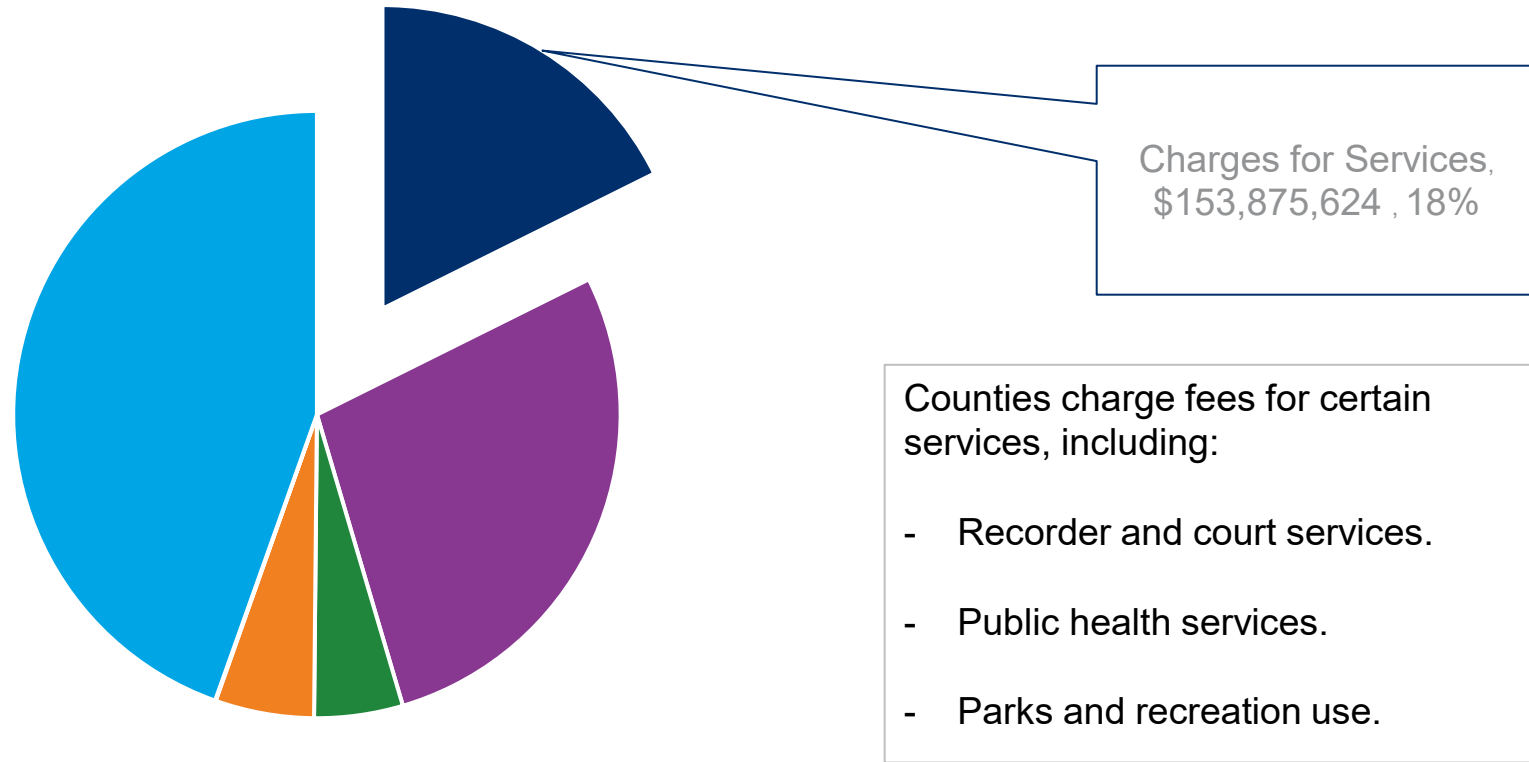
- Where the County Dollar Comes From
  - Susan Earle, Budget Director, Finance
- Special Local Property Tax Levies
  - Brian Isaacson, Director, Public Works
  - Mike Rogers, Deputy Director, Public Works
  - Josh Olson, Director, Community and Economic Development
- Questions

# Where the County Dollar Comes From



**Total County Budget 2025: \$871,664,841**

# Where the County Dollar Comes From: Charges for Services



**Total County Budget 2025: \$871,664,841**

# Where the County Dollar Comes From:

## Use of Money, Property, Sales, and Other Revenues and Taxes

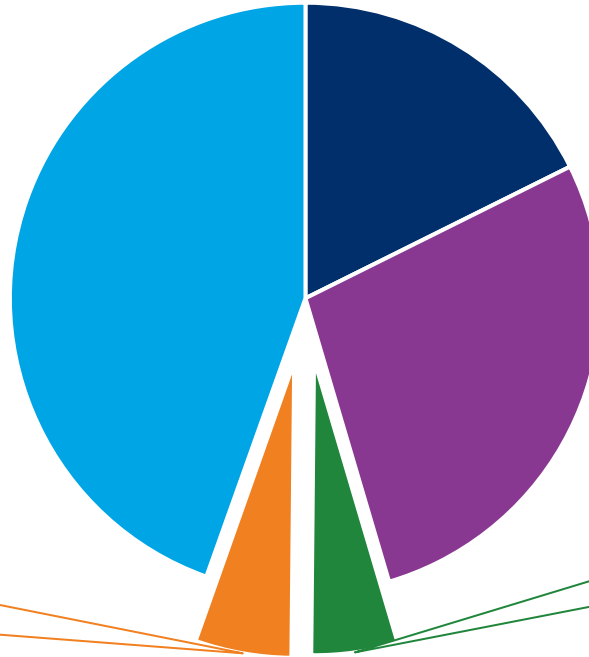
### Transfers:

- Funds moved from one area of the county to another for specific purposes.

Non-property taxes, expense recoveries, and other miscellaneous revenue.

### Investment and sales income, including:

- Earnings from county reserves, trust funds, or temporary investments.
- Other sales income, for example fleet surplus.



Other Revenue and Taxes,  
\$45,834,707 , 5%

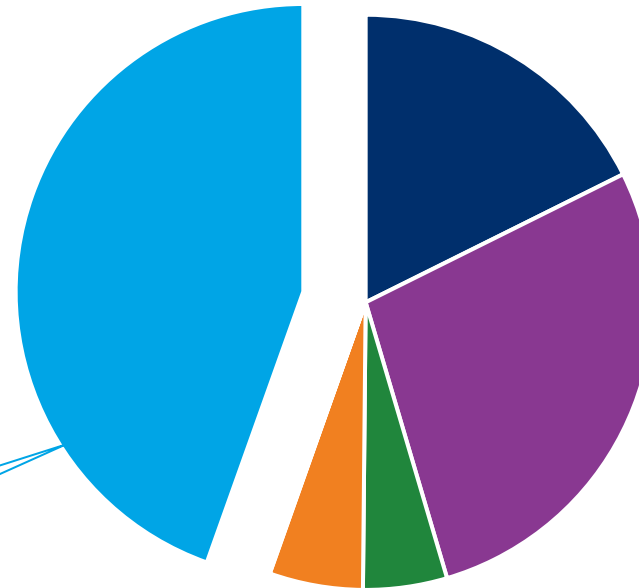
Use of Money, Property & Sales,  
\$41,136,965 , 5%

**Total County Budget 2025: \$871,664,841**

# Where the County Dollar Comes From: Property Taxes

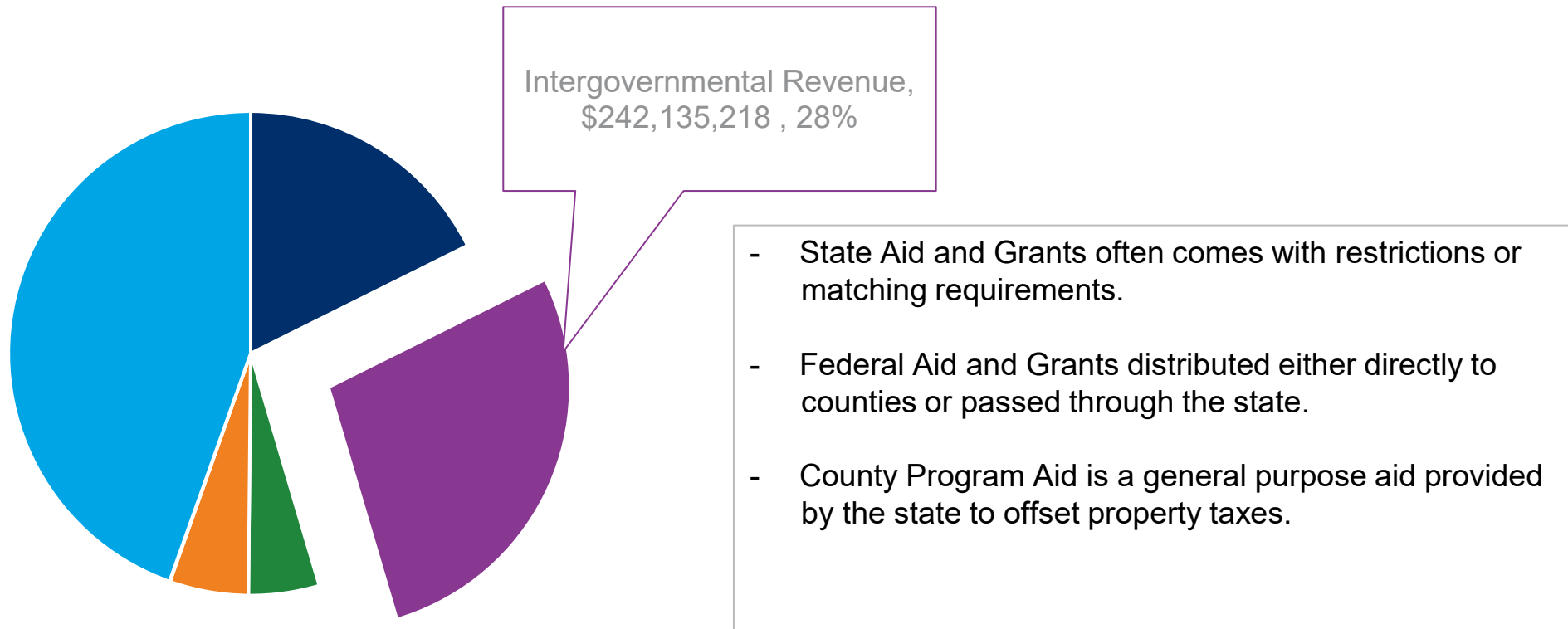
- Our single largest source of funding, these are taxes levied on all properties in the county.
- This includes a levy for county operating, library operating, and both county and library debt service.
- The library levy is paid only by suburban properties.

Property Taxes, \$388,361,946 ,  
44%



**Total County Budget 2025: \$871,664,841**

# Where the County Dollar Comes From: Intergovernmental Revenue



**Total County Budget 2025: \$871,664,841**



# Overview of Property Tax Funding Sources





# Ramsey County Budget and Property Taxes

- **Total Ramsey County budget**

**2025 Budget**  
\$871,664,841

- **Property Tax Levy**

**2025:** \$395,960,717

- **Regional Rail levy set at the statutory maximum:**

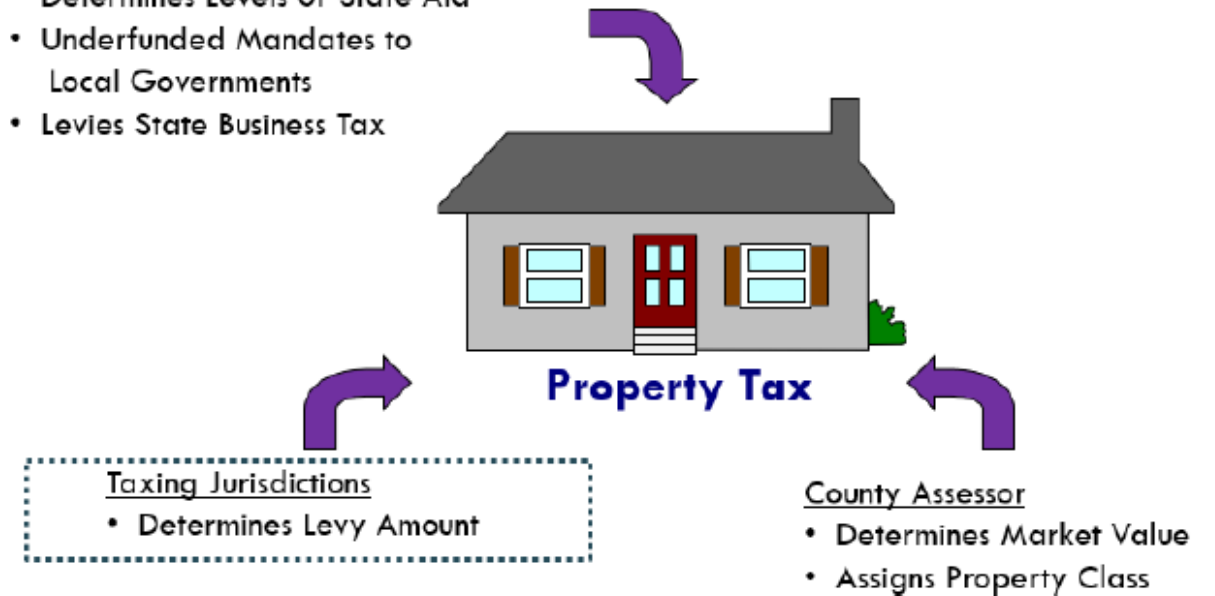
**2025:** \$35,585,858

- **Housing and Redevelopment Authority levy set at the statutory maximum:**

**2025:** \$13,346,926

State Legislature

- Sets Property Tax Policy
- Establishes Property Classes & Class Rates
- Determines Levels of State Aid
- Underfunded Mandates to Local Governments
- Levies State Business Tax



# Overview of Transportation Funding Sources





## Ramsey County Transportation Sales Tax

- Authorized by the county board in June 2017 (Resolution B2017-143).
- ½ percent sales tax for transit and transportation improvements.
  - Transitways.
  - Pedestrian, Bicycle and Trail projects.
  - Transportation and Roadway Projects.





## Ramsey County Transportation Sales Tax

- **Limitations on Eligibility:**
  - Must be used for specific transportation project(s).
  - Transit capital and operations.
  - Capital costs for buildings and facilities associated with maintaining transportation and transit projects.
  - Maintenance costs are ineligible for non-transit projects.





## 2. Regional Railroad Authority (RRA) Levy

- Organized in 1987 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 398A.
- Broad statutory powers include:
  - Railroad Acquisition and Operation.
  - Bus Rapid Transit Development.
  - Property Acquisition.
- Construed liberally and broadly interpreted.
- Not considered a limitation on powers.
- RRA statute prevails in a conflict with other statutes.





## Regional Railroad Authority Levy

- **Limitations on Eligibility:**
  - 10% cap on capital funding for light rail or commuter projects.
  - Cannot be used for operations and maintenance of light rail or commuter rail.
  - Spending must be on railroad (freight or passenger), railroad related (e.g. railroad crossings) or bus rapid transit projects.





**Amtrak's Borealis train ridership reaches  
100K in five months**

The St. Paul-Chicago route is exceeding projections.

By Tim Harlow  
The Minnesota Star Tribune  
OCTOBER 24, 2024 AT 2:58PM

## Annual Use of Funding



Staffing (~\$2m)



Project Development (~\$varies)



Union Depot Operations (~\$10m)



# Overview of Housing and Redevelopment Authority Funding Sources







## Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Levy

- Ramsey County approved HRA area of operation (excluding North Saint Paul) in June 2021 and approved 2022-2023 budget with levy for Housing and Redevelopment Authority. ***2022 is first year of HRA Levy.***
  - Ramsey County was the ***last metropolitan county to levy*** from its Housing and Redevelopment Authority.
- Funding decisions guided by Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion Plan (Released: March 2021).



Plaza Del Sol, Saint Paul; HRA Levy Supported Project (2023, 2024)  
EDD Cohort Graduation 2024; HRA Levy Supported Program  
Litmore Apartments, Little Canada; HRA Levy supported project (2023)



# Programming Funded by HRA Levy

## Housing Programs

- Affordable Housing infrastructure investments.
- Homeowner down payment assistance (FirstHome).
- Emerging & Diverse Developers (EDD) Program.

## Redevelopment Programs

- Critical Corridors.
  - Planning.
  - Development + Infrastructure.
  - Suburban Commercial Corridor Initiative.
- Site Assessment Grants (SAG).

## HRA Levy – *Additional Considerations*



- The HRA Levy Area of Operation is countywide, however ***excludes*** North Saint Paul.
- Strive for 50/50 spending parity (Saint Paul/Suburbs).
- County's HRA statutory language amended during 2024 Minnesota Legislative Session. Amended language allows business support and growth programming as an allowable use of Ramsey County HRA Levy.
  - Statutory language requires an opt-in process by cities, so business programming funded by HRA Levy will begin in January 2027.



# Questions

