
Sponsor: Communications & Public Relations

Meeting Date: 12/22/2020

Title: 2021 Ramsey County State Legislative Platform

File Number: 2020-623

Background and Rationale:

On December 1, 2020 the Legislative Committee of the Whole met and reviewed a draft of the 2021 Ramsey County State Legislative Platform, which had been prepared by the Government Relations staff. The draft contained earlier changes suggested by the members of the board at the County Board Workshop on November 10th, 2020. The Legislative Committee of the Whole approved the proposed platform as presented and asked staff to incorporate changes based on the discussion around mental and behavioral health as a top priority. Staff were also directed to strengthen the language for parks funding and add more for housing stability. Additionally, the 2021 State Legislative Platform draft includes Legislative Guiding Principles, Ramsey Funding and Policy Priorities, and a statement of support for platforms of other organizations.

The Legislative Committee of the Whole recommends the draft of the Ramsey County State Legislative Platform be submitted to the County Board, as summarized below.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT BONDING PRIORITIES

Ramsey County Capital Investment Requests

1. Riversedge Deck, \$40 million
2. Rush Line Bus Rapid Transit Project, \$2.5 million
3. Riverview Corridor, \$2.5 million

Support of Other Capital Investment Requests

- Twin Cities to Milwaukee/Chicago Second Train, \$10 million, MnDOT
- Gibbs Farm-Pathways to Dakota and Pioneer Life Program, \$7.13 million

Funding and Policy Priorities

Racial and Health Equity

- Increased Healthcare Access
- Mental Health
- Equal Rights Amendment
- Criminal Justice Reform
- COVID-19 Response Support

Residents First

- Data Practice and Privacy Reforms
- Human Services Program Improvements
- Funding for Libraries and Parks

A Holistic Approach to Strengthening Families

- African American Family Preservation Act
- Families First
- Court-Appointed Counsel for CHIPs Cases
- Childcare Reforms
- Child Support Reforms

Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion

- State-Local Fiscal Partnership
- Regional Workforce Investments
- Flexibility for SNAP Employment and Training Programs
- Transportation and Transit Funding
- Riversedge Deck

Justice System Outcomes

- Civil Commitment and Competency Reforms
- Probation Reforms
- Extension of Post-Conviction Relief
- Felon Voting Rights
- Gun Safety
- Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act
- Increase Flexibility for Fines and Fees
- Cash Bail Reform
- Automatic Expungements
- Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing
- Extended Juvenile Jurisdiction

Housing Stability

- Affordable and Stable Housing
- Federal Identification Numbers for Homestead Applications
- Interest Rates on Tax-Forfeited Property
- Eviction Protections

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the 2021 Ramsey County State Legislative Platform.
2. Authorize county representatives to work with members of the Ramsey County legislative delegation, Governor Walz's office and agencies; and other interested parties to promote legislation reflective of the positions contained in the platform.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McDonough, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By: 
Janet Guthrie, Chief Clerk - County Board