

Request for Board Action Details

File #: 2020-551

Type: Administrative Item **Status:** Agenda Ready

In control: Legislative Committee of the Whole

On agenda: 12/1/2020 **Final action:**

Title: 2021 Ramsey County Federal Legislative Platform

Sponsors: Communications & Public Relations

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. FEDERAL Platform Initiatives by Strategic Priority_.docx

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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Sponsor: Communications & Public Relations

Title
2021 Ramsey County Federal Legislative Platform

Recommendation

1. Approve the 2021 Ramsey County Federal Legislative Platform.
2. Authorize County representatives to work with members of the Legislature and other interested parties to promote legislation reflective of the positions contained in the platform.

Background

On November 10, the County Board held a workshop on the 2021 Federal Legislative Platform. Government Relations staff presented a proposed draft 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 has included in the latest draft suggested changes from the commissioners and further input from department leadership staff. The 2021 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 County Board.

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 2021 Federal Legislative Platform were considered as part of the solicitation for proposed items and positions from services teams, departments and staff. Government Relations required that a form be completed for each proposed item, with a specific request for information regarding the impact of the proposed item on racial equity. 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 also reflected in the proposed top legislative priorities of the platform draft, which include housing stability and affordability.

Community Participation Level and Impact

Government Relations attended several Ramsey County advisory committees and discussed the platform this summer and fall with other county organizations and advocacy groups. Additionally, department staff is conducting town hall meetings in December to hear first-hand community testimony on issues of importance to Ramsey County communities and discuss ways to be involved at the Capitol in a virtual setting.

☒ Inform ☒ Consult ☒ Involve ☒ Collaborate ☒ Empower

Fiscal Impact

Many of positions in the federal platform have financial implications and would require federal, 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 capital improvement 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 Board via a Request for Board Action; through adjustment to the current county budget; or through changes to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), depending on the specifics of the funding change.

County Manager Comments

The Legislative Committee of the Whole recommends the final Federal Legislative Platform to the County Board for approval. County Board action is required to establish legislative positions and priorities.

Last Previous Action

On November 10, a County Board workshop was held on the Federal Legislative Platform.

Attachments

1.2021 Federal Legislative Platform