Hennepin County is the 34th most populous county in the United States, and the largest in Minnesota. Within the county are 45 cities, including Minneapolis, and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.
Transportation

Sustain and strengthen the federal-state-county partnership that supports the nation’s roads, bridges, transit, and rail systems. Ensure Minnesota's transportation infrastructure supports a 21st century economy and vibrant, active communities.

- Increase infrastructure investment through new sources of revenue and support continued federal partnerships in projects such as the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program
- Support key investments:
  - Green Line extension (Southwest LRT)
  - Blue Line extension (Bottineau LRT)
  - Orange bus rapid transit line
- Support cash and innovative financing options in any comprehensive infrastructure package

Safety-net health services

Ensure access to meaningful and affordable health care by protecting and promoting the financial vitality of safety-net hospitals, like HCMC, in the context of federal reforms to publicly funded health care programs, like Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicare.

- Protect critical funding streams and payments to safety-net providers, including the 340B Drug Pricing Program, Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program, and supplemental payments for Medicare and Medicaid
- Support beneficial adjustments to federal payment methodologies in both Medicaid and Medicare for safety-net providers, including the Medicare readmission penalty, to take into account social determinants of health that unfairly penalize hospitals that serve a large proportion of low-income seniors and people with disabilities

Health and human services

Encourage innovation in solving complex health and human services problems and recognize crises such as opioids through prevention. Maximize partnerships among federal, state, county, and private funders to support sustainable models of health and wellness.

- Maximize state flexibility under Medicaid to encourage innovation in the delivery of care that improves overall population health and rewards efficiency
- Oppose mandatory Medicaid enrollee work requirements or changes to the Medicaid system such as block granting or payment caps
- Support changes to the Affordable Care Act that maintain or improve health access and lower costs
- Support welfare reform initiatives that streamline and simplify access to services and encourage innovation at the local government level to create pathways out of poverty
- Support interventions to address critical public health needs such as the epidemic of opiate overuse, emergency preparedness, infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and pregnancy prevention
Taxes

Support federal tax policies to leverage local investment in infrastructure, housing, and services.

- Support continued tax-free status of municipal bonds and private activity bonds
- Preserve and strengthen the low-income housing, Federal Historic, and New Markets tax credit programs.

Criminal justice

Support criminal justice, mental health and sentencing reforms that advance proven diversion strategies and facilitate offender re-entry.

- Reduce regulatory burdens (e.g., Institution of Mental Disease (IMD) exclusion, data sharing limitations) that compromise services for people experiencing mental illness before they become involved in the justice system
- Support continued federal investment in local offender re-entry programs and other initiatives critical to reducing adult and juvenile involvement in the justice system

Housing and community development

Address the crisis in long-term affordable housing through direct federal investment.

- Maintain adequate funding for the Community Development Block Grant program
- Support funding for HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and other programs that advance affordable housing initiatives and supportive services at the local level

Workforce development

Support next-generation workforce needs by aligning federal incentives with partnerships among local governmental leaders and regional employers.

- Strengthen local control under Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs to support career pathways for underskilled workers
- Reduce barriers to employment by aligning workforce program reporting requirements with skills and credentials needed by employers
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
A-2400 Government Center, Minneapolis, MN 55487-0240
612-348-3081, Fax: 612-348-8701
www.hennepin.us

Mike Opat
District 1
612-348-7881
mike.opat@hennepin.us

Marion Greene
District 3
612-348-7883
marion.greene@hennepin.us

Debbie Goettel
District 5
612-348-7885
debbie.goettel@hennepin.us

Jeff Johnson
District 7
612-348-7887
jeff.r.johnson@hennepin.us

Linda Higgins
District 2, Vice Chair
612-348-7882
linda.higgins@hennepin.us

Peter McLaughlin
District 4
612-348-7884
peter.mclaughlin@hennepin.us

Jan Callison
District 6, Chair
612-348-7886
jan.callison@hennepin.us

Debbie Goettel
District 5
612-348-7885
debbie.goettel@hennepin.us

Hennepin County Intergovernmental Relations
A-2305 Government Center, Minneapolis, MN 55487-0235
612-348-3233, Fax: 612-348-8394

Mary Beth Davidson
Director
Office: 612-348-5120
Cell: 651-450-1335
mary.davidson@hennepin.us

Kareem Murphy
Deputy Director
Office: 612-596-9711
Cell: 612-801-0954
kareem.murphy@hennepin.us

Rochelle Westlund
Public Policy Manager
Office: 612-348-7173
Cell: 651-341-8487
rochelle.westlund@hennepin.us

Wanda Cannon
Legislative Coordinator
Office: 612-348-3233
Cell: 651-341-0750
wanda.cannon@hennepin.us

Federal government relations

Dennis McGrann
Director
Lockridge Grindal Nauen
415 Second St. N.E., Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20002
Office: 202-544-9840
Cell: 202-669-4591
dmmcgann@locklaw.com

Megan Knight
Federal Relations
Lockridge Grindal Nauen
415 Second St. N.E., Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20002
Office: 202-544-9840
Cell: 202-378-4200
mgknight@locklaw.com