



Priorities

Housing

Leverage limited resources more efficiently and advance stable housing for individuals and families.

Mental health

Support systems redesign to meet the needs of adults and children with mental illness, including expanded supportive housing options and services required for stabilizing individuals in the community.

Disparity reduction

Expand resources and strengthen partnerships to reverse persistent racial and economic disparities that drive poverty, poor health, involvement in the criminal justice system, transportation access, and low achievement.

Criminal justice reform

Promote adequate funding and incentives to address needs of an increasing and diverse offender population within the criminal justice system.

Child protection

Promote child well-being and achieve positive outcomes for county-involved youth by standardizing practice models, investing upstream in early interventions, and stabilizing the child protection system.

Platform

Bonding

Brooklyn Park Transfer Station — \$2 million

Criminal justice and public safety

Preserve and protect public safety through state-county partnerships that address funding challenges and support reform.

Increase funding

- Increase Community Corrections Act (CCA) funding to ensure adequate state funding for supervision of offenders in the community.
- Support increased state funding for Emergency Communications Network upgrades.

Remove barriers

- Support the unique needs of female and juvenile offenders in the community by strengthening collaboration with and funding for trauma-informed and culturally specific community-based programming in support of corrections systems.
- Support statutory changes to remove barriers in housing and employment for the survivors of human trafficking and for ex-offenders.
- Support the restoration of voting rights to persons on probation or parole for a felony conviction.
- Expand expungement statute to support individuals with housing or employment barriers and who have demonstrated a commitment to rehabilitation and community enhancement.

Improve outcomes

- Support a regional cost-effective solution that delivers better outcomes and lowers recidivism for a strategic response to the needs of youth in correctional out-of-home placement.
- Support legislation reforming use of reasonable force by police officers so that greater police accountability is achieved; support and/or increase the ability of local jurisdictions to remove police officers who violate law enforcement best practices and/or community standards.

Data practices

Improve the delivery and coordination of supportive services through the use of data-driven strategies.

- Support legislation that provides local governments flexibility over retention of electronic official records and correspondence.
- Improve county response to data breaches by aligning state mandates for local governments with those for the private sector.
- Support a change in state law to protect personal and confidential data of people receiving educational support services.

Environment and energy

Protect the environment and conserve resources through responsible management of waste and natural resources and promotion of environmental stewardship.

Climate sustainability

- Support legislation and policies to further county goals of mitigating the impacts of climate change, protecting and enhancing natural environments, and promoting sustainability in county operations.

Natural resources

- Ensure that Hennepin County receives a fair share of revenues from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

Community forestry

- Support legislation and state funding to local jurisdictions within quarantine areas for planning and response to the loss of trees due to invasive pests and pathogens, such as emerald ash borer.

Waste management

- Support increased state funding for SCORE, expanding organics composting initiatives, and promoting market development for recycled materials.
- Amend electronic waste (e-waste) statutes to require manufacturers to share transportation and recycling program costs.
- Support the Partnership on Waste and Energy 2021 Legislative Platform.

General government

Partner with the State of Minnesota to improve government services delivery, reduce mandates on local government, re-prioritize government spending and promote effective management of county programs by allowing local control.

Elections

- Support improved efficiency of election administration through the use of e-poll books with electronic signature and improvements to in-person absentee voting procedures.
- Modernize election statutes by amending outdated voter accessibility technology statutes and repealing 383B elections provisions that are inconsistent with other state statutes.
- Support legislation to align in-person absentee voting with in-person early voting. Expand absentee voter outreach opportunities.

Operations and administration

- Modernize outdated sale/lease statutes to more effectively reach potential customers and reduce the county's administrative burdens.
- Authorize Hennepin County to utilize Construction Manager-at-Risk (CMAR) for complex building and construction projects.
- Modernize Hennepin County Human Resources statutes to align them with current rules and practices and to minimize duplication of efforts.
- Amend state statute to allow local governments to publish official documents electronically rather than in print.
- Clarify marriage license application statute language, extend authority to accept remote marriage license applications, and increase marriage license, motor vehicle, and drivers' license filing fees to make deputy registrar's offices more self-sufficient.
- Amend state law so that essential county staff (e.g., medical examiners staff and 911 system staff) may be included in statewide emergency declarations.

Hennepin Healthcare System

Ensure access to the full continuum of health care services for all by addressing racism as a public health crisis through policies that reduce health disparities, increase equity, support the capacity of the health care workforce, and create financial stability for Hennepin Healthcare System as the state's safety-net provider.

Increase the financial stability of Hennepin Healthcare System.

- Create a statewide funding mechanism to support the state's largest Medicaid provider system and safety-net trauma hospital to ensure Hennepin Healthcare System can manage the challenges of caring for a disproportionate share of medically complex, COVID-19 affected Medicaid patients, and will remain available to Minnesotans statewide.
- Recognize the higher cost of care associated with serving a disproportionate number of Medicaid patients and maximize Medicaid reimbursement and supplemental funding sources including the promotion of new payment mechanisms in both fee for service and managed care.
- Strengthen value-based-payment arrangements in Medicaid focused on improving outcomes, while protecting coverage, access and stability of state health care programs. Support efforts to include state investments in short-term stabilization payments for safety-net provider systems intending to expand these arrangements with the state.

Increase health equity and improve population health through innovation and reform.

- Support state investments to reduce health disparities, including, but not limited to, expanding trauma-informed approaches to care to address the cultural and racial inequities in women's access to health care.
- Support innovative health care delivery models aimed at addressing social drivers of health, including medical recuperative care for people experiencing homelessness, expanding the definition of the state plan benefit for care coordination under Medicaid, and changes to dental coverage in Medicaid.
- Promote efforts to address the state's opioid crisis, including increasing access to medication-assisted therapy and alternative pain management therapies.
- Expand Project ECHO for real-time learning for front-line providers on conditions like addiction, COVID-19, hepatitis C, and mental health disorders.

Support the capacity of the health care workforce to ensure the delivery of exceptional care.

- Promote policies that support increasing staff capacity in the health care workforce, including maintaining telehealth flexibilities.
- Promote efforts to create a health care workforce that is reflective of patients and address any existing workforce and provider shortages in Minnesota, especially in the behavioral health care system.
- Support efforts to increase equitable access to medical education and maintain current state investment in Graduate Medical Education and health care workforce development.

Health and human services

Ensure that mental health, chemical health and public health systems work to improve outcomes for all residents, especially the most vulnerable. Support preventative models of care and early intervention service to avoid over-reliance on crisis response, and to reduce disparities. Advance new policies and funding mechanisms that recognize racism as a public health crisis.

Administrative and technical improvements

- Simplify and streamline Health and Human Services Program requirements and improve technological systems, including METS, MAXIS/MEC², SSIS, PRISM, and MnCHOICES.
- Make permanent health and human services waivers that streamline and align eligibility determination with other income support programs (e.g., SNAP and child care assistance) and provide efficiencies and simplification in how Hennepin County serves its residents.
- Oppose cost-shifting and hidden costs to local governments for COVID-19 public health and community services response.
- Strengthen data sharing between state and local public health agencies to support HIV/AIDS response.
- Expand access and coverage for testing, treatment and service delivery models that promote and improve health outcomes.
- Support increased compensation, stronger retention strategies and improved working conditions for personal care assistants. Support reforms that eliminate service disruptions and ensure around the clock access to PCA services for eligible families.

Invest in well-being of our children

- Support legislation that promotes data-sharing programs (e.g., Data Backpack) between schools and welfare agencies to promote children's educational success, assist with transitions, and connect children to appropriate services and interventions.
- Promote positive outcomes for county-involved youth, particularly those with disabilities, by supporting inclusive FASD recognition, broader protections to lead healthy lives, investing upstream in early interventions, and stabilizing the child protection system.
- Support legislation that reorganizes the existing Basic Sliding Fee categories to reduce disparities in early childhood outcomes for children and invest in reforms that eliminate fraud in early childhood development programs, including foster care child care, early learning scholarships, Head Start, and evidence-based targeted home visiting.
- Advance legislation that safely reduces the disproportionate number of African American children in out-of-home placements and increases frequency and timeliness of reunification by improving parents' and extended family members' engagement.

Invest in health through mental health and chemical health improvements

- Support systems redesign to meet the needs of individuals with mental illness or developmental disabilities, including alternatives to emergency mental health crisis requests, expanded supportive housing options, and services required for stabilizing individuals in the community. Expand access to telehealth and waiver-funded services to meet condition-related needs.
- Support state-wide partnership efforts to create a financially sustainable business model and build capacity across the continuum of behavioral health services; support adequate state funding for county services when the state places clients in community-based settings.

- Support efforts to integrate mental health, housing, chemical health, and criminal justice interventions to ensure residents' better outcomes and reduce recidivism.
- Invest in programs that reduce disparities and integrate health and human services delivery to improve residents' outcomes.
- Invest in preventive intervention including alternatives to emergency mental health crisis requests to reduce the harmful impact of the opioid epidemic.

Housing

Leverage limited resources more efficiently and advance stable housing for individuals and families and reduce disparities.

- Support increased state investment in regional approaches to prevention, capacity, and case management to address unsheltered homelessness.
- Increase access to accessible affordable long-term housing for residents with no income up to 60% AMI, prioritizing people with the highest level of need.
- Support legislation and administrative reforms that provide a continuum of services and housing, including 24-hour supervised care options for persons with acute and chronic care needs.
- Support a regional approach to sustaining protective housing for individuals experiencing homelessness and people who are medically high risk from COVID-19 for the duration of the public health emergency.

Taxes

Protect state funding for mandated services and assure flexibility to serve our residents without undue reliance on property taxes.

- Protect essential County Program Aid (CPA) that supports county-mandated services and reduces reliance on property tax.
- Ensure veterans remain eligible for the veterans property tax exclusion regardless of when they purchase their primary residence.

Transportation

Strengthen the long-term value of neighborhoods and communities through strategic public investments in infrastructure that improve mobility and safety, connect people to jobs, reduce disparities, and reduce transportation carbon emissions.

- Support legislation that promotes the advancement of the Bottineau Light Rail Transit Project. This includes, but is not limited to, right-of-way acquisition, insurance, liability, interjurisdictional coordination, federal regulatory requirements, and funding.
- Support a comprehensive transportation package that provides new revenue for roads, bridges, and transit.
- Support elimination of the prohibition on state funding for operating and long-term capital maintenance for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) project.
- Support the Metropolitan Council's implementation of Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (ABRT) along various routes in Hennepin County to provide shorter transit times, increased ridership, and expanded mobility for communities along the proposed lines.

- Modify the special distribution of leased vehicle sales tax in the metro area to fairly include Hennepin and Ramsey counties.
- Oppose any increase in weight or size limits for commercial trucks and other motor vehicles.
- Support increased funding for the Local Bridge Replacement Program and the Local Road Improvement Program, including funding for the Hennepin Avenue Bridge reconditioning project.
- Support MnDOT's Corridor of Commerce program and funding to achieve the full corridor vision for projects in Hennepin County.
- Support state investments to reduce transportation carbon emissions, including, but not limited to, vehicle and transit electrification, electric vehicle charging stations, and infrastructure that connects people by all modes of travel.

Workforce development

Meet the future workforce needs of Hennepin County and other employers and address persistent disparities by connecting well-trained and qualified individuals to high-demand jobs in our region.

- Strengthen state support for expansion and flexibility of state programs to provide enhanced training and employment opportunities to better address persistent employment disparities.
- Seek funding to increase training and employment services to clients in correctional programs such as Productive Day, Sentencing to Service (STS), STS Homes, probation, and electronic home monitoring.

- Support reforms to the SNAP Employment and Training Program that streamline program administration and restructure participation sanctions, while enhancing program integrity as a means to increase work participation rates.
- Support flexibility in providing services for dislocated workers and other participants in employment and training programs.
- Support reforms to licensing that will improve support for the employment needs of persons with current or previous criminal records.
- Support efforts to raise and protect wages for residents at the lowest income levels and industries most affected by the pandemic, including increasing state minimum wage to \$15 per hour, indexed to inflation.

Emergency response and recovery

Support legislation providing state and federal aid to communities, small businesses, nonprofits, and local governments to compensate for emergency protective measures undertaken and to rebuild properties and infrastructure damaged during the civil unrest following the death of George Floyd.

Nonprofit requests

Support the following nonprofit organizations by serving as the fiscal agent for state bonding proceeds.

- Avivo — \$10 million
- Fire Fighters for Healing — \$3.75 million

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