



Priorities

Child protection/foster care

Promote child well-being and achieve positive outcomes for county-involved youth by investing in both the child protection system—for example child protection, county attorneys, the courts—and the foster care system.

MNsure/METS system

Support funding necessary for the Minnesota Eligibility Technology System (METS) to function properly and reliably, alleviate current burdens on county workers and improve services provided to customers.

Safety-Net health services

Promote funding models that protect county tax payers from a disproportionate financial burden of uncompensated care. Seek enhanced revenue opportunities to support the state's largest safety-net hospital and key provider of medical education.

Mental/chemical health

Seek reforms to the state's mental and chemical health systems in ways that support accessible, community-based and preventive services. Reform the funding systems for chemical and mental health to reduce the over reliance on county property taxes. More clearly define the state's role and the county's role in service delivery along the continuum.

Transportation

Invest in a robust and multi-modal system to move people and goods equitably and efficiently. Strengthen the long-term value of neighborhoods and communities through strategic public investments in infrastructure. Enhance Minnesota's competitiveness as a global center of commerce and attractiveness as a place to live, work and play.

Platform

Bonding

- Regional Medical Examiner's Facility—\$25.9 million
- Bottineau LRT/Metro Blue Line Extension—\$20 million
- Access to I-35W from Lake Street—\$25 million

Support others:

- Artspace/Hennepin Center for the Arts—\$6 million
- Cedar Cultural Center—\$3 million
- Local bridge and historic bridge bonding—Support MnDOT's request for \$100 million
- Local road improvement bonding—Support MnDOT's Local Road Improvement Program's (LRIP) request for \$100 million

Criminal justice and public safety

Preserve and protect public safety through state funding that covers counties' costs and enables counties to implement state mandates.

- Increase Community Corrections Act (CCA) funding to ensure adequate state funding for supervision of offenders in the community.
- Support increased funding to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to meet its obligations for timely processing of drug chemistry evidence to expedite the administration of justice at the county level.
- Support legislation and continued funding for offender reentry, including transitional housing, work opportunities and community-based treatment.
- Support full funding of the state No Wrong Door program to address the identification, recovery and safety of children and young adults who are victims of sexual exploitation.

Data practices

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

- Support legislation that promotes streamlined service coordination and data sharing across health, education, public safety and human services organizations.

Environment and energy

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

- Restore SCORE funding to its original purpose (funding county waste reduction, recycling and composting efforts to meet state solid waste goals) by eliminating the diversion of SCORE revenues to the General Fund.
- Ensure that Hennepin County receives a fair share of revenues from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.
- Support the efficient, transparent and accountable management of water resources, which maximizes the use of financial and technical resources.
- Support legislation allowing the county to use electricity produced by county facilities to offset the county's need to purchase electricity.
- 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.
- Support the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board (SWMCB) 2017 legislative package adopted by SWMCB.

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.

- Remove obligations and liabilities created by easements and other encumbrances on properties that, when in tax forfeiture, result in costs to the county or taxpayers. For example, an abandoned grain elevator.
- Support improved efficiency of election administration through the use of e-poll books and electronic signature during early voting.
- Amend state statute to allow local governments to publish official documents electronically rather than in print.

- Support renewal of the allocation of Legacy/ Arts and Cultural Heritage funding for libraries with a priority on technology and collection.
- Support others' efforts to modernize investment statutes to allow large local governments to make collateralized investments with the same entities currently authorized for uncollateralized investments.

HCMC health system financial vitality

Ensure access to the full continuum of health care services for all.

- Support legislation to obtain vital funding that secures the financial vitality of Hennepin County Medical Center, including maximizing existing supplemental and Medicaid payments, creating new supplemental payments and mitigating the impact of revenue assessments on supplemental payments.
- Support comprehensive reform of the state's mental health system to ensure patients receive the appropriate level of care and to improve patient outcomes.
- Target increased payments to safety-net hospitals with the largest uncompensated and undercompensated care burden; including the establishment of a Medicaid payment enhancement that accounts for the patients' social determinants of health.
- Support Medicaid care delivery reform demonstration projects that benefit patients seen by safety-net providers, including the creation of care models that integrate primary care and addiction medicine and dental care.
- Support funding and development of policies that encourage the state's adoption of best practices in health disparities reduction and health equity.
- Create a mechanism to reduce the burden of uncompensated and undercompensated care created by changes to Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA).
- Maintain or increase current state investment in medical education and health care workforce development funding for HCMC.

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. Align funding models with the proper role of state government in state-operated services and counties in community-based services. Support investments in preventative models of care and service delivery to avoid over-reliance on crisis care and response. Enhance essential services and invest in programs that strengthen communities and improve the lives of residents.

Health and human services

continued

Administrative and technical improvements

- Support funding necessary for the Minnesota Eligibility Technology System (METS) to function properly and reliably, alleviate excessive burdens on county property taxpayers and improve services provided to customers.
- Support modernization of Minnesota's state and county computerized systems used for human services and health care eligibility to include simplification efforts.
- Support reforms to the Minnesota Family Investment Partnership (MFIP) that streamline eligibility determination in ways that align it with other income support programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and child care assistance.
- Support improvements to the state operated reporting system for the maltreatment of vulnerable adults. System improvements must include accurate and actionable reporting to county workers and eliminate the inappropriate deployment of law enforcement.
- Obtain funding to advance forensic medical education in Minnesota and meet current and future workforce challenges in the Medical Examiner's Office.
- Oppose cost shifting to local governments for sex offenders released from the Minnesota Sex Offender Program.
- Oppose cost shifting to local governments for clients released from state human services facilities and state operated services (e.g. Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Facility, Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter and Community Behavioral Health Hospitals). Support adequate state funding for county services when such clients are placed by the state in community-based settings.

Investment in well-being of our children

- Substantially invest in and reform early childhood development programs, including basic sliding fee child care, foster care child care, early learning scholarships, Head Start and evidence-based targeted home visiting. This will support low-income and high-risk families whose children are at risk for poor education and health outcomes and will address disparities affecting targeted populations.
- Promote child well-being and achieve positive outcomes for county-involved youth by investing in both the child protection system—for example child protection, county attorneys, the courts—and the foster care system.
- Support school educational stability for foster children and county-involved youth by stabilizing their access to transportation supports when they are placed in settings outside of their original school districts.

Investment in health through mental health and chemical health improvements

- Support state funding and systems redesign to meet the needs of individuals with mental illness, including supportive housing options and services required for stabilizing individuals in the community. Ensure that system changes reduce gaps in services, facilitate connections to appropriate care settings and promote access and integration of mental health with substance abuse and supportive services.
- Support efforts to improve our children and adult systems of chemical health treatment, such as creating a continuum of care and reforming detox services, to leverage federal funding and assure timely access to effective care.
- Support efforts to integrate mental health, chemical health and criminal justice interventions to address the needs of justice-involved persons, to ensure better outcomes for residents and to reduce recidivism.
- Support legislation that promotes and sustains efforts to develop a comprehensive and integrated model of health and human services delivery (similar to Hennepin Health) to assure access to county health and human services systems.

Housing

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

- Support investments that provide greater access to Group Residential Housing (GRH), affordable and permanent housing options for vulnerable or low income persons and families receiving county services. Seek demonstration pilots to test how reforming income disregards and eligibility criteria expands pathways out of poverty and options for long-term stable housing.
- Maintain funding for homeless prevention, outreach and emergency shelters.
- 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.

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.

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Taxes *continued*

- Revise inconsistent state statutes to include the more widely used term “targeted communities” to facilitate quicker restoration of blighted properties.
- Support alternative tax forfeited lands (TFL) sales methods to promote home ownership and achieve improved outcomes as tax-forfeit properties are returned to productive use.

Transportation

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

- Support a comprehensive transportation package that provides new revenue for roads, bridges and transit.
- 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.

Workforce development

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

- Increase funding for regional training partnerships among employers, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and community organizations to create demand-driven career pathways into employment.
- Seek expansion of and increase flexibility for existing programs—such as Pathways to Prosperity and Minnesota Job Skills Partnership—to provide more training and employment opportunities to better address the persistent employment disparities.
- Seek funding to increase vocational training and employment services to clients in correctional programs such as Sentencing to Service (STS), STS Homes, probation and electronic home monitoring.
- Support reforms to the SNAP’s Employment and Training Program that streamline program administration and restructure participation sanctions, while enhancing program integrity as a means to increase work participation rates.

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