



Priorities

Housing

Increase state resources to support safe and stable housing for all 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

Anaerobic Digester — Organics Processing Center — \$21 million

Hennepin Avenue Suspension Bridge — \$12 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 and ongoing state funding for supervision of offenders in the community.
- Support investments in community providers necessary to support successful reintegration of justice-involved individuals into the community.

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 formerly justice-involved persons.
- 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 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.

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 consistent with the county's Climate Action Plan to mitigate the impacts of climate change, protect and enhance natural environments, and promote sustainability in county operations.

Community forestry

- Support legislation and state funding to local governments for planning and response to the loss of trees due to emerald ash borer and other invasive pests and pathogens. Support state investment in community forest tree canopies to mitigate the effects of climate change and air pollution.

Waste management

- Support increased state funding for SCORE, expanding organics composting and anaerobic digestion 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 state leadership on zero waste initiatives and the re-establishment of a solid waste commission to better inform policy making on modernizing solid waste management and recycling initiatives.
- Support the Partnership on Waste and Energy 2022 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, automatic voter registration and improvements to absentee voting procedures and timelines.
- Expand absentee voter outreach opportunities.
- Support state-level standards and equipment for ranked choice voting.

Operations and administration

- Clarify and modernize marriage license application and reporting statute language, make authority to accept remote marriage license applications permanent, and increase marriage license, motor vehicle, and driver's license filing fees to make deputy registrars' offices more self-sufficient.
- Update remote online notary requirements to recording and identification requirements.
- Amend state law so that essential county staff (e.g., medical examiner staff and 911 system staff) may be included in statewide emergency declarations.
- Support efforts of others to obtain state funding for Public Land Survey System (PLSS) remonumentation and perpetuation.
- Increase bid limits for small business enterprise (SBE) contracts.
- Support efforts to expand government-recognized identification for all residents.
- Amend state law so that the county may compensate volunteers to citizen advisory boards and other boards

Data practices

- Support a change in state law to protect personal and confidential data of people receiving educational support services and other disparity reduction efforts such as broadband access.
- Support efforts of the Secretary of State's Office to update Safe at Home program statutes.
- Support efforts of others to amend statutory requirements and allow the Commissioner of Public Safety discretion in determining the penalty for accessing driver's license data without ill intent.

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, including short-term stabilization payments, 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 and socially 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 maintaining a new payment mechanism in managed care.
- Strengthen value-based-payment arrangements in Medicaid, focused on improving outcomes, while protecting coverage, access and stability of state health care programs.

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

- Support state investments to reduce health disparities in mental health and maternal health care, including expanding trauma-responsive health care, and the licensure of Certified Midwives.
- Support innovative health-care delivery models aimed at addressing social drivers of health, through integrated approaches to care, including medical recuperative care for people experiencing homelessness, expanding the definition of

the state plan benefit for Community Health Worker 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, and access to Medicaid while detained pre-trial.
- Expand Project ECHO for real-time learning for front-line providers to respond in culturally responsive ways to 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, and improving licensing flexibilities.
- Promote efforts to create a health-care workforce that is reflective of patients and addresses any existing workforce and provider shortages in Minnesota, especially in the mental health-care system, including removing barriers to employment for justice-involved individuals.
- Support efforts to increase equitable access to medical education and maintain current state investment in Graduate Medical Education and health-care workforce development, and enacting programs that create a pathway for youth of color to enter and stay in all health-care professions.

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

- Improve technological systems, including METS, MAXIS/MEC², SSIS, PRISM, and MnCHOICES to streamline and provide efficiencies and simplification to Health and Human Services Program requirements.
- Support changes to align and simplify program access and program rules.
- Oppose cost shifting and hidden costs to local governments for the ongoing COVID-19 public health and community services response.
- Support equitable availability and expansion of access to waiver-funded human services and health-care telehealth flexibilities to meet the condition-related needs of county residents.
- Support legislation that aligns the Minnesota Health Records Act with HIPPA for efficient data sharing among educational systems, safety net programs, and state and local public health to connect residents to appropriate services and interventions for improved service delivery and outcomes.
- Expand health-care access and coverage that promote and improve health outcomes by granting continuous eligibility for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare for one year after eligibility is determined.
- Support comprehensive and equitable capitation rates under Minnesota Health Care Programs by adding social risk factors and revenue risk score adjustments into the rate calculation.
- Support the sustainability of Personal Care Assistant (PCA) services to eliminate service disruptions and ensure around-the-clock access for eligible families.
- Promote positive outcomes for county-involved youth, particularly those with disabilities, by supporting inclusive Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) recognition, broadening protections to lead healthy lives, investing upstream in early interventions, and stabilizing the child protection system.
- Promote legislation that allows a local unit of government to pilot a children's savings account and cash transfer program that supports the county's two-generation disparity reduction efforts.
- Continue to support COVID-19 health and human services waivers that streamline and align eligibility determination with other income support programs (e.g., SNAP and child care assistance).

Invest in children and families

- Support legislation that permanently reorganizes the existing Basic Sliding Fee waitlist to improve access to Child Care Assistance and reduce disparities. Address the significant cost burden of child care for working families, a key factor in preventing communities from building wealth.
- Invest in the health and well-being of children and families by simplifying the MFIP program to align with SNAP and health care to remove structural barriers like monthly reporting. Strengthen family supports by sunseting the Diversionary Work Program and serving all eligible families through MFIP.
- Advance legislation that reduces the disproportionate number of African American and American Indian children in the child protection system and increases frequency and timeliness of reunification.
- Support legislation to remove barriers created by current foster care licensing requirements that result in fewer African American and American Indian foster families.
- Support stabilizing transition to adulthood from the child protection system for county youth.

Invest in health through mental health and substance use disorder services access and improvements

- Support systems redesign to meet the needs of county residents with mental health challenges, including culturally responsive services, early crisis interventions, and services required for stabilizing residents in the community.
- Invest in state-funded community supports for residents with developmental disabilities.

- Support statewide 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 eligible residents in community-based settings.
- Promote the integration of healthcare, housing, mental health and substance use disorder to reduce recidivism and prevent criminal justice involvement. Invest in systems improvements that provide access to Medicaid to support reentry of eligible individuals transitioning from correctional facilities.
- Invest in preventive upstream social services to reduce the harmful impact of the opioid epidemic, including readily available Naloxone as an alternative to emergency crisis requests.
- Support efforts to integrate mental health, housing, chemical health, and criminal justice interventions, especially data, to improve residents' outcomes and reduce recidivism.

Housing

Increase state resources to support safe and stable housing for all individuals and families.

- Increase accessible, affordable long-term housing for residents with no income up to 60% Average Median Income (AMI), prioritizing people with the highest level of need.
- Support the development of a statewide rental assistance program that addresses the housing needs of county recipients of health and human services benefits with income below 30% AMI.
- Increase housing and related services options for residents with disabilities exiting or diverting from institutional care needing on-site support to integrate their communities successfully.
- Provide capital support and sustainable operational funding to make safe, dignified, and housing-focused emergency shelters available to residents experiencing homelessness.
- Reform the Housing Support Program to remove the financial disincentives that cause residents to choose unsheltered settings and ensure the program reflects real costs in the housing market.

- Support dedicated revenue to counties to meet affordable housing needs.

Taxes

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

- Support County Program Aid (CPA) that funds county-mandated services and reduces reliance on property tax.
- Ensure veterans and their spouses/partners remain eligible for the veterans' property tax exclusion.
- Ensure residents qualify for homestead benefits by providing an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and provide uniform homestead deadlines.
- Update state assessor duties to reflect modern guidance and standards provided by the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) and allow assessors to access data to ensure accurate and transparent assessments.
- Support efforts to make the property tax system less regressive by expanding homestead market exclusion, property tax refunds, and modifying classifications.

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.
- Support state investment in Advanced Transportation Management System including traffic management cameras, fiber optic communication, and advanced software.

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 that provide enhanced training and employment opportunities to reduce employment and economic disparities.
- 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—\$15.3 million
- Simpson Shelter—\$10 million

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