



2023 City of Ramsey Legislative Priorities

Local Priority: Sales Tax Exemption for Water Treatment Plant

The purchase of materials for the proposed \$48 million Water Treatment Plant are not exempt from the state sales tax without this legislation. The bill would exempt purchases made for this project.

- A bill was introduced in 2021 and no action was taken.
- A bill was introduced in 2022 and no action was taken.
- The City will work with legislators to reintroduce a bill in 2023.

Local Priority: State Funding for Water Treatment Plant

The City is requesting state funding to construct a water treatment plant being constructed to address a public health need in the city of Ramsey. The discovery of manganese by the Minnesota Department of Health in 2019 led the City to conduct a feasibility study for a water treatment plant to address the public health issue. The recommended action is to construct a \$48 million Water Treatment Plant to serve Ramsey Water customers. Construction is proposed to commence in the spring of 2023.

- A bill was introduced in 2021 and no action was taken.
- A bill was introduced in 2022 and no action was taken.
- The City will work with legislators to reintroduce a bill in 2023.

Local Priority: Legislation to Extend Project Deadline (3 Years) for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District 14 (The COR)

TIF District 14 administered by the City of Ramsey expires in November 2023. Development in this district has been limited in recent years. Various infrastructure improvements have occurred in the geographical area of this district to support economic development. Planned infrastructure improvements known as the Ramsey Gateway Project will further enhance access into this area. A remaining priority within the district is making the NW quadrant of the COR "shovel ready". A significant amount of fill is necessary to make this land developable. The City has engaged an engineering firm to update cost estimates to complete this improvement in which would provide pad ready sites for economic development. Other smaller improvements could also be funded by this account/district.

- The City will work with legislators to introduce a bill in 2023 granting a three-year extension to the TIF District 14 administered by the City of Ramsey.

Local Priority: Funding for continued study of Ramsey/Dayton Mississippi River bridge project

- The feasibility study for a new Mississippi River bridge was completed in 2021 with funds allocated by the 2020 legislature. Staff will work with local legislators to secure the funding for the next step in pursuit of this project.

Local Priority: Metro Mobility Service Area

- Introduce legislation that will add Ramsey to the service area for Metro Mobility.
- Over the years some residents have expressed an interest in getting door-to-door Metro Mobility Service in Ramsey.
- City residents annually pay \$352,000 to the Metro Transit Taxing District that the City was required to enter when the NorthStar Station was completed.
- Inclusion in the Metro Mobility service area requires a state statute and was last extended to the City of Lakeville in 2019. The cost of the service is covered by the state.

Local Priority: Closed landfill legislation to allow economic development

- Staff will work with the PCA and local legislators to determine what, if any, legislation will allow closed landfill property to be put back on the tax role for private development opportunities.

State-wide Policy Priority:

- **Exemption of residential gardens from water emergency restrictions**

Staff will work with legislators to research possible legislation to ensure that, in the event the governor declares by executive order a critical water deficiency, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 103G.291 implementing mandatory emergency water conservation measures and mandatory restrictions upon nonessential water use is enforced and outdoor irrigation is prohibited, that gardens created by Minnesota residents for the cultivation of vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers for food and medicinal purposes will not be subject to water restrictions, nor shall they be limited to reclaimed water.

State-wide Policy Priority:

- **Statewide licensure of massage therapy**

Support legislation that seeks to adopt a state license requirement for massage therapists. Lack of a statewide license for massage therapists has hampered law enforcement's ability to regulate illegal activities across municipal boundaries related to this profession.

State-wide Policy Priority:

- **Amend remote open meeting law requirement (MS13D.02) that requires notification of a remote place accessible to the public**

Support legislation that will simplify the remote meeting process for local elected bodies, such as, the requirement that all remote locations be advertised and accessible to the public.

State-wide Policy Priority:

- **Lift hospital moratorium**

Support legislation that seeks to increase the availability of hospital beds and allow a free-market for hospital construction.

State-wide Policy Priority:

- **Local Government Aid (LGA)**

Local Government Aid for Ramsey has fluctuated (see chart below) from a high of \$396,382 in 2001, to the current level of \$0 in 2017 and beyond. The basic formula was changed in 2014 and some level of LGA was restored for the next three years

(approximately \$100,000 per year), however the same formula has now resulted in the elimination of all LGA for Ramsey and similar developing suburbs.

FY 2000 - \$359,771
FY 2001 - \$396,382
FY 2002 - \$303,894
FY 2003 through 2013 - \$0
FY 2014 - \$91,381
FY 2015 - \$110,352
FY 2016 - \$111,311
FY 2017 - \$0
FY 2018 - \$0
FY 2019 - \$0
FY 2020 - \$0
FY 2021 - \$0
FY 2022 - \$0

Background:

Support legislation that revises the LGA formula and recognizes the needs of developing suburbs, restoring LGA to developing suburbs for long-term capital needs.

- No changes were made to the LGA funding formula in 2022.
- The City should consider working with legislators to determine if there is an opportunity to revise the LGA formula in 2023 to provide greater resources to developing suburbs. The state is currently projecting a record budget surplus which could provide a point of discussion.
- A couple of LGA bills were introduced in 2021 that may have impacted Ramsey, but failed to become law:
 - LGA adjusted for unpaid local assistance costs HF 1052/SF 749 (Rep. Jim Nash, R-Waconia, and Sen. Bill Weber, R-Luverne) would have allowed cities that have not been reimbursed by another city for local assistance costs to submit an application for reimbursement through a reduction in the LGA of the recipient city.
 - LGA minimum distribution HF 1096/SF 1238 (Rep. Jerry Hertaus, R-Greenfield, and Sen. David Osmek, R-Mound) would have provided for a minimum per capita LGA amount for all cities that otherwise would receive no LGA, and increased the LGA appropriation to cover the additional amount.
- During the 2022 session, discussions occurred regarding updating the LGA formula. Based on a draft formula, Ramsey would have received funds.

State-wide Policy Priority:

- **Homestead Market Value Exclusion**

Increase property value amounts under Minn. Stat. § 273.13, subd. 35. Property market values have seen large percentage increases in recent years, thus causing property owners to lose their

Homestead Market Value Exclusion. Recent years, staff has fielded numerous calls regarding the increase to their taxes. The increased property value and the reduction in property value exclusion are contributing factors to the increase in taxes owed.

State-wide Policy Priority:

- **Metropolitan Council Committee Membership**

Support legislation that seeks to adjust Metropolitan Council Committee membership qualifications and membership determination. Currently there are 16 geographical Council Districts and one chair. Members are comprised of a representative who resides in the district they represent, with the chair serving at large. All members are interviewed by a nominating committee created by the governor, and the final appointment is determined by the governor.