



2026 City of Ramsey Legislative Priorities

Local Priority: Northwest Metro Mississippi River Crossing Need

The feasibility study for a new Mississippi River bridge was completed in 2021 with funds allocated by the 2020 legislature. This study identified a general area for a new crossing from Ramsey to Dayton. The next steps would be for a scoping document, Tier I EIS and then a Tier II EIS to be completed. The cities of Champlin, Dayton, Maple Grove and Ramsey intend to solicit funding for these next steps. An eventual coalition group comprising of a larger number of cities may be formed. The North Metro Mayors Association has historically identified this project on their Legislative Priorities, and will serve as a resource to advocate for the project on behalf of its membership.

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.
- Fall of 2024 conversations with Metropolitan Transportation Services indicated the request would not be viewed as unreasonable by them. They noted that services are currently in the City of Anoka, therefore extending services to an adjacent city is more reasonable than creating a satellite service area. With funding for metropolitan transportation shifting to the State's operating budget, no additional property taxes would be levied to Ramsey properties for the expanded service.

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: 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
FY2014 - \$91,381
FY 2015 - \$110,352
FY 2016 - \$111,311
FY 2017 through 2025 - \$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 the future to provide greater resources to developing suburbs.
- 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 Osmeck, 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.
- The most recent LGA adjustments left Ramsey with \$0 LGA contributions.

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.