

## Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee

Saint Paul School District #625  
651-767-8152

City of Saint Paul  
651-266-8510

County of Ramsey  
651-266-8008

### MINUTES

January 22, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

15 West Kellogg Boulevard, Saint Paul, MN 55101

Courthouse Room 220, Board Conference Room

Jurisdiction	JPTAC Members	Present	Absent
Ramsey County	Chair Ryan O'Connor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ramsey County	Commissioner Trista Martinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ramsey County	Commissioner Rena Moran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ramsey County	Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Saint Paul Schools District	Superintendent Joe Gothard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saint Paul Schools District	Board Member Carlo Franco	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saint Paul Schools District	Board Member Halla Henderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saint Paul Schools District	Board Member Yusef Carillo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
City of Saint Paul	Councilmember Mitra Jalali	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
City of Saint Paul	Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
City of Saint Paul	Councilmember HwaJeong Kim	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
City of Saint Paul	Deputy Mayor Jaime Tincher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Staff Members Present:

Ramsey County – Jennifer O'Rourke, Johanna Berg, Tracy West, Patrick Chapman, Alex Kotze, Susan Earle, Ethan Osten, and Mee Cheng

Saint Paul Schools District – Jackie Turner, Jim Grathwol and Andrew Adams

City of Saint Paul – Melanie Johnson, Eric Petersen, Shannon Forney, John Groebner, John McCarthy, Jay Willms and Madeline Mitchell

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- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Ryan O'Connor called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.
- 2. Welcome and Introductions**  
Chair Ryan O'Connor opened the meeting with welcome remarks and introductions of the JPTAC members as well as staff present during the meeting.
- 3. Approval of January 22, 2024 Agenda**  
Motion to approve the January 22, 2024 Agenda by Commissioner Trista Martinson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Jaime Tincher. It passed by acclaim.
- 4. Approval of the September 28, 2023 Minutes**  
Motion to approve the September 28, 2023 Minutes by Commissioner Trista Martinson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Jaime Tincher. It passed by acclaim.
- 5. Review of Legislative Agendas by Jurisdiction**  
Government Relations staff for the three entities were on hand to present, among them Jennifer O'Rourke (Director of Government Relations for Ramsey County), Jim Grathwol (Contract lobbyist for St. Paul Public School District) and Eric Petersen (Intergovernmental Relations for Saint Paul).

Jennifer O'Rourke presented Ramsey County's 2024 legislative priorities and provided an overview of the county's 2024 Capital Improvement Requests listed in priority order.

1. Rice Creek Commons Infrastructure - \$25 million
2. The Park at RiversEdge - \$20 million
3. Aldrich Arena/Community Event Center - \$6.4 million
4. St. Paul – Ramsey County Public Health Center - \$10.5 million
5. Youth Detention Center - \$16 million

O'Rourke brought up another infrastructure project, the Joint Ramsey-Washington County Anerobic Digester requesting \$30 million in general fund/cash, not bonding. O'Rourke went on to talk about other county priorities in the areas of funding for homelessness work, tax forfeiture changes, expanding HRA (Housing Redevelopment Authority) project eligibility to include small business projects, possible changes to the county program aid (CPA) formula as Ramsey and Hennepin are artificially capped, and on-going funding for Youth Treatment Homes and Mental Health Treatment Rooms.

Jim Grathwol presented Saint Paul Schools District's 2024 legislative priorities and provided an overview of how the 2023 Unemployment Insurance Benefit Extension applies to non-licensed district staff, such as Education Assistants, food service workers and transportation staff along

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with the operating referendum, debt service equalization and equity revenue. Grathwol explained there was support for education formulas that provide state equalization aid to local levies but that they didn't expect to see a significant K-12 Finance Formula increase in the 2024 session.

Eric Petersen presented city of Saint Paul's 2024 legislative priorities and provided an overview of the city's 2024 Capital Improvement Requests:

1. Mississippi River Learning Center - \$22.638 million
2. Como Zoo – Cat Exhibit - \$25.659 million
3. River Balcony - \$24.902 million
4. Urban Tennis – Cemstone Site - \$5.876 million
5. Eastbound Kellogg RiverCentre Bridge - \$51.9 million
6. Randolph Avenue Bridge - \$11.6 million
7. Regional Sports Facility - \$35.637 million
8. Phalen Lakeside Center - \$11.189 million
9. Battle Creek Park - \$2.894 million
10. Hayden Heights Library - \$4 million
11. Riverview Library - \$5.7 million

Petersen went on to talk about other state issues with property tax impacts. Among them are Local Government Aid formula changes and indexing the formula for inflation, support for the state's Fiscal Disparities program, simplifying the sales tax exemption for purchases of construction materials, and support for the Heading Home Ramsey homelessness funding request, copper wire theft, the Minnesota Conversion Tax Credit for residential building transition and local taxes for cannabis.

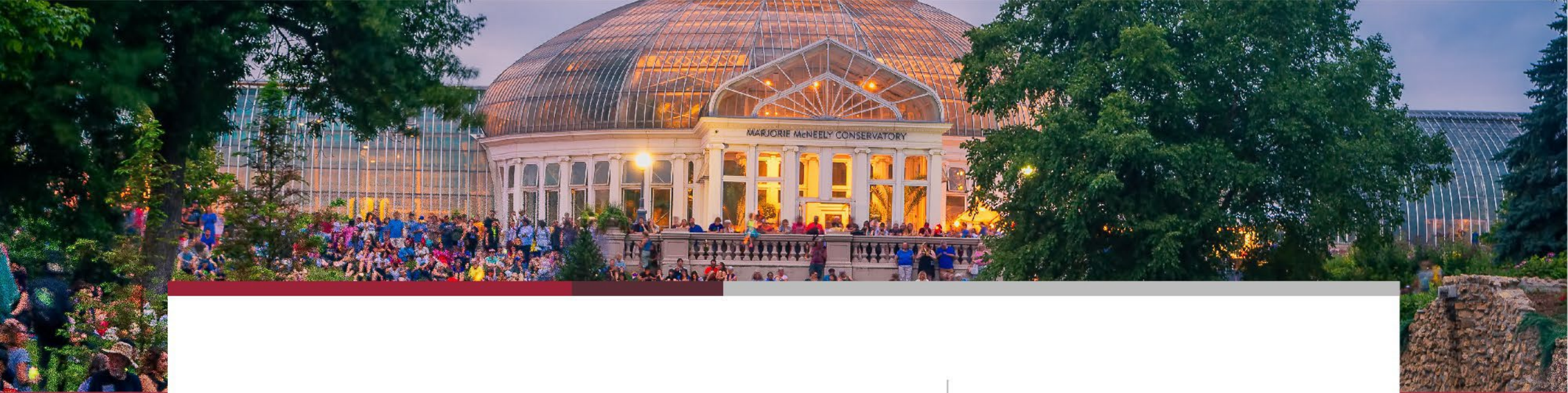
### **6. Review and Discussion of Upcoming Meeting Dates**

The committee discussed upcoming 2024 JPTAC meetings for the dates: March 25, 2024; June 24, 2024; and September 23, 2024. Motion to cancel the March 25, 2024 meeting by Commissioner Trista Martinson, seconded Deputy Mayor Jaime Tincher. It passed by acclaim.

For the June meeting, County Manager O'Connor asked that staff prepare the usual post-session legislative update but include updates on policy matters that cross the JPTAC jurisdictions, such as transportation, cannabis, housing and similar topics.

### **7. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Trista Martinson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Jaime Tincher. Chair Ryan O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m. It passed by acclaim.



# Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee

June 24, 2024



# Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes from the January 22, 2024 Meeting
5. 2024 Legislative Reviews
6. Updates on County Manager and Superintendent Searches
7. Discussion of Ideas for Future Agendas
8. Review and Discussion of Upcoming Meeting Dates
9. Adjournment



# 2024 Legislative Update

Jennifer O'Rourke, Ramsey County Director of Government Relations

Eric Petersen, City of Saint Paul Intergovernmental Relations

Jim Grathwol, Saint Paul School District Lobbyist

June 24, 2024



## Setting the Stage for 2024

- 2023 Unprecedented spending, policy & pace
- 2024 Year for a Bonding Bill
- Limited Legislative Days
- New Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy
- Speaker's Priorities of School Resource Officers Fix, Tax Bill Technical Fix, and Bonding Bill
- Delegation Retiring Legislators – only Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn



# Setting the Stage for 2024, cont.

Supplemental Budget Target Agreement

	GF Available Balance (Feb Forecast)	3,715,076	2,237,083
<b># Net Targets</b>		<b>FY 2024-25</b>	<b>FY 2026-27</b>
1 K-12 Education		43,000	18,050
2 Children and Families		34,370	24,780
3 Health and Human Services		4,500	5,000
4 Human Services		42,130	14,860
5 Higher Ed		500	
6 Agriculture		4,545	2,576
7 Housing		10,000	1,000
8 Environment and Natural Resources		17,000	
9 Energy and Climate		1,000	
10 Commerce		15,499)	1,738
11 Workforce Development			(4,000)
12 Economic Development		1,000	
13 Labor		1,000	
14 State Government		2,500	
15 Veterans and Military Affairs			
16 Elections		500	200
17 Transportation		2,000	
18 Judiciary		36,000	3,000
19 Public Safety		17,900	14,220
20 Taxes, Aids and Credits		53,000	5,230
21 Debt Service and Capital Projects		40,000	
22			
<b>23 Other Items</b>			
24 Tyler Settlement		109,000	(26,727)
25 Educator Pensions		31,458	
26 Emergency Medical Services		16,000	
27 Other (NOL, SROs)		15,440	980
28 Claims Bill		200	
29 Inflation Interaction			1,836
<b>30 Total GF Impact</b>		<b>477,544</b>	<b>62,743</b>

*✓ 2/27/24  
22 MAR 24*

*Melissa Hartman  
3/22/24*

*[Signature]  
3/22/24*



## Ramsey County Priorities That Passed

- Statewide \$3.4 million for unsheltered providers/county funding at DHS
- Tax forfeiture settlement & policy bills
- Utility relocation mapping
- \$1 million for Union Depot passenger rail insurance increases
- Workforce omnibus bill \$300,000 for Ramsey County initiatives
- Anerobic Digester \$5 million
- African American Family Preservation Act – Ramsey / Hennepin pilot
- MNChoices Timeline Extension
- Deadline extension to spend 2023 \$ for Youth Treatment Homes

## Ramsey County Priorities that Did NOT Pass

- Bonding requests (Rice Creek Commons, Park at RiversEdge, Aldrich Arena, Public Health Facility, Youth Justice Center)
- Changes to Ramsey County's HRA authority
- County program aid changes for Ramsey County
- SNAP for hot meals
- Youth mental health urgent care funding
- Law Library Funding Task Force
- Lead investigation funding

## Legislative Changes with County Budget Impacts

- African American Family Preservation Act — \$2.5 million for pilot
- Juvenile delinquency age changes from 10 to 13; child protection gains jurisdiction
- Acute care transitions for people w/disabilities and complex health conditions (FY25 \$40,000, FY26 \$1.6 million, FY27 \$4.6 million)
- Local affordable housing aid — definitions expanded
- More family homeless prevention funding at MN Housing
- “Pop-up” polling places expanded for colleges/post-secondary



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**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**

**2024 Legislative Update**

**Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee**

**June 24, 2024**

# City of Saint Paul Priorities That Passed

- **Unsheltered Homelessness Funding:** Statewide investment of \$3.4M for DHS to unsheltered providers
- **Copper Wire Theft:** Requiring a license to sell copper wire, unless in a designated trade of work already deemed to hold a license effective January 1, 2025
- **Franchise Fee Limits:** Removed all restrictions that are unique to the City of Saint Paul regarding the months and seasons during which the city's residential gas and electric utility fees can be imposed through its franchise agreements with Xcel Energy
- **Groundwater Thermal Exchange Device (GTED)/Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage (ATES) Systems:** Allowed changes to permit Geothermal devices for heating and cooling buildings which is helpful for The Heights
- **Wakan Tipi Center Clarification Language:** Clarified the language from the 2023 legislation to move the project forward with construction this Spring



# City of Saint Paul Priorities That Passed

- **Gun Violence Prevention:** Elevated criminal penalties for those knowingly participating in a straw purchase of a firearm and banning binary triggers
- **Tenants' Rights and Remedies:** Tenant protection package of policies geared at ensuring stable, accessible, fair, and equitable housing opportunities for all.
- **Cannabis:** Changes made to the 2023 legislation. OCM will now be allowed to issue licenses to potential retailers without first requiring they obtain a physical space to conduct business. Another change would allow “social equity applicants” — defined as people harmed by over-prosecution of cannabis laws in the past — to get earlier approval of retail licenses
- **Comprehensive Plans:** Exempts comprehensive plans for cities in the Metro area from environmental review
- **BRT Project Scoping:** Requires the Met Council to pay for 50% of BRT transit costs and the local jurisdiction of the road pay 50%



# City of Saint Paul Provisions Not Passed

- **GO Bonding Requests:** All eleven projects, and four supporting projects did not pass
- **Cash Bonding Requests:** Capital Replacement Account Failed in Cash bonding bill along with changes to Capitol Mall Framework and funding to come to Saint Paul PED
- **Arena Complex:** \$2M ask for planning and design
- **Local Sales Taxes:** No local sales tax changes. Moratorium still in place until June 30, 2025.
- **Minnesota “CUB” Tax Credit:** Create temporary assistance to convert underutilized and vacant building stock
- **The Heights Development:** No additional funding for the project
- **Gun Violence Prevention:** Supporting local authority to prohibit handguns and other weapons in city and county owned/leased buildings, facilities, parks, libraries, etc.
- **Open Meeting Law:** Allowing Boards and Commissions to meet in hybrid formats
- **Statewide Guaranteed Income:** Establishing a Minnesota basic income grant program



# Questions?

Contact:

Eric Petersen

Intergovernmental Relations Associate

[Eric.Petersen@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Eric.Petersen@ci.stpaul.mn.us)



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**Saint Paul**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# 2024 Legislative Session: Update

Jim Grathwol, District Lobbyist

Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee Meeting

June 24, 2024

# Legislative Session Objectives

- Bonding Bill
- Supplemental Budget Bill
- Policy Initiatives

# SPPS 2024 Legislative Agenda Overview

A

VPK “fix” = A Separate VPK seat allocation region for SPPS and MPS relieves administrative burden

B

Compensatory “Hold Harmless” Extension

C

School Resource Officers Revisions

D

Clarify READ Act Definitions; Timelines and use of Appropriations

E

Medicaid Reimbursement for School Related Health Services

# SPPS Finance Related 2024 Legislative Agenda Provisions Not Adopted Due to K-12 Target

- Joint Governor/House/Senate Target for K-12 Supplemental Omnibus bill:
  - FY 24-25 \$43M
  - FY 26-27 \$18M
- Both House and Senate spent most of their target (\$31.375M) on READ Act 2.0”
- SPPS 2024 Legislative Agenda Provisions “Left Behind”:
- Enrich the English Learner formula to address “SLIFE” (Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education)
- Fully fund the 2023 enacted UI benefit for non-licensed contract personnel
- Payment schedule was amended to a routine 90/10 split
- Increase Local Option Revenue Pupil Limits
- Increase the Safe Schools Levy
- Increase state equalization revenue of school board operating referenda

# The Forecast “Article”

## Chapter 81 - HF4518

- The Forecast article is normally included in omnibus supplemental budget bills to routinely address forecast revenue and expenditure changes.
- Remember the “\$400 million increase in projected expenditures forecasted for Universal Free Meals?”
- Passage of the article early in the session (3/21/24) ensured no interruption of food service and secured the most significant amount of revenue spent in this session (about \$118M) as a ‘forecast’ adjustment.

A photograph of a large, multi-story brick building with arched windows and a prominent red brick chimney. The building is partially obscured by large, leafy green trees. In the foreground, there is a sidewalk, a brick wall, and a decorative iron fence. The scene is set in a well-maintained, green environment.

## **Updates on County Manager and Superintendent Searches**



## Ideas for Future Agendas

- City/county/school district collaboration opportunities?
- Budgetary and property tax impacts of upcoming ARPA deadlines?

# Review and Discussion of Upcoming Meeting Dates

Hosted by Saint Paul Public Schools District:

- September 23, 2024 (on calendars)
- January 13, 2025 (proposed change—not yet on calendars)
- March 24, 2025
- June 23, 2025



# Adjournment