

Legislative Platform



CAPITAL INVESTMENT

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's request for state bonding for the construction of a regional household hazardous waste collection and recycling facility in Dakota County.
- Use of State bonding funds, the State's share of federal American Rescue Plan Act and Investment and Jobs Act funds, and/or funds from the State budget surplus, for priority Dakota County projects:
 - Interstate-35/CSAH 50 Interchange - ~~\$42,000,000~~ \$50,000,000
 - CSAH 66/62 Interchange at Trunk Highway (TH) 52 - ~~\$15,000,000~~ \$24,000,000
 - County Road 46 Reconstruction - ~~\$11,500,000~~ \$34,240,000
 - Veterans Memorial Greenway Highway Crossings - ~~\$10,700,000~~ \$13,000,000
 - TH 50 Safety Improvements east of TH 52 - ~~\$10,000,000~~ \$28,800,000
 - County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 9/179th Street Reconstruction - ~~\$8,040,000~~ \$9,806,000
 - ~~Mississippi River Greenway Pedestrian/Railroad Separation - \$6,500,000~~
 - North Creek Greenway Pedestrian Crossings - ~~\$5,400,000~~ \$1,500,000
 - Minnesota River Greenway Pedestrian/Railroad Separation - ~~\$5,000,000~~ \$3,950,000
 - ~~South St. Paul Library Construction - \$4,700,000~~
 - Mendota to Lebanon Greenway TH 55 Crossing - ~~\$3,000,000~~ \$2,322,500
 - River to River Greenway Dodd Road Crossing - ~~\$2,500,000~~ \$1,620,000
 - Behavioral Health Crisis and Recovery Center - ~~\$1,541,000~~ \$6,371,000
 - Law Enforcement Center Integrated Health Care Unit Addition Design - \$1,000,000 \$7,500,000
 - CSAH 54/68 Mississippi River Trail Extension - \$24,000,000
 - TH 77 Northbound Lane Addition - \$45,000,000
 - Mississippi River Greenway - \$4,000,000
 - Thompson County Park Master Plan Improvements Design - \$3,000,000
 - County Road 32 Extension from County Road 71 to Highway 52 - \$8,000,000
- The Metropolitan Council's request of \$30 million, matched with \$10 million of Metropolitan Council funds, for capital improvements to the Metropolitan Regional Park system.

CORRECTIONS (MERGED WITH PUBLIC SAFETY)

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- ~~Sustainable funding levels for community supervision of people in the corrections system.~~
- ~~Re-evaluation of the allocation of community supervision funding to ensure equitable funding for all entities providing supervision.~~
- ~~A transparent and equitable funding model for all three delivery systems.~~

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Efforts to actively address groundwater contamination due to nitrates.
- Increased SCORE funding to metropolitan counties to offset costly state mandates.
- Adequate state resources for the long-term care of existing landfills, including the return of diverted MLCAT and CLIF funds.
- The authorization of metro-area counties to acquire land for conservation and/or environmental purposes.
- The use of state bonding to support solid waste management projects as a match to the funds counties invest in infrastructure for solid waste management activities mandated by the state.
- The establishment of a state program to assist public and private drinking water well owners with the treatment of contaminated well water that exceeds safe drinking water levels.
- The re-distribution of the collected State Waste Management Tax that is currently distributed to the State General Fund to counties for state-mandated landfill abatement programs.
- ~~The continued use of the Local Recycling Development Grant (LRDG) to support county waste abatement efforts.~~
- Practical State and Federal product stewardship and extended producer responsibility laws with an emphasis on products that pose a public health or safety risk.
- State and federal funding for local water infrastructure improvement projects.
- ~~Efforts to delegate the authority to issue and regulate groundwater appropriations permits to County governments that have a state Delegated Well Program.~~
- Efforts to ensure regional capacity to dispose of large quantities of wood waste as a result of Emerald Ash Borer infestation.
- Coordinated efforts among state agencies to develop updated state rules and guidelines for the standardized implementation and oversight of wastewater, graywater, and combined rainwater/stormwater reuse systems.
- Legislation and/or MPCA actions that provide funding to properly close the Freeway Landfill in accordance with existing State Rules to protect public health and the environment and benefit the local community.
- A comprehensive plan by the legislature, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Board of Animal Health to slow ~~or eliminate~~ the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease.
- Appropriations to cover the cost of required electric vehicle charging stations at County buildings or other locations.
- State and federal funding opportunities that will assist the county in investing in energy efficiency, greenhouse gas reduction, clean energy production and fleet electrification, and set the county on a path to achieving net-zero status.
- The appropriation of necessary funds to counties that have more than one landfill within its borders for the establishment of natural areas and greenways in the nearby communities, funding economic development and county programs that result in waste reduction, reuse and recycling, and for maintaining surrounding county infrastructure.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Use of State ARP funds to develop a flexible benefits financing model and policy waivers in support of the Pathways to Prosperity and Well-being Pilot.
- ~~Use of State ARP funds to augment funding for local initiatives that mitigate pandemic impacts on the most vulnerable in Minnesota.~~
- Ensuring sustainable ongoing funding for mental health crisis response continuum.
- ~~Amending Minn. Stat. § 256.043, subd. 3(d), to remove a provision which would appropriate approximately 50 percent of the state's settlement allocation to county social service agencies via the existing Opiate Epidemic Response Fund distribution mechanism for statutorily prescribed use(s).~~
- Approval of a six- to 12-month pilot program allowing Minnesota counties to complete the Department of Human Services (DHS) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) training at the county-level.
- Interventions that address workforce challenges and service delivery impacts including:
 - increased service rates and wages for people providing direct service delivery within the Health and Human Services system;

- incentives, including education, to attract new workers and providers to direct service delivery;
- grants to pilot family and community-based prevention strategies that empower consumer choice and lower burden on county case-loads; and
- multi-year assessment and action by policy makers to address systemic root causes.

- Reimbursement increases for home and community-based workers.
- Investments in modernizing technology solutions for Department of Human Services programs.
- Simplification of Department of Human Services program rules and reporting requirements.
- Investments in local public health, family resource centers, co-located services, and community-based supports.
- The full funding of mental health crisis services.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC STABILITY

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Ensuring the county receives its fair share of ARP and other state housing funding to:
 - Enhance and expand state rental assistance programs.
 - Enhance and expand eviction prevention resources. Enhance and expand dependable streams of funding to support services to help people find and maintain housing.
 - Increase the number of affordable, accessible and available rental units throughout Dakota County.
- Funding to expand the Housing Demonstration program.

JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Equitable distribution of Broadband Grant program funds to include unserved and underserved areas in metro-area counties.
- Updates to policies within the Office of Broadband to expand eligible program costs to take advantage of advances in broadband technology.
- Investments to maintain and expand the Dakota County Workforce Mobility Program, creating better job opportunities in critical occupations.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- ~~Authority to create a service district, by adoption of resolution, for the purpose of levying upon a portion of Dakota County to finance governmental services benefiting a service area within a county.~~
- Maintained or increased appropriations for programs to enhance library services.
- The Minnesota Deputy Registrar Association and the Minnesota Association of County Officers request for a fee increase for license transactions.
- Increasing State funding to a 40% share for Metropolitan Parks O&M for SFY 22 and SFY 23.
- Revising eminent domain statutes to ensure equitable processes for determining landowner compensation and attorney fees.
- Increasing the Park and Trail Legacy funding share to the Metropolitan Regional Park System from 40% to 50% for SFY 22 and SFY 23.
- The amendment of Minn. Stat. § 216G.05 to require that the permitting state agency, rather than county boards, be required to hold a public meeting regarding the construction or operation of a pipeline.
- Efforts to adjust the Homestead Market Value Exclusion formula to support homeowner property tax relief by increasing the market value threshold and including an index to adjust annually with changing residential market values.

DAKOTA COUNTY OPPOSES:

- Measures that would interfere with the ability of local governments to manage their budgets.

NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP AND PARKS

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- The Metropolitan Council's request of \$1,000,000 from the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund to acquire private inholdings within regional parks and greenways.
- Increasing or maintaining the current allocations and funding distribution of Lottery in Lieu funding.

PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Sustainable funding levels for community supervision of people in the corrections system.
- Re-evaluation of the allocation of community supervision funding to ensure equitable funding for all entities providing supervision.
- A transparent and equitable funding model for all three delivery systems.
- The efforts of the Community Supervision Work Group and urges the Legislature to pass a new funding formula and significant appropriation during the 2023 legislative session.

STATE GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Elimination of the metropolitan county exclusion to allow mail balloting for all townships and cities with less than 400 registered voters.
- Reformation of the Metropolitan Council governance structure to increase accountability to their regional constituency.
- Legislation granting counties the authority to fill mid-term vacancies in County Sheriff or County Attorney positions either through a special election or by appointing a replacement until the next regular election.

TRANSPORTATION

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

Highways and Bridges

- Maintaining the current distribution of the Motor Vehicle Lease Sales Tax.
- Increasing long-term sustainable funding for highway and bridge purposes.
- Issuance of general obligation bonds for the Local Road Improvement, Local Bridge Replacement Bonding, and Local Road Wetland Replacement programs.
- Issuance of trunk highway bonds contingent upon increased long-term funding.
- The creation of a memorial of Dakota County Deputy Sheriff Luther Klug in the vicinity of Highway 316 and 200th Street E.

Rail

- Efforts to encourage railroads to work with local governments on opportunities to improve safe crossings near and along rail corridors.

- State and local acquisition of rail corridors that are currently under- or un-utilized to improve non-motorized transportation systems.

Transit

- State funding of county highway bus rapid transit subsidies.

Federal

DAKOTA COUNTY SUPPORTS:

- Federal funding to support creation of the Veterans Memorial Greenway.
- Federal funding to support improvement of the Interstate 35/County Road 50 interchange.
- Ensuring federal approval as necessary of human services administrative waivers passed by the Minnesota Legislature in 2021.
- Efforts to encourage railroads to work with local governments on opportunities to improve safe crossings near and along rail corridors.
- Efforts to support state and local acquisition of rail corridors that are currently under- or un-utilized to improve non-motorized transportation systems.
- The amendment of the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy in the Social Security Act, allowing pre-trial detainees to access Medicaid services while awaiting trial and in the month prior to release from incarceration. Doing so will support appropriate supports for mental health and substance use disorder treatment that will increase health and decrease recidivism.