

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota
JOINT PROPERTY TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE (JPTAC) MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION
Administration Building
360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

January 26, 2026
8:30 AM

A G E N D A

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA**
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
 - A. Minutes of the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee (JPTAC) Meeting of September 15, 2025 2
5. **MAIN AGENDA**
 - A. Updates by Jurisdiction
 - B. Review of Legislative Agendas by Jurisdiction
 1. Ramsey County 7
 2. City of Saint Paul 14
 3. Saint Paul Public Schools 19
 - C. Discussion of JPTAC Coordination Framework
6. **FUTURE MEETING DATES**
 - A. March 23, 2026
 - B. June 22, 2026
7. **ADJOURNMENT**

#BoldSubject#

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

JPTAC AGENDA Monday, September 15, 2025

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Saint Paul Public Schools
360 Colborne, Saint Paul
Room 5A

1. Call the Meeting to Order – Board of Education Chair, Halla Henderson, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Members present were:

Halla Henderson	Saint Paul Public Schools
Carlo Franco	Saint Paul Public Schools
Yusef Carrillo	Saint Paul Public Schools
Stacie Stanley	Saint Paul Public Schools
Rebecca Noecker	City of Saint Paul
Hwa Jeong Kim	City of Saint Paul
Jaime Tincher	City of Saint Paul
Mai Chong Xiong	Ramsey County
Garrison McMurtrey	Ramsey County
Rena Moran	Ramsey County
Ling Becker	Ramsey County

Cheniqua Johnson, City of Saint Paul, was absent.

2. Approve Agenda

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Councilmember Noecker. The agenda was approved by a vote of the attendees.

3. Approve Minutes from June 23, 2025

MOTION: Commissioner Xiong motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 23, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moran. The motion was approved by a vote of the attendees.

4. Presentation on Patterns of Valuations, Review Taxation & Budget Models, and the Impact of the Joint Levy by Ramsey County Assessor's Office

Staff from Ramsey County then presented information on the 2026 taxes payable for Ramsey County, including tax capacity changes, tax burden shifts, market value and tax capacity based on type of property, and distribution of a taxpayer's dollar to the county, city, school and other. Information was also provided on the combined levy of Saint Paul without the school district referendum, and also with the district referendum. The estimated percentage change in 2025 property taxes without the referendum, as well as with the referendum, by Saint Paul planning district on a residential property were shown. The joint resolution, which will need to be acted upon later in the meeting, was also shared.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Members noted questions about the resolution. Response: We need to accept that we've reviewed the numbers together. The individual boards will vote later on their individual maximum levy. It must be voted on by October 1. This does not keep the three bodies from setting their own maximum levy.
- Director Franco noted that the referendum is voter-approved for seeking funds, and a way that the school district will raise dollars. Other parts of the levy occur annually for each jurisdiction which are not voter-approved, but the responsibility of each jurisdiction to vote on the levy.

5. Budget and Proposed Levy Presentations by Jurisdictions

Staff from each jurisdiction then shared their individual budget and levy information.

Full presentations can be found in the meeting materials.

a. City of Saint Paul

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Councilmember Noecker noted it would be helpful to know the new spending from the General Fund, and the total added to the General Fund within each jurisdiction.
- Commissioner McMurtrey requested information about new revenue generators for the City. Response: The biggest example is the common cent sales tax to support capital work, as well as exploring other options.
- Commissioner Moran requested additional details about the Rondo Library.
- Director Franco requested information about the supplemental dollars from the legislative session.
- Questions also focused on the percentage of exempt property in the city, with further information to be sent.
- Commissioner Xiong noted the broader conversation about expanded commercial base. Councilmember Noecker noted these conversations and partnerships with groups such as the Downtown Alliance and Port Authority and Chamber of Commerce for additional investments, and other special funds.

b. Saint Paul Public Schools

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Councilmember Noecker requested additional highlights of the changes in general fund spending, with details provided on programming in schools and increases to the employment contracts.
- Director Franco noted the spend-down of the reserves and the 5% fund balance for the district, which is 18 days of operating costs, as well as the state per pupil formula and inflation.
- Tom Sager, Executive Chief of Financial Services with SPPS, also noted further details about the operating referendum dollars, as well as the capital projects information included in a graph in the presentation.
- Councilmember Kim noted it will be helpful to see the historical information of the last 10-15 years of information.
- Superintendent Stanley noted that there are over 100 districts conducting a vote for a referendum this year, and SPPS is the second largest district in the state, and when comparing with peer districts, we have the second lowest operating levy. It speaks to the district wanting to keep taxes low, and we know the impacts to our community.
- Councilmember Noecker noted that it's important to show the restraint when coming to the taxpayers for additional funds
- Commissioner Xiong requested additional information on the Morris Leatherman study in May/June 2025.
- She also noted questions about the current operating levy in effect from 2018.
- It was noted that the district's credit rating in AA2.
- There was further discussion on the 5% fund balance and if it is standard across other districts.
- A community member noted questions about the enrollment of students in SPPS and the basis for the figures presented.

- Director Franco noted the different spending based on needs of the student, and education finance in general. It was also noted that \$200M of the budget is spend on updating facilities and buildings.

c. Ramsey County

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Councilmember Noecker requested an overview of the cuts to the budget, included in Health and Human Services.
- County Manager Becker noted the impacts from the recent large bill at the federal level, and the further discussions on the impact of that bill once it has been reviewed by the state.
- Councilmember Noecker noted that there are a lot of “ands” – with the elimination of programs and investments in other areas. Commissioner Xiong also noted the tracking of SNAP error rates, and the administrative costs for Ramsey County.
- Commissioner McMurtry requested details on the tracking of federal budget cuts, including activity in federal lawsuits, and the delicate balance of ensuring we are not overtaxing because of unknowns, but shoring up operating to be more efficient in some areas.

6. ACTION: Adoption of Maximum Joint Levy

MOTION: Commissioner Xiong moved to approve the proposed joint resolution as presented, which states:

WHEREAS, According to Minnesota state law, local units of government must set their maximum property tax levy in September of each year for taxes payable the following year; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County, the City of Saint Paul, and Saint Paul Independent School District #625 have special legislation creating the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee (Minnesota Statutes 383A.75), which is charged by the Legislature with meeting "to make appropriate recommendations for the efficient and effective use of property tax dollars raised by the jurisdictions" (Minnesota Statutes 383A.75, Subd. 3); and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 383A.75, Subd. 3 outlines the specific duties of the Joint Property tax Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, One of those duties under Minnesota Statutes 383A.75, Subd. 3 (2) is to "agree, by October 1st of each year, on the appropriate level of overall property tax levy for the three jurisdictions and publicly report such to the governing bodies of each jurisdiction for ratification or modification by resolution"; and

WHEREAS, "In carrying out its duties, the Committee shall consult with public employees of each jurisdiction, and with other stakeholders of the City, County, and School District, as appropriate"; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, That the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee, for taxes payable in 2026, accepts that this overall property tax levy, after fiscal disparities, including the proposed school district referendum will increase by 10.5%; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee, for taxes payable in 2026, accepts that this overall property tax levy, after fiscal disparities, excluding the proposed school district referendum will increase by 4.5%; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the jurisdictions will solicit input from stakeholders regarding this levy proposal at their respective public hearings held to discuss proposed budgets and levies.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moran. It passed by acclaim.

7. Discussion Recentering the JPTAC Mandate

The group then discussed ways to recenter the work of JPTAC members and broader themes to ensure the levy reflects the individual needs of each jurisdiction, and the cumulative impact on our taxpayers.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Councilmember Noecker noted that it will be important to determine ways to deliver services more efficiently amongst the three jurisdictions, as well as joint advocacy and priority-setting at the legislature.
 - Director Carrillo noted that the purpose of JPTAC and what we have been doing is sharing information – do we want to expand that and look at ways to impact and mitigate cost increases across the board, including sharing more of our work and overlap in services. The effectiveness of this table will only reach to the time and effort we invest – do we have the charge to change the statute if needed, or charge ourselves to provide research and recommendations for action to all three jurisdictions, and our state delegations. Do we want to keep this work to ourselves, or merge to build efficiencies to build traction. He noted concern about the consultancy on the referendum of the demographer, and the reduction of students, and birth rates. We will all experience the decline, and think of ways to attract folks to Ramsey County and Saint Paul, including ways to manage the balance of the tax base, and the population, and ways to collaborate to increase the number of units being taxed to increase – both commercial and residential.
 - Director Henderson noted this is the space to have that conversation and identify budget areas to target.
 - Commissioner Xiong noted the overlap of services between the three jurisdictions and the whole family support areas. She also noted ideas for sharing resources and areas to collaborate. It was also noted to leverage non-profit partners and programming. She also noted she hopes the JPTAC group can come together to strategize and work effectively with the delegation proactively. We are all interconnected.
 - Deputy Mayor Tincher also noted the interconnectedness, and the importance of public safety and quality of life in downtown, and how that affects the neighborhoods, including businesses. We need to look at resources to build strategies – such as spaces to convert to housing, and to be smarter and more strategic with assets.
 - Commissioner McMurtrey noted work with the legislature, as well as other partner associations, such as Association of Minnesota Counties, and other organizations to ensure we are putting the pressure on our legislative partners for our needs. He also noted that the meeting of this group more frequently to bring in other partners will help the work.
 - City Manager Becker noted that she is hearing a shared work plan, and it will require trust, expectations, and permission for a level of what the policy makers should be doing, talking about, and collaborating. We are all working for our children and families in Saint Paul, and need to act as one cohesive unit.
 - Councilmember Noecker noted the group will need to be “scrappy” in this work so that more funds are not directed towards this specific work to work together, and we will need to lean into relationships and abilities.
 - Director Franco noted that it will be important for taxpayers to see the intentionality behind this work and regular reporting of progress.
 - County Manager Becker noted that we need to look at all resources of the three jurisdictions and ask what where we should be doing more, and work with staff beyond the JPTAC group as well.
 - Director Franco noted it will be helpful to review the overview of core services of the three entities, and ideas of overlap.
 - Councilmember Kim noted strategically supporting each other, and strategic investments in the lifecycle of assets, and long-term visioning. She is interested in looking at progressive tax options for the city, county, and school district. She also noted that there are finite resources and to communicate that we are being strong stewards of those.
 - Deputy Mayor Tincher noted that it will be helpful to understand the economic growth across the entities and decisions around public safety and quality of life and investments, as well as zoning decisions and economic development.
 - Director Henderson noted that next steps include work groups to meet soon and other ways of connecting before the next JPATC meeting; the three entities to discuss core services and how this work can look different; the unfunded mandates at the state legislature and work with that body as well; accountability measures, and clear communication to bring messages forward.
8. Future meeting dates include:

- January 26, 2026
- March 23rd, 2026
- June 22, 2026

9. Adjourn

MOTION: Director Henderson motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Director Franco. The motion passed by acclaim.

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.



2026 Legislative Priorities

Presentation to the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee
January 26, 2026

Ramsey County's Overarching Themes in 2026

No new unfunded mandates.

Protect counties from further cuts.

Counties must be at the table for any service delivery change.

Reduce reliance on property tax.

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Top Priorities at the State Legislature

County Role	Top Priorities
Lead	Bonding for Park at RiversEdge: \$20 million HF 1420 (Perez-Vega) , SF 1401 (Pappas)
	Bonding for Aldrich Arena: \$8.5 million HF 2455 (Fischer) , SF 2799 (T. Xiong)
	Capitol Complex County Host Program (CCCHP) for Ramsey County (L. Lee)
	Amendments to MN Statute 383A Two bills: L. Lee (House) , T. Xiong and A. Rest (Senate)
	Seek funding extension for MAAFPCWDA.
	Establish a statewide homelessness funding program HF 1914 (Curran) , SF 2124 (Mohamed)
Active Advocacy	Preserve current reimbursement method for MnCHOICES assessments
	Enhance efficiencies in Home & Community-Based Services
	Modernize state human services systems
	Preserve or increase formula-based transportation funding for Ramsey County
Support	Address substance abuse, mental and behavioral health needs
	Enhance public safety and reduce gun violence
	Support the Catalyzing Underutilized Buildings (CUB) Tax Credit
	Protect counties from increased costs resulting from federal changes to SNAP and MA
	Move MAAFPCWDA case review responsibility to state

Capital Improvement Requests (Bonding Items)

Park at RiversEdge (\$20 million)



Aldrich Arena (\$8.5 million)



Responding to Federal Cuts and Policy Shifts

- Some federal actions will have critical, negative impacts on Ramsey County that will require state support to maintain basic services.
- H.R. 1 changes to SNAP and Medicaid (MA):
 - States should demand delayed implementation.
 - We support evaluation of state-supervised/county-administered model of human services program delivery.
- Continuum of Care funding limits, new criteria, and cuts: State may need to help fill gaps in homelessness response.

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Without significant support on federal impacts, property taxes will rise.



2026 Legislative Priorities

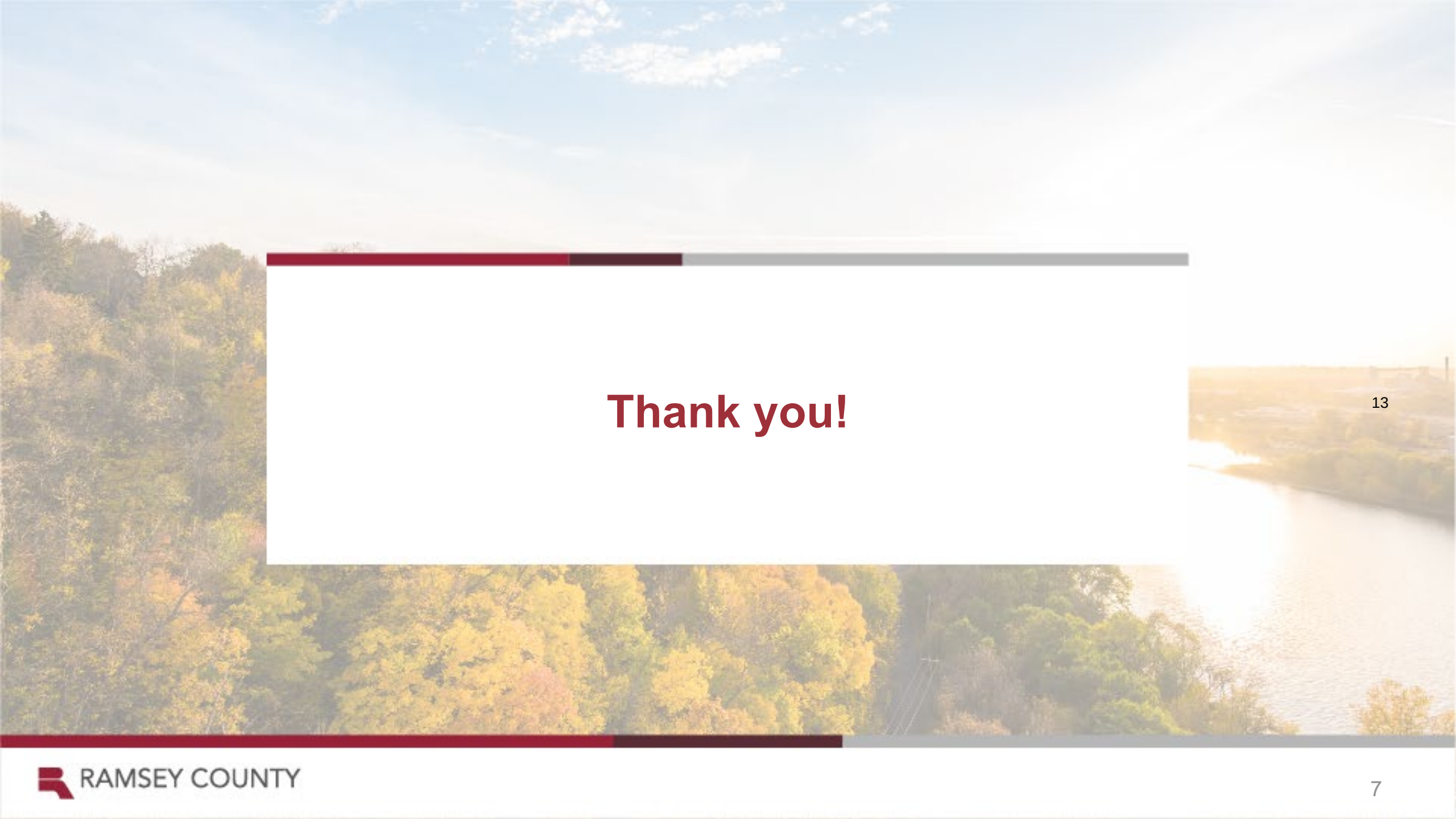
A county where all are valued and thrive.

[RamseyCountyMN.gov](https://www.RamseyCountyMN.gov)



Full Platform Available Online



The background of the slide is a scenic landscape. On the left, there is a dense forest of trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and green. To the right, a wide river flows, reflecting the bright sunlight. The sky is a clear, pale blue with a few wispy clouds. A large, semi-transparent white rectangle is centered over the image, containing the text "Thank you!".

Thank you!

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2026 City of Saint Paul Legislative Priorities Presentation

City of Saint Paul



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

STPAUL.GOV

Photo courtesy of
Visit Saint Paul



Top City Priorities for this Legislative Session

Our City's Preliminary Legislative Agenda integrates feedback from:

- Councilmembers
- City Departments
- Partners, such as the Saint Paul Port Authority, the Saint Paul Area Chamber, the Downtown Alliance, Ramsey County, and many more

Two main goals of this agenda include:

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- 1) Maximum economic impact coming into the City in a short legislative session.
- 2) Strategically positioning the City's "asks" across a variety of areas to prepare for potential shifts in control at the Legislature.



Top City Priorities for this Legislative Session

- Arena Complex & Surrounding Entertainment District investments,
 - State assistance may include (but not limited to):
 - capital bonding
 - cash funding
 - annual appropriations
 - forgivable or interest-free loans
 - extension of authorized local option sales tax
 - sales tax exemptions related to construction
 - Negotiations with the Team are ongoing
 - Inclusive of funding asks for: Grand Casino Arena, RiverCentre, Roy Wilkins Auditorium, Eastbound Kellogg Bridge, RiverCentre Parking Ramp
 - Expansion of social district authorization

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Top City Priorities for this Legislative Session

- Amending the definition of a natural disaster to be inclusive of cyber attacks
 - Provides 100% cost-share for expenses associated with cyber attacks to impacted entity
 - Would align state policy with current reality that cyber attacks are likely to continue
 - Comprehensive coverage of cities/counties across state (Mower County in southern Minnesota experienced a cyber attack last year)
- Establish and fund a state reimbursement program for law enforcement agencies that respond to protests and demonstrations and Governor's residence
 - Could take the form of an LGA increase, appropriation, or per action reimbursement

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Top City Priorities for this Legislative Session

- State and regional investments into the West 7th Corridor
 - Spans from full re-design and construction to Mill-and-Overlay from Kellogg to Highway 5
 - Likely a multi-year ask
- State funding and legislation that reimburses and supports individuals, families, community organizations, business, and local governments for costs incurred during the federal immigration surge ¹⁸
- Incentivizing downtown redevelopment through creative financing tools
 - Tax Increment Financing expansion
 - Historic tax credit expansion for conversions
 - Catalyzation of Underutilized Buildings credits



SPPS 2026 Legislative Agenda Discussion

Key Legislative Fiscal Gains in 2023 – 2025

- Linking General Education formula to Inflation (2-3% for FY2025-2029)
- Special Education Cross-Subsidy increased from 6.43% in FY20 to 44% from FYs 24-26 and 50% FY27 and beyond
- Base EL Aid increases: FY23 \$704 FY27 \$1,725
- EL Concentration Aid increases: FY23 \$250 FY24-26: \$1,228
- EL Cross Subsidy for FY27 and beyond: 25%
- Expanded Medicaid Billing for school related health services for FY26 and beyond

Risks and Opportunities in 2026 Session

- Implementation and finance issues for:
 - Paid Family Medical Leave
 - Earned Safe and Sick Time
 - Permanent funding for Unemployment Insurance
- Blue Ribbon SPED Committee - \$250M savings/cut
- Compensatory Revenue Redesign Task force
- New initiatives:
 - Statewide teacher health insurance (Education Minnesota)