

# 2019 Legislative Agenda



## Advancing Racial Equity

Advancing racial equity is paramount to the wellbeing of our community and long term vitality of the City of Minneapolis, and the State of Minnesota. The City of Minneapolis' goal is to approach all of our policies and programs through the lens of racial equity, and champion intentional state legislative strategies that promote racial equity, and prevent and eliminate disparities in public policy and public investments.

## Local Government Finance

The City of Minneapolis supports ensuring balance in the state-local fiscal relationship by maintaining the current Local Government Aid (LGA) formula as modified in 2013, increasing funding for the LGA program, distributing LGA based on the factors of the LGA formula without unique exceptions and recognizing the need to fairly redistribute state revenues generated by local government.

The City supports addressing the provision in the Minneapolis lodging tax law that limits the total of all taxes on lodging imposed by the city, county and state to 13% by repealing the cap, or, at minimum, providing an exemption from the cap for each new additional tax imposed by the state or county since 2005.

The City supports increased funding for homeowner and renter direct property tax relief programs, and methods to increase usage of these programs.

The City supports Tax Increment Financing (TIF) provisions that would assist with the redevelopment of Upper Harbor Terminal, as well as amendments to the TIF Act so that pooled increment, including for affordable housing purposes, has limits calculated on a cumulative basis.

The City supports long-term viability of all state-wide public pension funds without overburdening local governments.

## Capital Investment Priorities

### **\$19 million for the Central City Storm Tunnel**

\$19 million to facilitate design and construction necessary to increase stormwater capacity on the Central City Storm Tunnel in downtown Minneapolis. Such increases in capacity are needed to reduce pressurization, reduce risks of tunnel failure, reduce tunnel repair costs, and address challenges such as surface flooding. The need for the project was identified following a failure of the tunnel liner in 2010 that compromised a nearby sanitary sewer and led to a discharge of untreated wastewater and stormwater to the Mississippi River.

### **\$2.5 million for Phase Two of Emergency Operations and Training Facility**

\$2.5 million to support the enhancement of the Regional Emergency Operations and Training Facility (EOTF). The EOTF is a multi-agency public safety facility used to train first responders, fire professionals, law enforcement officials, technical rescue and hazardous materials specialists, as well as state and federal incident management personnel. New capabilities of the facility will include rail disaster response training, urban search and rescue, structural collapse, and confined space rescue.

### **\$1.5 million for the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock Redevelopment**

\$1.5 million for pre-design and design for the redevelopment of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock into a destination visitor and interpretive center and event space, *The Falls*. The recent Congressional suspension of navigation at the Lock provides a rare opportunity to create a unique space to learn about Minnesota's story. *The Falls* will tell the myriad stories of the St. Anthony Falls and the Mississippi River in our community and region, including Native American history, the story of the civil works era and opening the Upper Mississippi to commerce and navigation, and the story about the birth of a city that became the "flour milling capital of the world."

## Capital Investment Projects Supported by the City of Minneapolis

Fully support funding for the Bus, Bus Guideway and Express Bus Development Program to advance regional transitway projects including full funding for D-Line bus rapid transit.

Fully support funding for the rehabilitation and preservation of the Stone Arch Bridge; an iconic landmark and destination for Minnesotans and visitors alike.

## **Transportation**

The City of Minneapolis supports new and sustainable funding for multi-modal transportation, transit, rail, roads, and bridges, and secure financial resources to meet both the capital and operational needs of the expanding regional transportation systems.

The City supports a comprehensive transportation bill that provides local governments throughout Minnesota with the resources necessary to preserve investments and meet the transportation needs of residents, visitors, and business.

The City supports more direct accountability to voters and local government by enhancing the role for cities in the process of determining key transportation investments.

## **Municipal and Regional Governance**

The City of Minneapolis supports efforts to maintain or enhance local governance, and opposes efforts by the legislature to interfere in local government decision making authority.

The City supports a strong, effective Metropolitan Council for regional cooperation and planning around transportation, land use, affordable housing, parks and open space, water resources and environmental protection and for the operation of regional services including transit and wastewater management.

## **Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform**

The City of Minneapolis supports legislation and policies that build trust and improve relationships between law enforcement and all communities and incorporates best practices and procedures. Such efforts include building trust and legitimacy, establishing clear policy and oversight, the implementation of new technologies, emphasis on community policing, and investments in education, training, and officer wellness and safety.

The City supports legislation and policies that reduce the collateral consequences for low level driving offenses, which have disparate impacts on low income residents and people of color. Policies should work to end the cycle of amassing fines, fees and state surcharges for these offenses that push individuals deeper into poverty. Policies should instead provide opportunities for diversion and restitution that give back to communities through service, encourage safe and legal driving, and allow residents continued access to jobs and education.

The City supports eliminating the unnecessary collateral consequence of driver's license suspension for non-public safety related infractions.

The City supports requiring criminal background checks on all gun sales.

## **Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention**

The City of Minneapolis supports housing infrastructure bonds and general obligation bonds for affordable housing and public housing rehabilitation.

The City supports new, significant, ongoing and sustainable state funding and investments for affordable housing, homelessness prevention, and naturally occurring affordable housing.

The City supports policy and funding to increase housing security and prevent displacement such as policies to encourage acceptance of or prohibit discrimination against recipients of rental housing assistance, efforts to reduce the number of evictions filed due to non-payment of rent, efforts that would slow the evictions process to provide more opportunity to prevent evictions from being filed, and strategies to reduce the impact of eviction filings on future housing opportunities.

## **City Livability and Community Wellbeing**

The City of Minneapolis supports funding and initiatives that help to build economic security and promote public health, including sustained funding for the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership, expanding medical assistance coverage to children with poorly controlled asthma, and funding for home visiting.

## **Jobs and Workforce Development**

The City of Minneapolis supports increased funding for youth employment programs, including the Minnesota Youth Program and the Youth at Work Program to ensure that youth, especially low income youth and youth of color, in Minneapolis and across the state have access to vital employment opportunities that create pathways for successful careers.