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CITY OF SAINT PAUL

# 2025 Legislative Priorities



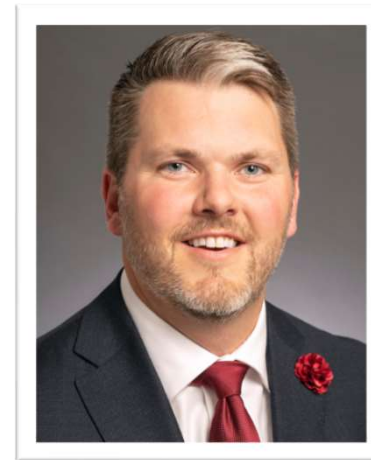
# STATE BUDGET & FORECAST DEADLINES

- FY 2026-27 projected surplus of \$456 million
- Projected \$6 billion shortfall in out years (FY 2028-29)
- Higher inflation increases revenue and spending forecast
- Shifting policies at federal level create forecast uncertainty
- **Policy Deadline:** April 4
- **Finance Deadline:** April 11
- Legislative Session ends May 19 at midnight
- Constitutional requirement to balance the budget by June 30



# LAY OF THE LAND: MN SENATE

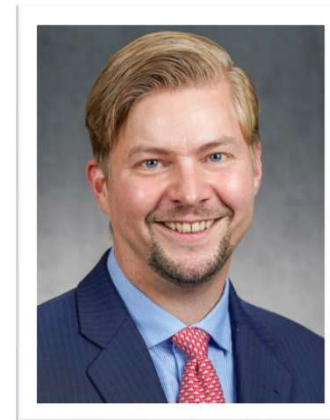
- DFL Majority temporarily at 2 seats
- Majority Leader Erin Murphy (DFL; SD64, Saint Paul)
- Senate President Bobby Joe Champion (DFL; SD59, Minneapolis)
- Minority Leader Mark Johnson (GOP; SD1, East Grand Forks)





# LAY OF THE LAND: MN HOUSE

- Power sharing agreement with tied House
- Speaker Lisa Demuth (GOP, 13A, Cold Spring)
- Speaker Emerita, DFL Leader Melissa Hortman (36B, Brooklyn Park)
- DFL Floor Leader Jamie Long (61B, Minneapolis)
- GOP Leader Harry Niska (31A, Ramsey)





# SAINT PAUL DELEGATION

## **Saint Paul Delegation Leadership Roles**

- Representative Maria Isa Pérez-Vega: House Delegation Chair
- Representative Samakab Hussein: House Delegation Vice-Chair
- Senator Clare Oumou Verbeten: Assistant Majority Leader & Senate Delegation Chair
- Representative Athena Hollins: House DFL Whip

## **Senate Committee Chairs**

- Chair Sandra Pappas: Capital Investment
- Chair Foung Hawj: Environment, Climate, and Legacy

## **House Committee Co-Chairs**

- Chair Dave Pinto: Labor and Workforce Development Finance & Policy
- Chair Kaohly Her: Commerce Finance & Policy
- Chair Jay Xiong: Veterans and Military Affairs Division



# 2025 Legislative Priorities



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# #1 XCEL ENERGY CENTER ARENA COMPLEX RENOVATION

**Request from the State:** \$395 million  
(50% of total project cost)

- **Xcel Energy Center Renovation:** \$285 million
- **Roy Wilkins Auditorium Renovation:** \$75 million
- **RiverCentre Visitors Authority  
Asset Preservation:** \$35 million

*\*Rendering courtesy of Populous*

XCEL ENERGY CENTER

GATE 2

Ticket

Ticket

Kaloupek Blvd

# #2 DOWNTOWN SAINT PAUL REVITALIZATION

- **CUB Tax Credit:** HF 457 (Harder) / SF 768 (Mohamed)
- **Redevelopment TIF Citywide:** HF 2574 (Hollins) / SF 2824 (Pappas)
- **Redevelopment TIF Downtown District 17:** HF 2585 (Hollins) / SF 2820 (Pappas)
- **Half-Cent Sales Tax Extension:** HF XXXX () / SF 2657 (Pappas) and STAR
- **Program Changes:** HF XXXX () / SF XXXX (Pappas)
- **Science Museum & Union Depot Liquor License:** HF 2055 (Pérez-Vega) / SF 2202 (Pappas)
- **Social Districts local authority**





A close-up photograph of a tiger's face, showing its eyes, nose, and pink tongue sticking out. The tiger is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.

# #3 CAPITAL INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- **Mississippi River Learning Center:** \$10 million
- **Como Park Zoo and Conservatory Big Cat Infrastructure:** \$20 million

**The City of Saint Paul strongly supports capital investments in:**

- Housing Infrastructure Bonds
- General Obligation Bonds for public housing authorities
- Building out the region's Bus Rapid Transit system
- Active transportation
- Direct state investments for nonprofit capital investment projects



# HOUSING AND UNSHELTERED SUPPORT

- **CUB Credit and Redevelopment TIF**
- **Statewide Homelessness Funding:** HF 1914 (Curran) / SF 2124 (Mohamed) - Building on the work of Pathway Home
- **Funding for Housing at The Heights:** HF 2549 (Lee K.) / SF 2644 (Hawj)
- **Maintain the city's 4(d) Housing Incentive Program**
- **Tenant Protections**
- **Support for Saint Paul property tax-payers** through state-funded property tax reduction programs, renters' credits, more outreach to homeowners about property tax assistance/reduction options, and automatic state-level tax refunds



# PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Ban Firearms in Publicly-Owned Buildings:** HF 1601 (Hussein) / SF 2320 (Pappas)
- **Fencing Consortium:** SF 2709 (Kreun)
- **Public Safety Aid:** HF 2189 (Norris) / SF 387 (Gustafson)
- **Account for SPPD and State Patrol Police Costs:** HF 2818 (Stier)  
**Recruitment and retention resources for public safety first responders**
- **Maintain copper wire theft law**
- **OPPOSE bills that harm new Americans,** including but not limited to:
  - ICE Cooperation Requirement for Local Law Enforcement: HF 16 (Rymer) / SF 643 (Koran)



## WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Right Track Program Expansion:** HF 2262 (Hussein) / SF 2658 (Hawj)
- **Support for Saint Paul Small Businesses:** HF SF 2520 (Hawj) appropriating grants for Arcade Street and East 7th businesses impacted by construction; and HF XXXX (Pérez-Vega) appropriating grants to the West Side Business Coalition
- **World Juniors Hockey Championship Funding:** HF 1007 (Norris) / SF 1061 (Frentz)
- **OPPOSE: ReConnect Rondo Expenditure Prohibition:** HF 494 (West) / SF 286 (Jasinski)





## PARKS & OUTDOORS

- **Como Park Zoo Operations Legacy Funding:** HF 1560 (Finke) / SF 1152  
(Oumou Verbeten)
- **Como Park Geothermal Funding:** HF 1656 (Hollins) / SF 2220  
(Oumou Verbeten)
- **Metro Parks Legacy bill:** Not yet introduced
- **Regional Parks & Trails Bonding:** HF 1815 (Lillie) / SF 2130 (Pappas)
- **Lake Phalen Winter Festival:** HF 1544 (Lee) / SF 1763 (Hawj) - Ice  
Castles Funding



# LIFELONG LEARNING

In the City of Saint Paul, everyone deserves the opportunity to learn and grow over the course of their entire life, from infants and toddlers to aging adults.

- **Support increased funding** for early childhood learning and care through SPPS and Parks programming
- **Support new state funding** for competitive grants for after-school and summer programs targeted to low-income youth



# ECONOMIC JUSTICE & INCLUSION

- **Statewide guaranteed income**
- **Statewide \$15 minimum wage**
- Elimination of sub-minimum wages for people with disabilities
- Rent-a-bank reform
- Low-cost motor vehicle insurance program for low-income residents: HF 2215 (Hollins) / SF 2455 (Putnam)



# LOCAL CONTROL & RESOURCES

- **Increase to statewide LGA**
- **Support more local control** and oppose unfunded mandates on local governments
- **Open Meeting Law reform** to allow remote participation by community volunteers serving on local boards and commissions
- **Support investments in broadband** to ensure affordable, high-capacity internet access, and digital literacy training and support is available to all Saint Paul residents





# HUMAN RIGHTS & PROCUREMENT

- **Labor Standards Data Practices:** Protect labor standards complainants and witnesses upon closure of a case
- **Subpoena Power:** Authorize the Saint Paul City Council to delegate subpoena power to HREEO for both human rights and labor standards investigations
- **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**
- **Statewide procurement requirement updates** to allow cities the same authority as counties for more flexibility in contracting under \$250,000 with small businesses and veteran-owned/operated businesses



# SAINT PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY

- **Increased funding** for Regional Library Basic System Support (RLBSS) and Regional Library Telecommunication Aid (RLTA), and continuing access to Legacy/Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund for public library programs
- **Renovations** of the Hayden Heights and Riverview libraries to enhance their ability to meet community learning, work, and wellbeing needs
- **Additional funding** for library construction and remodeling grants to fund safety and renovations



# QUESTIONS?

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