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

SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

STPAUL.GOV

#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*

#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**

#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 a**nd 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?

Contact:

Brynn Hausz
Intergovernmental Relations Director

Eric Petersen
Intergovernmental Relations Associate