

Topic Rubric Scoring Matrix

Topic scope: District Council Reform

Recommendation: 2026-27

Previous Audits and Studies: Since the creation of the city's district council system, several studies and evaluations have been conducted or commissioned to assess its effectiveness. These reviews have examined funding formulas, community engagement practices, and the overall performance of neighborhood organizations. Key studies include the Community Engagement System Project, the Ad Hoc Committee on Citizen Participation report, the Wilder Research Study, the Citizen Participation Task Force (CPTF) report, and reports prepared by the League of Women Voters.

Description: Revisit the financing, organization, and core functions of Saint Paul's district councils, including the funding formula for district councils and whether the Department of Planning and Economic Development is administering grants to individual district councils in accordance with OMB's Uniform Guidance.

Timeliness: Has the topic been studied before and is it worth re-examination? Has the city developed plans or already developed plans to address the topic?	1	2	3
	Topic has been studied within the last five years and/or City already has plans to address the topic.	Topic has not been studied within last five years, but City has plans to address the topic.	Topic has not been studied within the last five years and City does not have plans to address the topic.
Suitability: Does the performance audit of the topic fall within the mandate of the committee's mission to evaluate the financial and program performance of City departments to build public trust and ensure outstanding service delivery, transparency and accountability?	1	2	3
	Does not meet the mandate.	Somewhat meet the mandate.	Strongly meet the mandate.
Public interest: Will doing a study of the topic address a community concern or be advantageous to the community?	1	2	3
	This topic is not relevant to a community concern and/or an audit will do little to build public trust, etc.	This topic is of some community concern and/or an audit will build public trust, etc.	This topic is of great concern to the community and an audit will significantly build public trust, etc.
Outcome or Recommendation: Will the findings of the study be adopted and implemented?	1	2	3
	No chance of recommendations being implemented.	Some chance of recommendations being implemented.	Good chance of recommendations being implemented.
Likelihood and Impact: Likelihood that the audit area may not be meeting objectives, and whether the impact	1	2	3
	Minimal or low risk or no benefit.	Average risk or moderate benefit.	High level of risk and effort and or
<u>Risks to consider:</u> operational risk financial risk compliance risk reputational risk legal risk cybersecurity risk environmental risk political risk implementation risk	1	2	3
	Minimal or low risk.	Average risk.	High level of risk and effort.

Total Score: 17

CONSIDER SEPARATELY:

Source of topic: Where is the topic suggestion coming from? Administration, Department Directors, City Council and its meeting bodies, District Councils, Business Organization, Residents, etc.?	CapitolRiver Council, Como Community Council, Hamline-Midway Coalition, Macalester-Groveland Community Council, North End Neighborhood Organization, Saint Anthony Park Community Council, South East Community Organization, Summit Hill Association, Union Park District Council
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