



**Carver County Board of Commissioners  
October 25, 2022  
County Board Room**

**Work Session**

**The County Board Room is open to the public.**

- 9:00 a.m. **A. CUSTOMER SERVICE: Continue the County’s delivery of high value, timely Service and support**
- 1. Data Training..... 1
  - 2. Encore Adult Day Services Program Update..... 2
- 11:00 a.m. **B. CONNECTIONS: Develop strong public partnerships and connect people to services and information achieve goals and sustain trust/confidence in County government**
- 1. 2023 Legislative Priorities..... 3-26

David Hemze  
County Administrator

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| November 1, 2022  | 9:00 a.m. Board Meeting                |
| November 8, 2022  | No Meeting                             |
| November 15, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. Board Meeting                |
| November 22, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. Special Session/Work Session |
| November 29, 2022 | No Board Meeting                       |
| December 6, 2022  | AMC Conference, No Board Meeting       |

# Carver County Board of Commissioners Request for Board Action

**Agenda Item:****Data Training**Primary Originating Division/Dept: Public Services Meeting Date: 10/25/2022 Contact: Nick Koktavy  Title: Assistant County Administrator Item Type:  
Work Session Amount of Time Requested: 60  minutesPresenter: Thomas Haines  Title: Assistant Carver County Attorney Attachments:  Yes  No**Strategic Initiative:**Customer Service: Continue the County's delivery of high value, timely service and support **BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION:**

The County Attorney's Office will provide a training on the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The training will include an overview of the act and how Commissioners fit into the requirements of the act.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

No formal action requested.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None If "Other", specify: **FUNDING**County Dollars = **FTE IMPACT:** None **Total**  \$0.00 Insert additional funding sourceRelated Financial/FTE Comments:  
*Office use only:*

RBA 2022 - 8569

# Carver County Board of Commissioners Request for Board Action



**Agenda Item:**

**Encore Adult Day Services Program Update**

Primary Originating Division/Dept:

Meeting Date:

Contact:  Title:

Item Type:

Amount of Time Requested:  minutes

Attachments:  Yes  No

Presenter:  Title:

**Strategic Initiative:**

**BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION:**

Encore Adult Day Services has been a highly valued service owned and operated by the County for 45 years. However, the pandemic has changed the landscape and community interest in this service has waned. Residents are now wanting care in their home and there continues to be a societal reluctance to return to the Encore center. Many like organizations in the State have closed, especially centers that do not have financial backing from an umbrella organization. Brian Esch, Home and Community-Based Care Manager and Jill Willems, Encore Program Supervisor, will update the County Board with the following:

- Average Daily Attendance: 2019 v. 2022 (pre-pandemic & now)
- Average Monthly Revenue: 2019 v. 2022 (pre-pandemic & now)
- Clients served: 2019 v. 2022 (participation shortfalls; slow recovery)
- Fiscal Shortfall (revenue sources: health plans, private pay, Veteran's Administration, Medical Assistance)

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Guidance from the County Board on continuing to provide services despite participant and fiscal shortfalls

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

*If "Other", specify:*

**FUNDING**

County Dollars =

**FTE IMPACT:**

**Total**

Insert additional funding source

Related Financial/FTE Comments:

*Office use only:*

RBA 2022 - 8609

# Carver County Board of Commissioners Request for Board Action



Agenda Item:  
2023 Legislative Priorities

Primary Originating Division/Dept: Administration (County)

Meeting Date: 10/25/2022

Contact: Dave Hemze Title: County Administrator

Item Type:  
Work Session

Amount of Time Requested: 30 minutes

Attachments:  Yes  No

Presenter: Dave Hemze Title: County Administrator

Strategic Initiative:  
Connections: Develop strong public partnerships and connect people to services and information

### BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION:

Proposed 2023 Carver County Legislative Priorities are attached for discussion and direction during this work session. These priorities have been reviewed by the County Legislative Committee which includes Commissioners Fahey and Workman.

### ACTION REQUESTED:

Board direction only.

FISCAL IMPACT: Other

If "Other", specify:

### FUNDING

County Dollars =

FTE IMPACT: None

Total  \$0.00

Insert additional funding source

### Related Financial/FTE Comments:

Legislative issues have various fiscal impacts, some of which are outlined in the priority document.

Office use only:

RBA 2022 - 8679



# CARVER COUNTY

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2023

“Where the future embraces the past in keeping Carver County a great place to live, work, and play for a lifetime.”

## **Local Control Policy**

The Carver County Board of Commissioners supports local decision-making authority and opposes legislation that removes the ability for local elected officials to respond to the needs of its businesses and constituents or that restricts local decision-making authority.

Locally elected decision-makers hold the best position to determine what health, safety and welfare regulations best serve their constituents. Like State and Federal legislative leaders, local elected officials are held accountable through Minnesota's robust elections process. Ordinances at the local level are enacted only after a comprehensive, legal, and open process.

The public's access to local officials is much easier, as is attending local county board and city council meetings.

Counties are often laboratories for determining public policy approaches to the challenges that face residents and businesses. Preserving local control in our state has yielded widespread benefits such as the 2007 Freedom to Breathe Act, and an amendment to the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act.

## **2023 Legislative Priorities**

### **I) Road and Bridge**

1. 82<sup>nd</sup> Street Reconstruction Funding
2. Highway 5 Reconstruction in Chanhassen Funding
3. Protect and Enhance Transportation Revenue
4. Reduce Legal Fees for Property Owners and Local Government Around Public Transportation Projects

### **II) Parks and Trails**

5. Parks and Trails Legacy Funding
6. Capital Improvement Funding for Regional Parks
7. Lake Waconia Regional Park Phase III Development
8. Maintain Operations and Maintenance Funding for Regional Parks

### **III) Health and Human Services**

9. Simplify MN Family Investment Budget Methodology
10. Support Permanent Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Reprioritization of the Wait List
11. Make Workforce Development Investments to Support Minnesota's Workforce
12. Increase Mental Health Reimbursement Rates

### **IV) General Government**

13. Attorneys' Fees and Costs From 2021 Redistricting Lawsuit
14. Increase Filing Fees Retained by Deputy Registrars for Processing Driver's License Applications
15. High-Speed Internet to All County Residents and Businesses
16. Unfunded State and Federal Mandates
17. Metropolitan Council Governance Reform

*Item numbering is not a priority listing*



## Issue #1: Provide Funding for 82<sup>nd</sup> Street Reconstruction

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### **Background**

Carver County, along with its partners, completed a transportation plan for all roadway corridors around the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The Arboretum Area Transportation Plan identified \$200 million in roadway, trail, utility, and water quality infrastructure investment needed in the next 20 years for Highway 5, Highway 7, Highway 41, Rolling Acres Road, and 82nd Street in the Cities of Victoria, Chaska, and Chanhassen.

Highway 18 serves as a key transportation corridor and plays an important role in the economic health and resilience of Victoria, Chanhassen, Chaska, and greater Carver County. Significant freight and daily use traffic on Highway 5 makes investment in CSAH 18 critical for safety and providing congestion relief on Highway 5.

Running parallel to Highway 5, an improved Highway 18 would provide a bypass to a congested state highway. Approximately 5,000 cars per day are forced to use Highway 5, which is dangerous and congested, or use 82nd Street, which is a two-lane gravel road, to make simple community connections. The improved roadway will serve as a critical last-mile connector and vital route for school buses and adolescent drivers. The roadway connects thousands of the region's residents to two school districts and current and future businesses throughout the County and region. In addition, an improved Highway 18 would provide secondary access to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, a nationwide destination for 500,000 annual visitors with growth plans expected to attract an additional 100,000 visitors per year.

The \$10 million grant would fully fund the Highway 18 Community Connection project which has a total project cost of \$23 million. The project will upgrade two miles of roadway from gravel to pavement between Bavaria Road and Highway 41 in Victoria, Chanhassen, and Chaska. A trail will be constructed on the north side of the road. A bridge will be constructed to traverse the ravine near Highway 41, which allows for a grade separated pedestrian crossing and ravine restoration. A roundabout will be constructed at the west end of the project at Bavaria Road.

Carver County has committed \$13 million in local option sales tax and county state aid funding towards this project. An allocation of \$10 million of state bonding funds will cover the Cities of Victoria, Chanhassen, and Chaska's share in advancing this project. The Cities has no capacity to fund the project without state bonding given its location in the community.

### **Requested Position**

Provide \$10 million for a grant to Carver County for the Highway 18 Community Connection Project locally known as 82nd Street.





## **Issue #2: Provide Funding for Highway 5 reconstruction in Chanhassen**

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### **Background**

Carver County, along with its partners, completed a transportation plan for all roadway corridors around the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

The plan identifies the Highway 5 Mobility and Lake Minnewashta Causeway Bridge Project as part of the long-range vision for planning for significant growth within the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Highway 5 provides access to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, a nationwide destination for 500,000 annual visitors with growth plans expected to attract an additional 100,000 visitors per year. In addition, Highway 5 serves as a major freight and commuter corridor. The Highway 5 Mobility and Lake Minnewashta Causeway Bridge Project allows the Arboretum and the Cities of Chanhassen, Chaska, Victoria, and Carver County to realize their full growth potential for jobs and housing.

The project will include roadway expansion to 4 lanes from Minnewashta Parkway to Highway 41 in Chanhassen, a 1,900-foot-long bridge to elevate the roadway and reconnect Lake Minnewashta as well as bicycle and pedestrian connections to the regional trail system and the Arboretum.

Today, Highway 5 is traveled by 27,000 vehicles (800 heavy commercial) a day, experienced 87 crashes from 2014-18 (three times the state average) and will see 180,000+ hours/year peak period delay by 2040 without improvements. There are often two-mile backups on Highway 5 in this area due to congestion. The project will reduce delays and improve safety in this heavily traveled and important corridor for the region.

The total project cost is estimated at \$46 million. The County recently received a federal appropriation for \$2 million and a commitment from MnDOT for \$500,000. Despite Highway 5 being a state roadway, the County continues to seek other grant funding and is committed to funding the remaining gap of \$18.5 million with local option sales tax revenue.

### **Requested Position**

Provide a \$25 million grant for improvements to Highway 5 from Minnewashta Parkway to Highway 41 in the City of Chanhassen.



## Issue #3: Protect and Enhance Transportation Revenue

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### **Background**

#### ***Sales Tax on Auto Parts***

The 2017 Legislature instituted a new policy of transferring general funds to transportation. The revenue comes from the proceeds from the sales tax on auto parts. However, only \$145.6 million, or about 55%, is transferred with the remainder of those revenues collected each year remaining in the General Fund. Given that increased revenue options for transportation are limited, a 100% transfer of these funds is recommended to help the state, counties, cities, and townships address transportation needs.

#### ***Motor Vehicle Leased Sales Tax***

The Motor Vehicle Leased Sales Tax (MVLST) dedication was established by the 2008 Legislature and re-established and expanded by the 2017 Legislature. Carver County supports the current distribution formula which provides:

- 38% to greater Minnesota Transit
- 38% to the suburban counties
- 13% to local bridges
- 11% to the highway user tax distribution fund

The portion of MVLST revenue distributed to the five suburban counties helps address transportation infrastructure needs directly related to significant population growth. These needs are well beyond what traditional financial resources, such as county state aid, can provide. In addition, these counties utilize its self-enacted transportation sales and use taxes to help solve budget challenges related to both local and trunk highway improvement projects. Suburban public transit will also benefit because transit vehicles operate on the same roads and bridges.

### **Requested Position**

1. Transfer 100% of the proceeds from the sales tax on auto parts to transportation.
2. Retain the current distribution of the Motor Vehicle Leased Sales Tax (MVLST).



## **Issue #4: Reduce Legal Fees for Property Owners and Local Government Around Public Transportation Projects**

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### **Background**

Carver County requests revisions to Chapter 117, Eminent Domain, to mitigate the legislation's unintended consequences. The 2006 revisions to the law resulted in a significant cost increase to taxpayers and property owners related to attorney's fees, as well as interest payments incurred by agencies implementing public transportation improvements. This places an unreasonable and unintended burden on transportation funding. The modest changes proposed below would give condemning authorities a chance to respond to new information that may come to light in the property owner's appraisal, possibly totally avoiding the need to acquire the property through eminent domain.

### **Requested Position**

Change the deadline for a property owner to provide their appraisal from 5 to 45 days before the Commissioners' hearing.



## Issue #5: Parks and Trails Legacy Funding

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### **Background**

Parks and Trails Legacy Funding was established in 2012 and is funded with the 3/8<sup>th</sup> of 1% sales tax that is administered by the agencies of the State Park System, Metropolitan Regional Park System, and the Greater Minnesota Regional Park System.

The funding split includes:

- 0.25% off the top for coordination among partners for marketing and promotional efforts for all parks and trails of state or regional significance.
- 0.25% off the top to fund resources to establish criteria to allocate Legacy Funds

The remainder to be split:

- 40% Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- 40% Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails
- 20% Greater Minnesota Regional Parks

The Metropolitan area generates substantially more sales tax revenue than it receives through Parks and Trail Legacy Funding. Further, the Regional Park System generates substantially more users than the Greater Minnesota Regional Park System. Ideally, the funding should be split by sales tax generated or by annual parks and trail usage figures.

Carver County receives approximately \$500,000 annually for fund park and trail capital improvements, maintaining its regional parks, recreation instruction and other forms of public parks and recreation outreach activities.

### **Requested Position**

Provide no less than 40% of the revenue from SFY 2024 and 2025 Parks and Trail Legacy Fund, above the initial set aside, to Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails.



## Issue #6: Capital Improvement Funding for Regional Parks

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### **Background**

The 2023 portion of the Metropolitan Council's Regional Park CIP is based on the issuance of up to \$10 million of Metropolitan Council bonds to provide a 40% match to a 2020 State bond request of \$15 million. These result in a 2023 CIP requested total for the Metropolitan Regional Park System of \$25 million.

### **Requested Position**

Provide up to \$25 million for the Regional Park CIP for 2022 with \$15 million of State Bonds matched with \$10 million of Metropolitan Council bonds for a combined total of \$25 million for the Metropolitan Regional Parks System.



## Issue #7: Lake Waconia Regional Park Phase III Development

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### **Background**

Lake Waconia Regional Park is 160-acre Metropolitan Regional Park, minimally developed, and located on the second largest lake in the Twin Cities area. Carver County received past funding from the State for the phased development of Lake Waconia Regional Park.

In 2018, the County received \$1.5 million of state bonds for Phase I development which included site grading, installation of municipal utility lines, and the construction of roadways and parking lots.

In 2020, the County received an additional \$2.5 million of state bonds for Phase II development was secured to construct a new waterfront pavilion with restrooms, concessions and to make utility connections.

Carver County has provided \$7 million, 70% of the project costs, in local funds towards Phase I and II developments.

### **Requested Position**

Provide \$2.25 million in State funds to predesign, design, and construction of a playground, parking lot, picnic shelter walkways and other site amenities at Lake Waconia Regional Park.



## **Issue #8: Maintain Operations and Maintenance Funding for Regional Parks**

### **Background**

Carver County receives a portion of its operations and maintenance (O&M) funding for the regional parks it administers. O&M funding comes from funding sources of the State General Fund.

Carver County supports the request of the Metropolitan Council of \$9,140,000 in State Funds for O& M of Regional Parks. The amount is the same as requested in 2021.

In past years Regional Park Implementing Agencies received approximately 9% of their O&M expenditures from the State.

For Carver County, the anticipated funding amount is approximately \$155,000.

### **Benefits**

- Reduces County property tax to maintain its regional parks
- Continues satisfactory levels of park services
- Helps off-set cost of users outside of Carver County

### **Requested Position**

Provide funding for Operations and Maintenance of Regional Parks.



## **Issue #9: Simplify the Minnesota Family Investment Budget Methodology**

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### **Background**

Modernization and simplification of Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and other cash programs reporting requirements is needed. The program should align with nationwide best practices, encourage earned income and employment, calculate benefits based on current (not past) income, and create equity/uniformity with other public assistance programs (such as SNAP). Requiring Carver County families to do monthly reporting for MFIP is an added administrative step that burdens families, creates confusion, and leads to benefits not reaching their intended target population. The State's MFIP budget methodology is an antiquated strategy and reduces the program's potential to help families when they are destabilized. The intent of MFIP is to stabilize families so they can move toward self-sufficiency. When a family falls off the program due to procedural gaps—versus their own financial situation—the program has failed. Changing the budget methodology creates a stable base income for families to move beyond crisis and gather momentum to secure more steady earned income, incentivize having earned income, and reduce county administrative (processing of paperwork) time.

### **Requested Position**

Change the budget methodology from immediately reducing benefits when earnings increase to requiring that the MFIP set benefits for a six-month reporting period instead of monthly.





## **Issue #10: Support Permanent Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Reprioritization of the Wait List**

### **Background**

Access to affordable childcare is central to the vitality of our state and local economy. The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), funded by the State of Minnesota, provides financial assistance through a basic sliding fee model to help families with low income pay for childcare so parents may pursue employment. This program is key to stabilizing families and reinvigorating return to work.

Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) childcare helps families avoid enrolling in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), a Minnesota public assistance welfare reform program, and ensures children have access to safe and reliable childcare while parents go to work. BSF childcare offers families a ladder out of poverty.

The temporary reprioritization changes allowed by the State in 2021 made it possible for counties to prioritize families and give immediate access to childcare assistance to those who did not have childcare and were not on the MFIP program. This temporary change helped support parents return to those entry-level jobs, but also focused on educating or offering career pathways to higher paying jobs. Making this change permanent can have a long-lasting effect on employers struggling to fill vacancies. Before this temporary change, the lack of accessing affordable childcare drove many families to apply for MFIP. Permanent reprioritization will allow more families to access reliable, affordable, and safe childcare while parents participate in the workforce, directly impacting local economies and prosperity of our communities.

### **Requested Position**

Making Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) reprioritization permanent to bring widespread economic returns and elimination of the childcare assistance (CCAP) wait list.



## **Issue #11: Make Workforce Development Investments to Support Minnesota's Workforce**

### **Background**

Minnesota's current employment landscape is complex and rapidly changing. A strong workforce system is imperative to be prepared for the future.

Due to this complexity, proven employment and training programs are critical to ensure jobseekers are prepared to meet the current and future needs of employers. Funding needs to be aligned to better achieve the best return on this investment. An inadequate supply of qualified labor could cause the economy to stall, forcing businesses to leave Minnesota or delay/eliminate expansion. People with disabilities, ex-offenders, older workers, people of color, and veterans face multiple barriers to gaining stable employment. Youth continue to experience employment at higher rate than adults. In addition, significant income disparities exist among not only the unemployed, but among those who are already working, groups that face the highest inequities are people of color and people from different cultures, individuals with disabilities, youth, and women. The CareerForce System has an exemplary record of leveraging public investments to connect employers and job seekers to the resources they need to be successful.

### **Requested Position**

Supports the following:

1. Jobs and Economic Development finance divisions funding targets that allow for substantial general fund investments in employment and training programs.
2. Flexible funding to advance innovations in career pathways, sector strategies, incumbent worker training, and employer outreach and engagement.
3. Increasing formula funding for the statewide Minnesota Youth Program which provides career counselling and on the job training opportunities for youth.
4. Flexible funding within the Minnesota Youth Program to provide support to increase employer engagement in youth counseling, mentoring, and training opportunities.
5. Clarifying language confirming the original intent of the Workforce Development Fund was to provide resources for the dislocated worker and incumbent worker training and ensure that a balance remains which can fully address those needs in the time of possible recession.
6. Aligning investments and eliminate silos across the workforce development system regardless of funding committee or state agency structure.
7. State and Federal legislation authorizing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which reflects the priorities of local workforce development boards in Minnesota.



## Issue #12: Increase Mental Health Reimbursement Rates

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### **Background**

Carver County Behavioral Health provides mental health services for children, youth and adults ranging from early intervention to intensive treatment. The array of behavioral health services offered allows for critical coordination of care, targeted interventions to address social determinants of health and evidence-based interventions that reduce the risk of higher cost, more restrictive care. Most importantly, access to high quality services supports residents in alleviating mental health symptoms and allows them to engage fully in their communities. Each year, Carver County serves approximately 4,000 individuals across the various behavioral health services with 20% of those individuals receiving more than one service.

In the 2018 Minnesota State Legislature Report “Final Study of Mental Health Reimbursement,” the first recommendation was for the State to “Establish reimbursement methodologies to reflect the cost of providing required elements of community-based mental health services.” That process is yet to be completed and reimbursement rates remain stagnant. Inadequate reimbursement, compounded by the mental health workforce shortage, adds to the challenges of continuing to provide critical safety net mental health services to residents of Carver County.

### **Requested Position**

Support the Mental Health Services Short Term Stability Bill (DHS Rate Study Bridge Bill) providing a 35% rate increase on all services and codes included in the study.



## Issue #13: Attorneys' Fees and Costs From 2021 Redistricting Lawsuit

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### **Background**

After each U.S. census, congressional apportionment takes place. Each state draws the boundaries for its congressional districts following its own procedures and statutes. Since the 1980 census, an appointed Judicial Panel has adopted Minnesota's congressional and legislative redistricting plan. Historically, the redistricting plan has been challenged in the Court and a county election official from one of the State's fastest growing counties has been named as a "representative" defendant, on behalf of all 87 counties, along with the Secretary of State.

When the 2021 redistricting plan was challenged in court, "Kendra Olson, Carver County Elections and Licensing Manager, individually and on behalf of all Minnesota county chief election officers" was a named co-defendant. Carver County was brought into this case as a nominal party and only for purposes of ensuring that any order issued by the Court could be imposed on all County Auditors/Chief Election Officers across the State.

On August 31, 2022, an Order from the Special Redistricting Panel was issued which stated Carver County could be jointly and severally liable with the Secretary of State for up to \$475,927.12 in attorneys' fees and costs.

This result was expected. Despite valid equitable arguments, the Judicial Panel was required to apply the law, which does hold defendants responsible for paying the prevailing parties attorneys' fees and costs.

Historically, the defendant Secretary of State's Office has requested, and the Legislature has approved, paying any ordered attorneys' fees and costs in full, with no financial impact on the "representative" defendant county.

The 2020 U.S. Census reported that the State of Minnesota has a population of 5,706,494 people. Carver County had a population of 106,922 people, or about 1.88% of the entire population of the State of Minnesota.

Imposing the court-ordered attorneys' fees and costs upon Carver County is an unreasonable amount to impose on such a small segment of the population of Minnesota. The costs of this case should be assessed to all citizens and not just those located in Carver County. The only way to equitably distribute the ordered attorney's fees and costs is to impose them on the Secretary of State's budget which is set by the legislature with an allocation from the State's general fund.

The redistricting results produced by the Judicial Panel benefited everyone in Minnesota, not only those people living in Carver County.

### **Requested Position**

Follow historical precedent by the Legislature paying in full the \$475,927.12 in ordered attorney's fees and costs associated with the 2021 Redistricting lawsuit.



## Issue #14: Increase Filing Fees Retained by Deputy Registrars for Processing Driver's License Applications

### **Background**

Communities benefit when Deputy Registrar services are provided with a high degree of service and efficiency. The sustainability of Minnesota's Deputy Registrars offices is being threatened by persistent challenges that require Legislative action.

Filing fees retained by Deputy Registrars for processing driver's licenses and motor vehicle applications are set by statute and without legislative action cannot be increased. Thus, the business model for a Deputy Registrar's Office relies on the Legislature regularly increasing filing fees to minimize local tax-payer subsidization.

The **\$8** filing fee retained by Deputy Registrars to process a driver's license application has not changed since 2014 despite Deputy Registrars staff time to process Real/Enhanced ID license applications typically taking twice as long as a standard driver's license in the State's MNDRIVE software. In addition, the number of no-fee customer phone calls and visits has increased significantly due to the more stringent and comprehensive Federal REAL ID documentation requirements.

An Independent Expert Review (IER) team was asked by the Legislature to submit a report on Deputy Registrar filing fees. On page 19 of the IER'S January 12, 2022, Driver & Vehicle Services Report recommends the following:

1. Federal REAL/Enhanced Driver's License **New Application** filing fee increased to **\$16**.
2. Standard Class D Driver's License **New Application** filing fee increased to **\$11**.
3. **Renewal** filing fee for all types of Driver's Licenses increased to **\$11**.

### **Requested Position**

Support the IER team's recommendation to increase driver's license filing fees to offset Deputy Registrars' staffing cost increases to minimize/eliminate local tax-payer subsidization and increase sustainability of Deputy Registrar operations.



## Issue #15: High-Speed Internet to All County Residents and Businesses

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### **Background**

In 2022, the FCC revoked LTD Broadband's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) long form application. The County agrees with this action. The analysis showed LTD failed to demonstrate it could deliver the promised service to the connections it was awarded, which amounted to more than \$1.3 billion in RDOF funding covering more than 15 states.

This revocation creates a major gap in Carver County's efforts to make available fiber connected broadband by stranding more than 2,700 locations that are located within the RDOF coverage area, identified as under/unserved based on the FCC's broadband speed limits.

In June 2022, our Board approved the Connect Up Carver Initiative. The \$10.5 million project leverages \$6.5 million in County funding to expand our existing, publicly owned, middle-mile fiber network, CarverLink. The project includes a partnership with private service provider Metronet, which provides the remaining \$4 million, requiring Metronet to make available fiber internet to more than 2,200 identified under/unserved locations within the project's service area.

With more than 2,700 RDOF-identified locations, in parallel with the County's Connect Up Carver Initiative and other efforts and collaborations, the County's stated goal was to become the first Minnesota county with nearly 100% high-speed internet availability. The RDOF funding loss impacts those RDOF locations.

Our County's commitment to our current project means we need additional Federal or State funds to serve those 2,700 RDOF locations. With Carver County's existing CarverLink middle-mile network, we sit uniquely positioned to bring this necessary access to the unserved/underserved RDOF areas in the next 3-5 years.

### **Requested Position**

1. Support future Carver County State and Federal funding applications to fill the gap for the 2,700 under/unserved locations.
2. Eliminate "duplication of effort language in any future Federal funding that includes broadband.
3. Waive the Davis Bacon (prevailing wage) requirements for these broadband projects.
4. Includes a time limit in responding to power pole lease agreements for telecommunication providers. There are telecommunication providers.
5. Prioritize applications that serve Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) areas previously claimed by a company named LTD.



## Issue #16: Unfunded State and Federal Mandates

### **Background**

Carver County opposes State or Federal mandates and costs without full and stable funding. These unfunded mandates unfairly shift financial responsibility to counties.

Examples of more than \$1.7 million in annual, unfunded mandates/funding shifts with the estimated cost to Carver County residents include:

- Unfunded children’s mental-health case management services (non-medical assistance) = \$400,000
- Unfunded adult mental-health case management services (non-medical assistance) = \$115,000
- “Does Not Meet Criteria” notification from State operated facilities = \$324,000
- After-hours coverage as the State “Safety Net” for adult and child protection/mental health crisis = \$350,000
- Civil commitment pre-petition screening process = \$200,000
- Publication of financial statements, County Board meeting minutes, and budget hearing notices = \$15,600
- Providing Federally mandated health benefits to pre-trial inmates = \$100,000
- Various public safety mandates, including emergency management planning and training; 911 dispatch training and equipment requirements; and detention-related costs (underfunded transportation costs, inmate custody boarding costs, inmate programming and mental-health commitment costs) = \$150,000-\$200,000

### **Requested Position**

State or Federal legislation not accompanied with commensurate funding be revised or removed. Further, the State Legislature should pass legislation to sunset all county-level mandates, reviewing each legislative item to determine if it should continue or be eliminated. Finally, all legislation impacting local government needs to include a “local impact note” to determine if it increases local government costs.



## Issue #17: Metropolitan Council Governance Reform

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### **Background**

A coalition of local governments throughout the metropolitan area developed a position statement and a set of principles for improving metropolitan governance in the Twin Cities.

The coalition supports the need for regional planning, collaboration, and coordination, but seeks to expand local government representation on the Metropolitan Council.

Cities in Carver County that have formally adopted this position include Chanhassen, Chaska, Cologne, Hamburg, Mayer, New Germany, Norwood Young America, Watertown, and Victoria. Other metropolitan local governments formally supporting this position include Andover, Anoka County, Bethel, Blaine, Coates, Columbus, Centerville, Crystal, Dakota County, Elko New Market, Farmington, Forest Lake, Greenwood, Ham Lake, Hampton, Jordan, Lino Lakes, Loretto, Mendota Heights, Mound, New Prague, Nowthen, Oak Grove, Plymouth, Prior Lake, St. Francis, Scott County, and Shakopee. This list is growing as we continue to discuss this critical issue with others.

The coalition's objectives for its collective effort to improved governance are:

1. To articulate a vision of responsive and effective metropolitan governance — as represented by a Statement of Belief and Principles for Reform of the Metropolitan Council.
2. To align local government interests behind a reform effort — through formation of a broad coalition of metropolitan cities and counties — and a common position.
3. To be prepared for any efforts — legislative and otherwise — to reform the governance structure and functioning of the Metropolitan Council.

The Metropolitan Council, due to its taxing and policy authority, needs accountability to a regional constituency of those impacted by its decisions. It should not operate as a State agency — as it does in its current form — answerable to only one person, the Governor.

### **Requested Position**

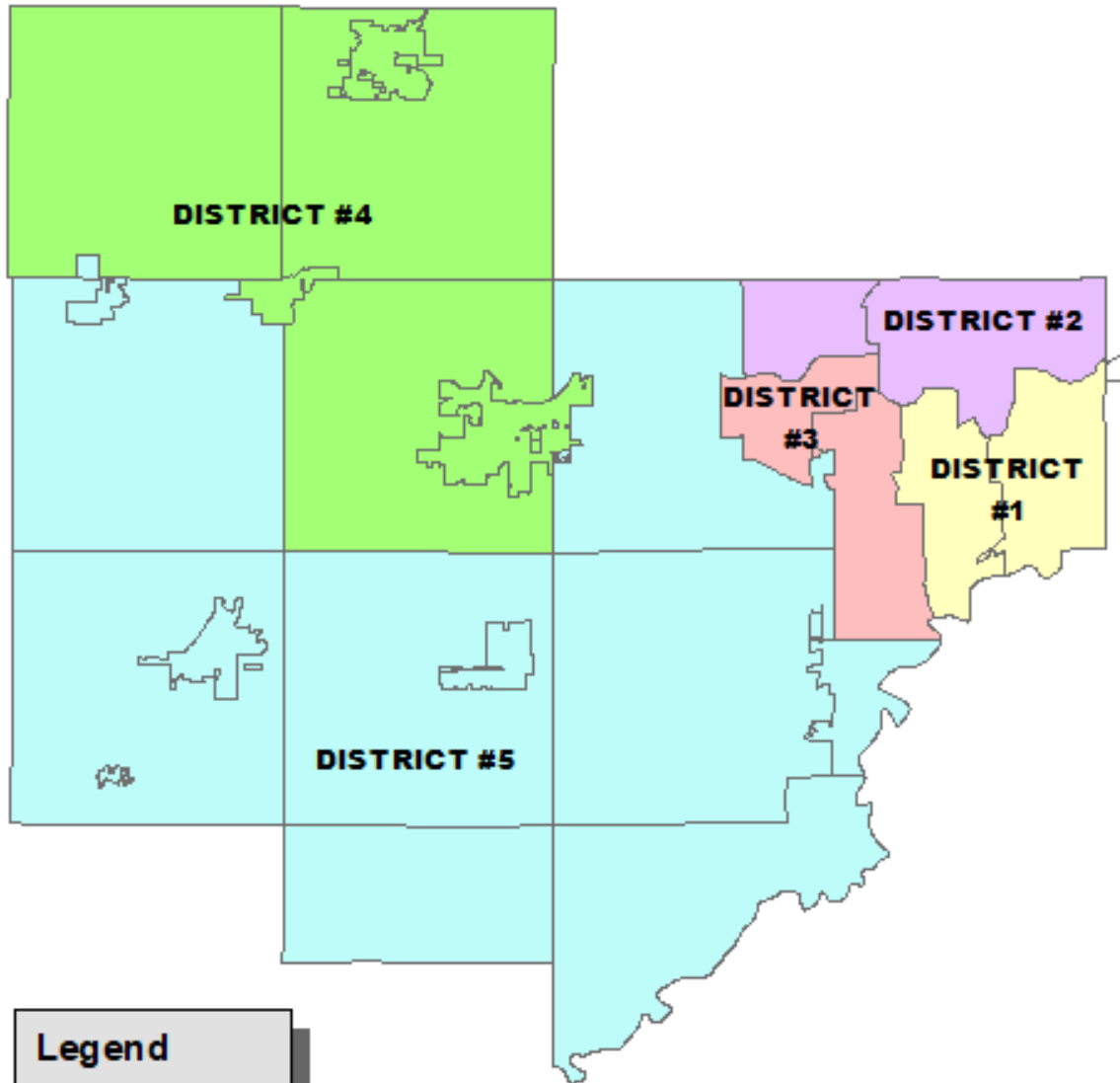
Carver County supports changes to legislation which follow the below principles for Metropolitan Council Reform. Specific legislation has been proposed by the local government coalition on this topic.

1. A majority of the members of the Metropolitan Council shall be elected officials, appointed from cities and counties within the region.



2. Metropolitan cities shall directly control the appointment process for city representatives to the Metropolitan Council.
3. Metropolitan counties shall directly appoint its own representatives to the Metropolitan Council.
4. The terms of office for any Metropolitan Council members appointed by the Governor shall be staggered and not coinciding with the Governor's term.
5. Membership on the Metropolitan Council shall include representation from every metropolitan county government.
6. The Metropolitan Council shall represent the entire region, therefore voting shall be structured based on population and incorporate a system of checks and balances.

# CARVER COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS



**Legend**

- Gayle Degler
- John Fahey
- Matt Udermann
- Tim Lynch
- Tom Workman



[Update with new districts and any post-election changes]

## Carver County Administration & Commissioners

<p><b>Gayle Degler – District 1</b>                  Phone: (763) 381-1879                  gdegler@co.carver.mn.us</p>	<p><b>Tom Workman – District 2</b>                  Phone: (952) 250-4924                  tworkman@co.carver.mn.us</p>
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<p><b>Nick Koktavy</b>  <b>Assistant County Administrator</b>                  Phone: (952) 361-1797                  nkoktavy@co.carver.mn.us</p>	<p><b>Heather Goodwin</b>  <b>Health &amp; Human Services</b>                  Phone: (952) 361-1605                  hgoodwin@co.carver.mn.us</p>
<p><b>David Frischmon</b>  <b>Property &amp; Financial Services</b>                  Phone: (952) 361-1506                  dfrischmon@co.carver.mn.us</p>	<p><b>Lyndon Robjent</b>  <b>Public Works</b>                  Phone: (952) 466-5206                  lrobjent@co.carver.mn.us</p>
<p><b>Kerie Anderka</b>  <b>Employee Relations</b>                  Phone: (952) 361-1570                  kanderka@co.carver.mn.us</p>	