

A vibrant
community
where all are
valued and
thrive.



RAMSEY COUNTY

Popular Annual Financial Report

2014

 RAMSEY COUNTY

RAMSEY COUNTY

A county of excellence working with you
to enhance our quality of life.

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Goals

1. Strengthen individual, family and community health, safety and well-being
2. Cultivate economic prosperity and invest in neighborhoods with concentrated financial poverty
3. Enhance access to opportunity and mobility for all residents and businesses
4. Model fiscal accountability, transparency and strategic investments



Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

Top Row, Left to Right:
Blake Huffman (1st District);
Toni Carter (4th District);
Mary Jo McGuire (2nd District);
Rafael Ortega (5th District)

Bottom Row, Left to Right:
Janice Rettman (3rd District);
Chair Jim McDonough
(6th District);
Victoria Reinhardt (7th District)

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Welcome to the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for Ramsey County. Our 2014 PAFR provides a general overview of the county's financial position in 2014 and highlights our important initiatives from throughout the year.

This PAFR provides an easy-to-read summary of the county's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) that contains more detailed information on financial statements, schedules, statistics and notes for the year. We welcome you to read the CAFR on the county's website at www.RamseyCounty.us. While there, we encourage you to browse the rest of the website to learn about all the ways that Ramsey County serves its citizens, including special events and public notices.

Ramsey County responds to changing community needs by listening to its residents and delivering innovative and collaborative programs. Throughout the next several pages, you will have an opportunity to see how Ramsey County performed financially in 2014, as well as to understand the on-going services that are provided to the public.

As in previous years, Ramsey County continues to be financially sound and well-managed by a dedicated County Board and professional staff.

Thank you for your interest in Ramsey County and its Popular Annual Financial Report. We hope this document is informative and interesting.

Comments, questions and suggestions can be addressed to the Ramsey County Finance Department, Suite 270, 15 West Kellogg Boulevard, Saint Paul, MN 55102.



Julie Kleinschmidt
Julie Kleinschmidt
Ramsey County Manager



Lee Mehrkens
Lee Mehrkens
Chief Financial Officer

ABOUT RAMSEY COUNTY



Population

Ramsey County is a fully developed urban center that has the second largest county population in Minnesota and the smallest land area. With its population of 526,714 it is the most fully developed and densely populated county in Minnesota. Saint Paul is the central city and has about 56% of the residents. The suburban area includes communities that range in size from Gem Lake (500 people) to Maplewood (40,000 people).

Ramsey County has a diverse community. The largest minority populations are Asians (13%) and African American (11.1%). About 7.3% of the people have a Hispanic or Latino ethnic background. Of people ages 5 years and older, 21.2% live in homes where a language other than English is spoken.

Income

Income in Ramsey County is above the U.S. median. The Census Bureau estimated the 2013 median household income in Ramsey County was \$56,734 compared with the U.S. median of \$52,250. About 16.1% of families were below the poverty level; nationally 15.8% of families were below poverty.

Education

Ramsey County has a well-educated population. Of people 25 and over, 16.2% have a graduate or professional degree; the U.S. rate is 11.2%. About 41.1% have a bachelors or higher degree in Ramsey County; 90.4% have completed high school. The national rates are 29.6% and 86.6% respectively. In addition, we are home to more colleges and universities than any other county within Minnesota.

Jobs

Ramsey County is a major employment center that draws people from surrounding counties to fill the need for employees. There were 320,042 people employed in Ramsey County in 2013. This is more than the number of Ramsey County residents in the labor force (275,898). Ramsey County's unemployment rate is consistently below national and state rates. In 2014 the average unemployment rate nationally was 6.2%, Minnesota 4.1% and Ramsey County 3.9 percent.

County Government

Ramsey County was organized on October 27, 1849 and named for Alexander Ramsey, Minnesota's first Territorial Governor. A seven-member Board of Commissioners elected by district for staggered four-year terms governs the county. The County Attorney and the Sheriff are also elected officials. The Commissioners are responsible for establishing strategic direction for the county, creating policies and adopting a biennial budget. The County Manager is responsible for carrying out the policies of the Board of Commissioners, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the county, and appointing department directors. In 1990, Ramsey County citizens voted to become the first and only Home Rule Charter County in Minnesota. Adopted in 1992, the Charter authorizes more autonomy to Ramsey County for local governance.

Top Employers

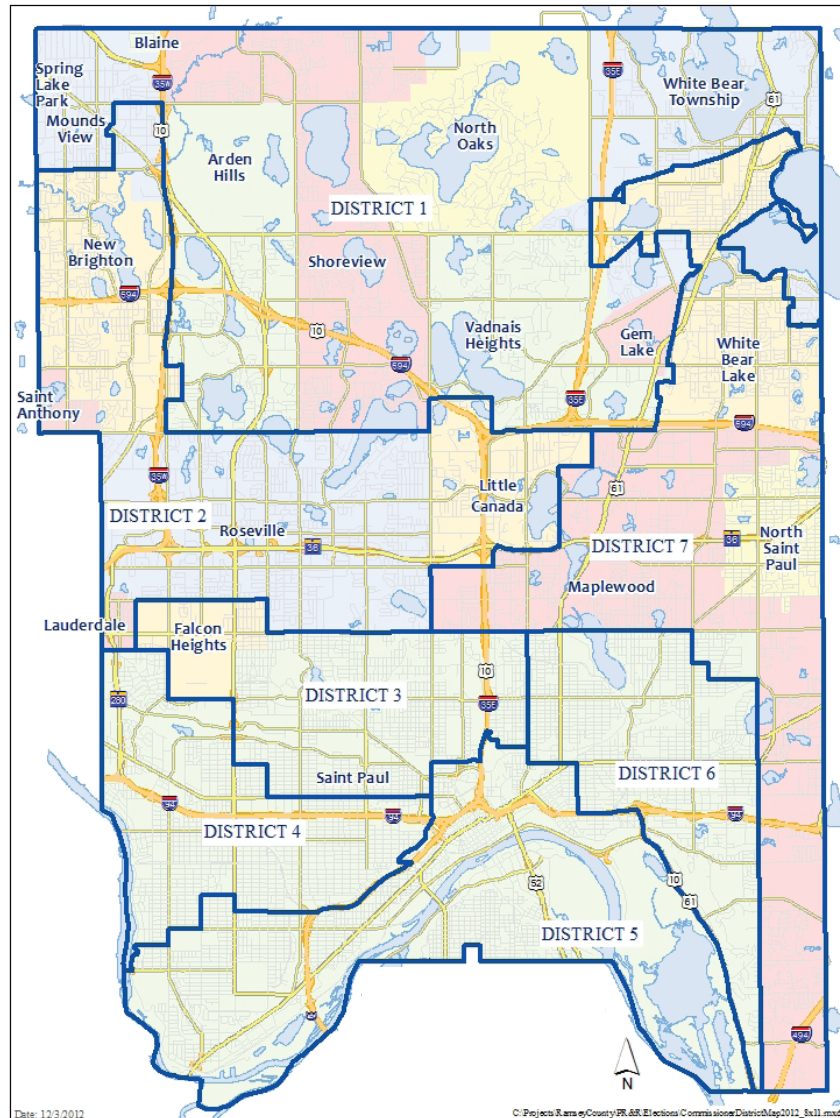
- Medtronic
- University of Minnesota
- State of Minnesota
- 3M Company
- Land O'Lakes
- HealthEast/St. John's Hospital
- Independent School District #625
- Regions Hospital
- Ramsey County
- United Hospital (Saint Paul)

What it Means

Budget: A financial plan for a specific period of time that matches all planned revenues and expenditures with various county services.

Home Rule Charter: The Charter is like a constitution for the county. It spells out the duties and responsibilities of the county government.

RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS



- District 1** Arden Hills, Gem Lake, Mounds View (part), North Oaks, Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Township
- District 2** Lauderdale, Little Canada, Mounds View (Part), New Brighton, Roseville, and St. Anthony
- District 3** St. Paul Neighborhoods in District 5, North End/South Como (Part), Como Park, Frogtown (Part), Summit-University, and Hamline-Midway(part)
- District 4** Crocus Hill, Desnoyer Park, Hamline-Midway (Part), Highland Park (Part), Lexington-Hamline, Macalester-Groveland (Part), Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, Summit Hill, St. Anthony Park and Summit-University
- District 5** Macalester-Groveland (Part), Highland Park, West 7th, Capitol Heights, Downtown, The West Side, Railroad Island, Dayton's Bluff and Mounds Blvd. (East Side)
- District 6** Dayton's Bluff, East Side, Hayden Heights, Hazel Park, Payne-Phalen, and Sunray-Battle Creek
- District 7** Maplewood, North St. Paul, the City of White Bear Lake, and the Hillcrest area of St. Paul (Part)

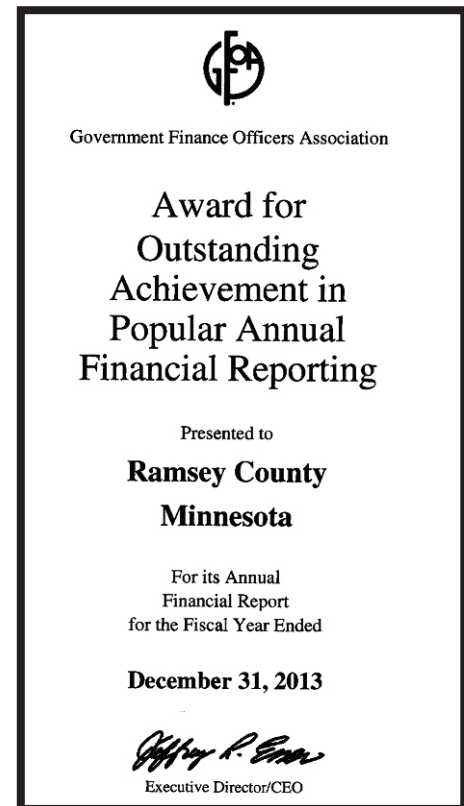
AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2013 GFOA Award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Ramsey County for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

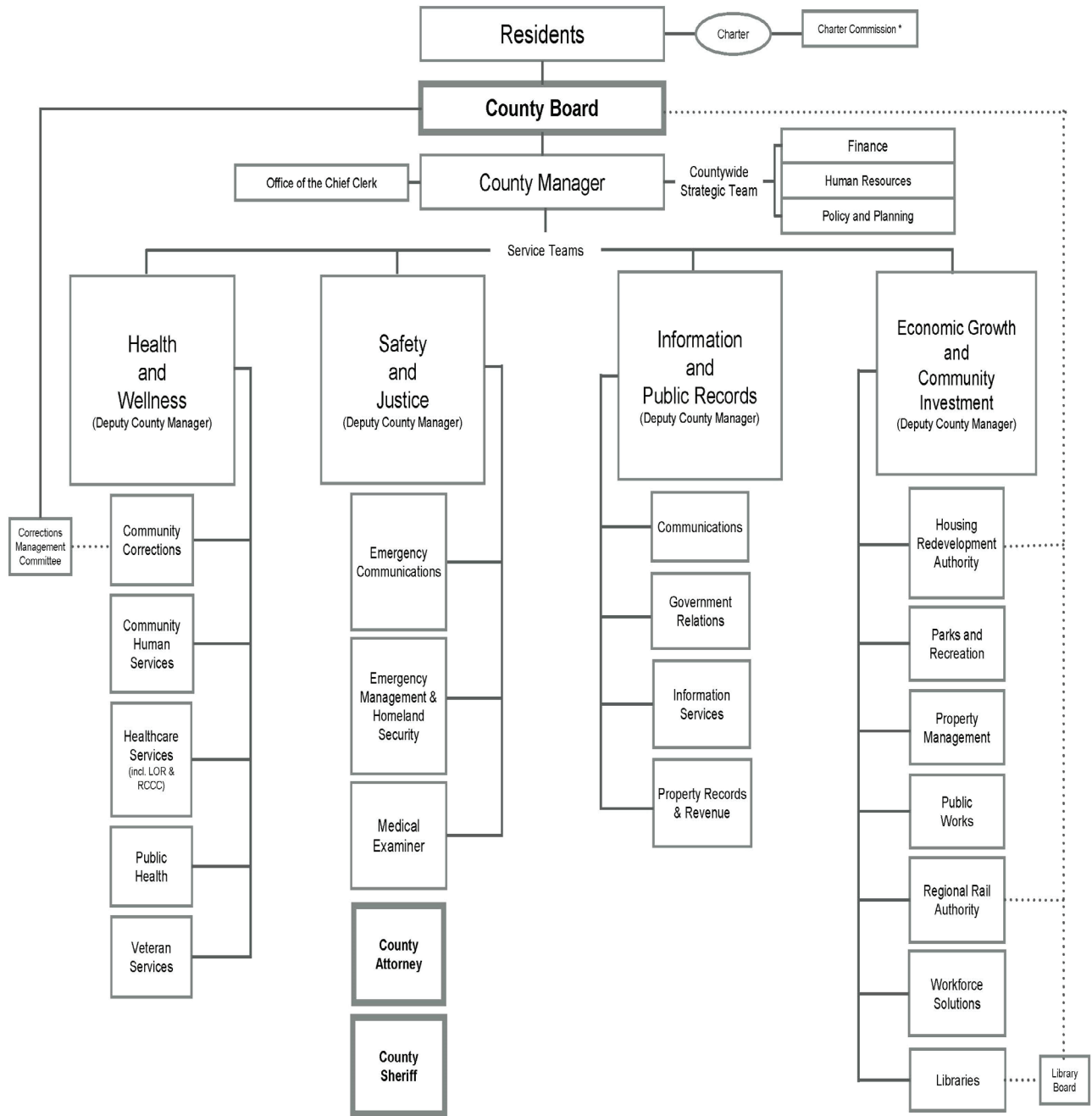
In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.



- **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** from the Government Finance Officer's Association (received continuously since 1983).
- **Certificate of Achievement in Excellence in Financial Reporting** from the Government Finance Officer's Association (received continuously since 1975)
- **GFOA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting** (received continuously since 2009).
- **AAA Bond Rating.** Ramsey County is one of only 53 counties nationwide (of 3,069 total U.S. counties) and five counties in Minnesota to receive a AAA/Aaa credit rating, the highest possible credit rating from both Moody's and Standard & Poor's rating agencies (in the top 1.7% of counties). Due to the county's outstanding credit rating, Ramsey County residents save \$500,000 to \$1.2M dollars in interest annually.
- Ramsey is the **only county in Minnesota** to earn the GFOA's annual awards for excellence in the CAFR, PAFR, and Distinguished Budget Presentation along with having a top bond rating by both rating agencies.

RAMSEY COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



LEGEND

* Appointed by District Court

..... Policy Relationship

BOLD Elected Officials

Transforming Ramsey County to Better Serve Our Community

In February 2015, the County Board of Commissioners adopted a new vision, mission and goals that set the strategic foundation for the organization for the years ahead. The new vision, mission and goals recognize the importance of working across organizational boundaries to best serve the community; no matter if a county employee works in Public Works, Public Health or the Sheriff's Office, he or she will work under a unified set of goals that ensure Ramsey County is operating from a holistic, resident-centered perspective.

VISION:

A vibrant community where all are valued and thrive.

MISSION:

A county of excellence working with you to enhance our quality of life.

GOALS:

- 1. Strengthen individual, family and community health, safety and well-being** through effective safety-net services, innovative programming, prevention and early intervention, and environmental stewardship.
- 2. Cultivate economic prosperity and invest in neighborhoods with concentrated financial poverty** through proactive leadership and inclusive initiatives that engage all communities in decisions about our future.
- 3. Enhance access to opportunity and mobility for all residents and businesses** through connections to education, employment and economic development throughout our region.
- 4. Model fiscal accountability, transparency and strategic investments** through professional operations and financial management.



A young visitor builds a fort out of branches in the Discovery Hollow Nature Play Area at Tamarack Nature Center, a 320-acre preserve located within Bald Eagle-Otter Lakes Regional Park.

Transforming Ramsey County to Better Serve Our Community

In addition to the important step of establishing a new, stronger strategic foundation for the organization, the County Board worked with the County Manager to establish and implement a plan to reorganize the organization so that it is structured to effectively achieve Ramsey County's vision, mission and goals. The new organizational structure transforms Ramsey County from an organization with more than 25 distinct departments into an organization that brings together the expertise and knowledge from those departments into four integrated Service Teams. These Service Teams will be tasked with breaking down the traditional departmental boundaries that made collaboration and innovation more difficult.

The four new Service Teams are:

- Health & Wellness
- Economic Growth & Community Investment
- Safety & Justice
- Information & Public Records

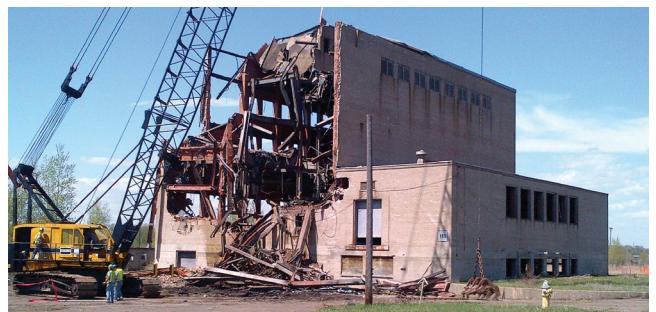
A new strategic direction connected to a reorganized organization will allow Ramsey County to continue improving and innovating so that all of its cities and neighborhoods are places that current and future residents are proud to call home. The county continues to advance important economic development initiatives at Rice Creek Commons in Arden Hills and the West Publishing site in downtown Saint Paul, build greater prosperity by purchasing more goods and services from local, small businesses and ensure opportunity for all young people by expanding the availability of community supports for youth and their families. Each of these initiatives, which represent only a portion of the county's efforts to build stronger a stronger community with opportunity and prosperity for all, offer significant benefits to residents and businesses.

Each initiative presents unique opportunities and challenges, and all require the county to leverage its collective creativity and talent to achieve successful results. By establishing a strong strategic foundation and creating Service Teams to transform that strategic vision into action, Ramsey County is poised for significant success on many fronts that will truly make it a vibrant community in which all are valued and thrive.

The Data Driving Ramsey County's Strategic Efforts

Ramsey County is committed to continual improving through strategic, data-driven decision-making. The revision of the County Board's vision, mission and goals and the organizational realignment into Service Teams was preceded by a data analysis effort that highlighted community dynamics and trends and how the county compared to the rest of the seven county metropolitan area. The following images highlight some of the compelling information that arose during the initial analysis. Full presentations and data sets associated with this project can be accessed at www.RCprosperity.org.

Ramsey County will continue to track, monitor and publicize its data to refine its strategies and efforts that will grow prosperity for its residents and businesses. With a resident-centered approach, a cohesive strategic foundation and data-driven decision-making, the County is prepared to work with residents and businesses to continue building a community in which all are valued and thrive.



Crews demolish one of the remaining buildings at the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant. Now named Rice Creek Commons, the 427-acre development is expected to be cleaned to residential standards by fall 2015. The redevelopment will include a mix of residential, commercial and open spaces.

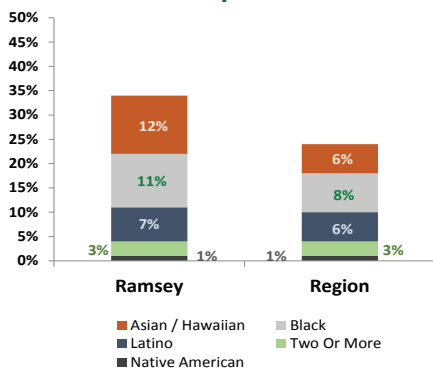
Transforming Ramsey County to Better Serve Our Community

Greater Prosperity Lies Here: Priority Issues for Ramsey County

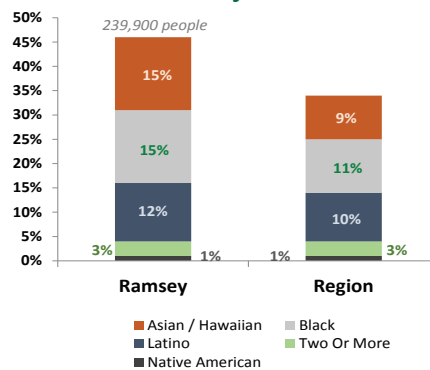
- Our People are Our Future
- Our Land Choices Matter
- Build on Our Strong Economic Base
- Ensure Opportunity in All Our Neighborhoods

After examining many local, regional and national data sources and comparing Ramsey County to the seven-county Region, the county is focusing its efforts around four priority themes in order to generate greater prosperity for all residents and businesses.

2010 Population



2030 Projections

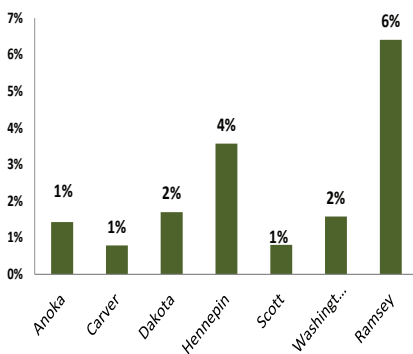


Community Diversity

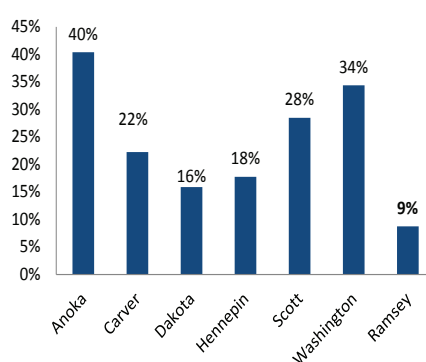
Ramsey County is and will remain significantly more diverse than the Region, bringing with it opportunities to build dynamic, inclusive communities for people of all races, cultures and ages.

Census 2010 and Minnesota Population Projections by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2005 to 2035.

Percent non-Taxable Land



Percent Undeveloped Land



Mix of Land Uses

Ramsey County has the largest share of its land dedicated to non-taxable uses (parks, governments, non-profits) and the least undeveloped land remaining for future development. Redevelopment of existing land is vital to growing jobs and tax base within the county.

	Total Employment	Employment Per Square Mile
Anoka	114,713	272
Carver	34,639	98
Dakota	177,980	314
Hennepin	854,480	1,548
Scott	42,522	121
Washington	75,979	198
Ramsey	320,042	2,082

Employment Numbers

Ramsey County is one of two employment centers in the Region. This is a strength from which the county can build with future investments that leverage its comparatively strong employment per square mile figure.

DEED QCEW (Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages)

COUNTY BOARD & ADMINISTRATION

County Board and Administration

This area includes County Board, Charter Commission, and County Manager's Office, including Human Resources, Finance, and Emergency Management.

In 2014, Ramsey County:

- Approved the 2015 Supplemental Biennial budget approving a 0% levy increase for a second year
- Issued debt to provide funding for:
 - o 3.5M of regular CIP Projects
 - o White Bear Lake Library Renovation
 - o Rice Creek Commons Development
 - o Juvenile Detention Facility Construction

SAFETY & JUSTICE

Safety and Justice are primary concerns for Ramsey County. These services are provided by the Sheriff's Office, County Attorney's Office, Medical Examiner, and Emergency Communications Center

Sheriff's Office

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement and public service in accordance with constitutional and statutory mandates. The Sheriff's Office is committed to leadership in public safety, through professionalism and partnership with other agencies. Sheriff Matt Bostrom, elected in 2010 and again in 2014, leads the Sheriff's Office.

In 2014, the Sheriff's Office:

- Handled several major cases; lead the investigation and successful national manhunt for a murder suspect, uncovered a \$4 million dollar public benefits fraud scheme, and arrested a prolific swindler with victims in several different states
- Enriched diverse hiring and promotions over 18 months with increases between 33% and 71% for deputies, correctional officers, and correctional sergeants
- Protected county roadways through the Traffic Safety Initiative which resulted in over 480 impaired drivers arrested during enforcement details
- Served more than 20,000 hours of volunteer service to the community through Reserve Deputies, Community

Affairs Officers, Chaplains, School Patrol, Community Emergency Response Team, and Law Enforcement Youth Explorers

- Seized and took off the streets over 1,600 pounds of narcotics and over 800 illegal guns
- Pursued and arrested over 300 wanted fugitives
- Responded to nearly 31,000 calls for service in seven contract communities
- Housed over 21,000 inmates at the Adult Detention Center an average of 6.7 days, with an average daily population of 370 inmates
- Investigated nearly 1,000 criminal cases and provided forensic services for more than 350 county-wide cases
- Provided court security during county's 108,201 court hearings
- Published over 150 press releases, advisories, social media posts, and community updates



The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office is Minnesota's first law enforcement agency, established in 1849 when Minnesota was a territory.

SAFETY & JUSTICE

County Attorney's Office

The County Attorney prosecutes adult and juvenile offenders who have committed crimes in Ramsey County. The County Attorney's Office also collects child support. Additionally, the County Attorney provides legal advice and counsel and represents county agencies in legal matters.

In 2014, the County Attorney's Office:

- Increased the percentage of domestic abuse cases reviewed by the office that are referred to a criminal complaint from 56% in 2011 to 74% in 2014, while maintaining a high conviction rate
- Maintained the average time to charge domestic abuse cases to 1 day.
- Assisted more than 16,000 families who shared in child support collections of \$52.0 million

Emergency Communications

Emergency Communications answers 9-1-1 and provides multi-agency dispatching services for law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical responders.

In 2014 Statistics and Highlights:

- 9-1-1 average answer time of 4.2 seconds
- Handled over one million telephone calls, including arriving 9-1-1 calls (31%), non-emergency calls (42%), and outbound calls (27%)
- Provided technical support for over 4,000 mobile and portable 800 MHz radio users
- Dispatched or monitored over 452,000 calls for public safety services for 18 law and fire agencies in the county



Medical Examiner

The Ramsey County Medical Examiner investigates deaths to provide a truthful and unbiased account to Ramsey County residents, law enforcement, and the judicial system. The investigative staff responds to death scenes 24 hours a day.

In 2014, the Medical Examiner's Office:

- Continued to lead in Certifications. The office is one of only two in the country with dual certifications. NAME (National Association of Medical Examiners) and IACME (International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners)
- Investigated over 3000 cases and preformed over 1200 autopsies
- Worked with Lifesource, the Medical Examiner's Office referred 17 donors resulting in 60 organ transplants. 60 lives saved

Court System

The Second Judicial District Court (Ramsey County) is a unified trial court with general jurisdiction to hear all types of civil and criminal cases. The Court has a total of 29 judges, five referees, and three magistrates. Judges can hear any criminal or civil matter brought before them. Cases are assigned to various court calendars as determined by the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge also assigns judges and referees.

The main Courthouse is located in downtown St. Paul. The Second Judicial District is legislatively mandated to maintain a suburban court site, which is located in the City of Maplewood. Courtroom space is also provided at the County's Law Enforcement Center, at the county's Juvenile and Family Justice Center, and at the county's Mental Health Court Facility.

ECONOMIC GROWTH & COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Departments supporting Economic Growth and Community Investment included Parks and Recreation, Workforce Solutions, Property Management, The Regional Railroad Authority, Public Works, seven Ramsey County Libraries, and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Parks & Recreation

Green Spaces, Fun Places, Active Lives

Serving over 5 million visitors annually, Ramsey County maintains more than 6,500 acres of county parks, regional parks, trails and open space areas for its residents.

Each park and trail corridor has unique charm and includes facilities for one or more of the following: hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, picnicking, children's play, nature study, swimming, boating, fishing, sledding, archery and off-leash dog activity.

The county's 11 indoor ice arenas provide opportunities for year-round ice skating, and five golf courses offer golfers of all skill levels opportunities to learn and polish their game in fun, picturesque environments. Special recreation facilities include Battle Creek Waterworks Family Aquatic Center, two archery ranges, four off-leash dog areas and Tamarack Nature Center, which provides a rich environment for visitors of all ages to relax, learn and explore nature.



Harvesting maple syrup at Tamarack Nature Center.

Residents throughout Ramsey County and the region use these facilities and enjoy the convenience of nearby areas that bring nature, recreation and enjoyment into their lives.

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation:

- Operates one of 10 Implementing Agencies for the Metropolitan Regional Park System
- Serves as a central hub for the Active Living Ramsey Communities initiative, to promote healthy lifestyles and environments that make it safe and convenient for people to integrate physical activity into their daily routines
- Manages Tamarack Nature Center, which hosted nearly 120,000 visitors in 2014 who came to celebrate birthdays, attend day camp, harvest and evaporate maple syrup or partake in programs and nature-based play at Discovery Hollow's Hobbit House

Amenities Offered by Ramsey County Parks and Recreation include:

Archery & Horseshoes, Biking, Bird Watching, Boating/Fishing, Cross-Country Skiing, Geocaching, Golf, Hiking, Mountain Biking, Skating, Sledding & Swimming

Recent Highlights: grand re-openings of Keller Boardwalk, Keller Regional Park and Keller Golf Course – named GOLF Magazine's #1 municipal renovation in 2014; purchase of Vadnais Sports Center; \$100K in grant funding to Active Living Ramsey Communities for a Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

Coming for 2015: remodel of Tamarack Nature Center and Early Learning Center classroom addition; trail and cross-country ski way-finding signs county-wide

ECONOMIC GROWTH & COMMUNITY INVESTMENT



Children experiment with science at the library.

Ramsey County Library

With seven libraries, Ramsey County provides a wide variety of services to its residents including literacy and technology workshops, library materials, and digital access to information. To address increasing demand for materials, the libraries are investing in downloadables including e-books, e-audiobooks and e-magazines.

In 2014, Ramsey County Library:

- Circulated almost 4.3 million items, including a growing e-book collection
- Hosted more than 2 million web visits, provided almost 300,000 hours of public computer time and served over 310,300 wireless network sessions
- Provided literacy programs serving almost 64,000 kids and their families and out-of-school programming serving almost 13,000 teens
- Offered almost 400 technology classes for more than 2,500 students including weekly open labs for computer and e-reader help

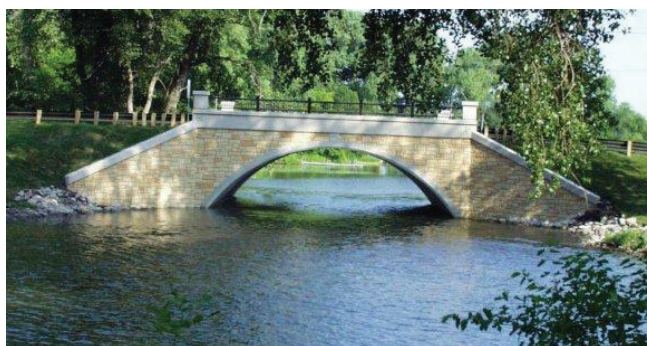
Stay curious.

Read books.

Visit a Ramsey County Library today in Maplewood, Moundsview, New Brighton, North St. Paul, Roseville, Shoreview or White Bear Lake

Public Works

The Ramsey County Public Works Department operates and maintains approximately 293 miles of roadway (271 miles of County State Aid Highways and 22 miles of County Roads), and 94 bridges. Over 250 traffic signals control movements at intersections and over 30,000 signs and pavement markings regulate traffic and provide drivers with information. Thousands of drainage structures and miles of pipe drain storm water from the roads. During the winter months, county crews clear the roads of snow and apply, on average, about 6,000 tons of salt each winter to keep the roads clear of ice.



The Public Works Department also works with the cities to annually develop a five-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) of construction projects to maintain and modernize the road system. This program includes roads, bridges, traffic signals, and pedestrian and bike improvements designed to provide the best service possible to the broad range of needs of county residents. The TIP also identifies the county's maintenance projects each year to identify and correct pavement deficiencies.

Contact Public Works

- Phone: 651-266-7100
- Email: AskPW@co.ramsey.mn.us
- Online at <http://www.RamseyCounty.us/pw/>

ECONOMIC GROWTH & COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Workforce Solutions

Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, provides employment services to job seekers and businesses. State and federally funded programs target youth, families, and laid off workers to ensure successful entry into the workforce. Additionally, the two Ramsey County Workforce centers receive more than 40,000 visits per year. Job seekers receive career coaching, basic skill development, job search skill development, occupational skills training, support services and job placement help. Ramsey County Workforce Centers are two of the most visited in the state.

Workforce Solutions also provides hiring and retention services, and incumbent (current) worker services to area businesses.

In 2014, Workforce Solutions:

- Achieved a return on investment of 174%
- Placed 5,120 Ramsey County residents in jobs
- Diverted over 1,100 individuals from receiving public assistance
- Placed 542 laid off workers in jobs
- Helped 841 youth finish high school or get a job



Workforce Solutions offers job seeker services including access to job banks, workshops, resume preparation as well as labor market and career information.

Contact Workforce Solutions

- Phone: 651-770-4499
- Email: AskWorkforceSolutions@co.ramsey.mn.us
- Online at <http://www.RamseyCounty.us/workforce/index.htm>

Property Management

The Property Management Department provides facility and project management services for county owned and leased buildings. The Department manages over 2.2 million net rentable square feet in 21 major County-owned buildings.

In 2014, Property Management:

- Received the International Facility Management Association's Leading Edge Award for the 2014 Ramsey County Strategic Facility Plan
- Continued to provide quality comprehensive building services maintaining an operating cost per net rentable square foot of \$6.73
- Incorporated the State of Minnesota sustainable building 2030 energy standards (SB2030) into the design and construction of the White Bear Lake Library project

Certified Small Business Enterprise Initiative

Ramsey County is committed to helping small businesses grow and thrive and in turn has adopted a race and gender-neutral policy that supports equal access and contracting opportunities to all contractors including CERT Small Business Enterprises (CERT SBE).

The CERT Program seeks to promote market growth, increase competitiveness, and create jobs among participating businesses, as well as to improve the quality of life for area residents.

Eligible business owners wishing to be certified are encouraged to apply. Certified businesses are included in a CERT Directory and are eligible to participate in specific CERT SBE activities.

For more information contact Ramsey County Procurement

- Phone: 651-266-8072
- Online at <http://www.RamseyCounty.us/ba/procure.htm>

ECONOMIC GROWTH & COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Regional Railroad Authority

The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA) was formed in 1987 for the purpose of planning and providing transit services in Ramsey County. RCRRA is a political subdivision of Minnesota governed by the seven Ramsey County commissioners.

Recognizing the importance of transit for mobility and economic development, RCRRA plans, educates, coordinates, implements and funds transit options within Ramsey County. Regional Railroad Authority leadership and employees are active participants in planning and developing other transit corridors that will serve the region.

Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority led the launch of both the Rush Line Corridor and Riverview Corridor Pre-Project Development studies in 2014. RCRRA participated in Rush Line Corridor and Riverview Corridor Policy Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees, Red Rock Corridor Commission, the Rush Line Corridor Task Force, Minnesota High Speed Rail Coalition, Robert Street Steering Committee, Gateway Corridor Commission, Central Corridor Partnership and the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB).

Union Depot in its entirety was placed on the National Historic Register in 1974. RCRRA earned LEED® Gold certification for Union Depot in 2014. This certification recognizes the utilization of innovative environmental and energy efficient techniques in the renovation of the majestic building and expansive grounds. The unique combination of historic preservation, environmentally preferable improvements and build-out for the future of transportation makes Union Depot a model for the rest of the country.

Amtrak service returned on May 7, 2014. Light rail service opened in June 2014 at the Green Line's Union Depot station near the North Plaza. Union Depot currently serves Amtrak and Metro Transit, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority, Jefferson Lines, Greyhound, megabus.com and two casino bus lines. Car sharing through Car2Go and Zipcar was added to the complement of transportation options available at Union Depot.

Program offerings for the community at Union Depot were expanded. Private rentals of meeting and event space continued to grow. The final commission from the call for public art, a series of six murals by Ralph Gilbert, were installed in the waiting room.

For more information on Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, visit the website at www.co.ramsey.mn.us/rail.



Photo: The Empire Builder arriving at Union Depot.
Photo credit: Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Health and Wellness promotes health and well-being for all individuals and families. Departments in this function are responsible for providing health information and education to all residents, and financial, mental health, and social services to a variety of groups including veterans, low income, elderly, disabled, homeless, mentally ill, abused, and vulnerable children and adults.

Community Human Services (CHS)

CHS administers and delivers services with federal, state, and local funds. Staff provide services to people with low incomes, families with children, seniors, people with alcohol, drug or mental health concerns, or who have physical and developmental disabilities. On any given day in 2014, CHS had over 156,000 participants.

CHS's mission is "Making a Difference: Helping People Survive and Thrive." To help meet basic needs, assure protection for children and vulnerable adults, and assist in self-sufficiency, CHS offers cost-effective resources. CHS' goal is to deliver all services with respect.

In 2014, Community Human Services:

- Finalized 73 adoptions
- Took 46,608 applications for financial, medical and food supports
- Took 1,680 intake reports of child maltreatment
- Provided case management to 6,202 adults and children who have disabilities



Do you know what to throw? Deciding what belongs in the recycling bin and what is trash can be confusing. Ramsey County's Recycling and Disposal Hot line is answered 24/7 at 651-633-EASY (3279)

Public Health

Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health's mission is to protect and improve the health of people and the environment in Ramsey County. The department carries out federal, state, and local mandates to prevent the spread of disease, protect against environmental hazards, prevent injuries, promote healthy behaviors, respond to health emergencies, and assure accessibility of health services

Public Health services provided in 2014 include:

- Provided 6,920 immunizations at public health clinics and community sites
- Helped 30,151 low-income mothers, infants, and young children get supplemental nutritious foods and information
- Provided nearly 20,000 visits to prenatal clients, parents, infants and children
- Provided case management services to 434 individuals and personal care attendant assessments to more than 4000 individuals
- Collected 1.4 million pounds of chemicals from 27,264 households at the department's drop off sites

Community Corrections

Community Correction's carries out the decisions of the court system and implements conditions of probation and treatment plans for juveniles and adults. The department also operates three institutions that detain juveniles and adults after conviction.

Community Corrections in 2014:

- Provided probation services to 19,554 adults and 1,064 juveniles
- Data released by the State regarding recidivism in the metro area reflects that 86% of all felon adult offenders remained felony-free three years after discharge from supervision

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Lake Owasso Residence

Lake Owasso Residence (LOR) is a licensed 64 person program serving individuals in 8 cottage style homes on the banks of Lake Owasso. LOR offers safe habilitative programs for individuals in behavior crisis or in need of daily living skills training and is a leader in developing innovative ways to support people with intellectual disabilities and complex medical conditions.

In addition to providing quality support and service consistent with expectations of the Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Department of Health, LOR staff support residents by developing person centered plans addressing individual goals for daily living skills, community integration and complex medical needs.

Ramsey County Care Center

By serving the community for over 100 years, The Ramsey County Care Center has built a reputation of commitment to residents and their families. Care center staff are dedicated to providing quality care to enhance residents quality of life by promoting independence, choice and dignity.

The Ramsey County Care Center, nestled between the scenic Goodrich golf course and historic architecture, offers comprehensive skilled nursing care with the latest technology and equipment to support the well-being of our community. Some amenities include:

- Personalized rooms with access to cable TV, telephone and WIFI
- Multi-lingual staff, including Hmong
- Recreation, music and pet therapy
- Community outings to encourage recreational, cultural and spiritual well-being

Veterans Services

Ramsey County Veterans Services (RCVSO) provides guidance, assistance and advocacy to the veterans and active military service members of Ramsey County, their dependents and survivors who seek to understand and access benefits available from the Veterans Administration (VA), Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) and community partners who offer programs and services to veterans. Demographic trends reflected in the aging of the baby boom generation and the military draw down of troops around the world continue to drive demand for services.

In 2014 Ramsey County Veterans Services partnered with other county departments, Project Remand and the VA to work with participants in the Ramsey County Veterans Court. RCVSO developed a Veteran Mentor Program where volunteers mentor and support court participants. The Ramsey County Veterans Court and the Ramsey County Veteran Court Mentor Program are great examples of by working in collaboration with other county departments and engaging residents as volunteers, we can improve lives and make Ramsey County safer for everyone. RCVSO offices are located at 90 W. Plato Blvd. Suite 210, St. Paul, MN 55107 and can be reached by calling 651-266-2545.



North St. Paul American Legion Post 39 Color Guard

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RECORDS

Information and Public Records covers a wide range of vital county services. This function includes Communications, Government Relations, Information Services as well as Property Records, Revenue, and Elections.

Property Records and Revenue and Elections

Property Records and Revenue is responsible for the oversight of activities involved in recording property ownership, valuing property in Ramsey County, and collecting and distributing property taxes. The department is also responsible for facilitation of state, local, and national elections.

The Recorder's Office recorded and indexed more than 70,000 real estate documents. It also began electronic recording of all document types; by year end, 50% of documents were submitted electronically.

The Assessor's Office completed 31,356 property reappraisals and 5,815 review appraisals.

Property Tax Services had over a million communications with customers via mail, phone, e-mail, and the web. It also maintains current and historical information on property values, taxes, and services on its website at www.RamseyCounty.us/prr.

The Examiner of Titles Office issued 953 Directives and Certificates of Examiner, reported on 373 title defect cases and conversion from Abstract to Torrens cases, and conducted 673 hearings.

2014 began a new era for the Elections Office, with the implementation of the states "no-excuse" absentee voting law. Compared to the 2010 election, the number of voters casting a ballot prior to Election Day – either by mail or in person – increased by 75%. The total number of ballots cast and counted, 19,744, was the largest number ever in Ramsey County in a non-presidential election.

If you have questions or disagree with the classification or estimated market value of your property, contact the Assessor's Office at **651-266-2131** to discuss your concerns. Often issues can be resolved over the phone. Please be aware that you will:

- Not speak with an appraiser immediately
- Be asked to provide information regarding your concern
- Receive a return phone call from an appraiser within 2-3 days
- Need to have an appraiser come to your property to perform an interior review prior to any value adjustment

Information Services

Information Services develops and maintains the County's technology infrastructure and establishes enterprise standards and policies to promote a strong, efficient and secure IT environment. The department provides county-wide technology procurement oversight and direct technical support to a majority of Ramsey County Departments. Services offered include project management, records management, and application and web development and support. The department also manages the county's electronic document management and geographic information systems.

In 2014, Information Services:

- Provided voice technology to more than 6,800 Ramsey County, City of St. Paul, and Minnesota Second Judicial District Court users
- Averaged 230,000 sessions or monthly visits, including 122,000 unique monthly visitors to the county's websites

Other Funding Areas

In addition to the various departments listed in this report, the county provides funding to the Ramsey Conservation District, Ramsey County Historical Society, Minnesota Landmarks, and the County Extension Service.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Where the dollar comes from...



PROPERTY TAXES; \$0.49 INTERGOVERNMENTAL; \$0.35 FEES/CHARGES; \$0.12
 MISC. REVENUE; \$0.03
 HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM RECOVERY; \$0.01

Where the dollar goes...



HUMAN SERVICES; \$0.25 TRANSPORTATION; \$0.11
 PUBLIC SAFETY; \$0.21 DEBT SERVICE; \$0.07
 GENERAL GOVERNMENT; \$0.18 HEALTH; \$0.06
 CULTURE & RECREATION; \$0.04
 ECONOMIC DEV. & ASSISTANCE; \$0.04
 MISC. EXPENDITURES; \$0.03

What it Means

Fund: A fund is a group of related accounts used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives.

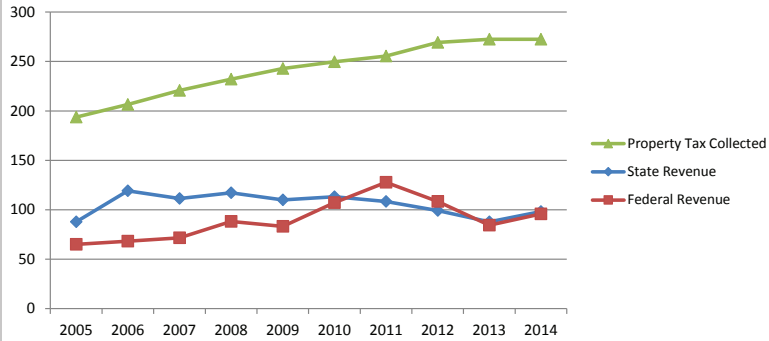
Assets: What the county owns, including current and other cash, investments, and receivables.

Fund Balance: The excess of the assets of a fund over liabilities and reserves.

Liabilities: What the county owes including payments due to vendors and employees.

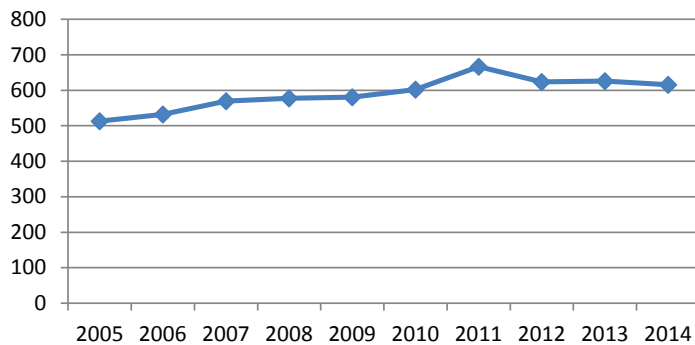
MULTI YEAR TRENDS

County Revenue Trends (dollars in millions)



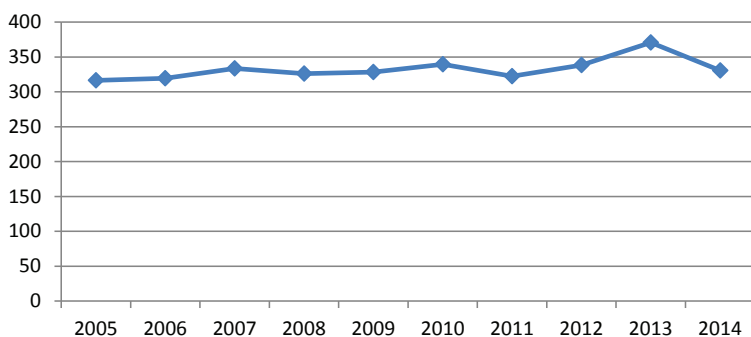
The Ramsey County property tax levy has been trending upward since 2005, primarily as a result of reduced State aid. Property tax provided Property taxes provided 39% in 2005, but increased to 49% in 2014. State aid has failed to keep pace with population growth, increased service demands and inflationary cost pressures. State revenues include Count Program Aid, Market Value Homestead Credit Aid, categorical grants and road construction funding.

Total Expenditure in Governmental Funds (dollars in millions)



Ramsey County expenditures reached a peak in 2011, of \$666,933,605. Since 2011 county expenditures have decreased 8% to \$615,798,567 in 2014.

Net Bonded Debt Per Capita (in dollars per capita)



The County Board has refinanced existing debt to take advantage of historically low interest rates. This has resulted in manageable debt levels for the county despite an active capital improvement program to replace and rehabilitate aging facilities and public infrastructure. Debt ratios have remained in the low to moderate benchmark set by the credit rating agencies for AAA counties.

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Assets					
Total Current & Other Assets	\$470,573,223	\$509,394,753	\$521,171,153	\$547,284,700	\$565,691,341
Total Capital Assets	701,393,946	803,954,046	839,490,104	840,614,525	842,598,276
Total Assets	\$1,171,967,169	\$1,313,348,799	\$1,360,661,257	\$1,387,899,225	\$1,408,289,617
Liabilities					
Total Current Liabilities	\$90,014,721	\$159,957,634	\$117,045,398	\$100,048,467	\$116,291,713
Total Non Current Liabilities	290,774,883	282,484,247	319,181,727	341,878,828	336,241,048
Total Liabilities	\$380,789,604	\$442,441,881	\$436,227,125	\$441,927,295	\$452,532,761
Net Position					
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$507,896,299	\$598,062,359	\$613,754,846	\$624,585,832	\$628,776,791
Restricted	85,110,684	120,670,636	108,108,169	99,804,214	93,663,238
Unrestricted	198,170,582	152,173,923	202,571,117	221,581,884	233,316,827

The Statement of Net Position presents financial information on all of the County's capital and current assets, minus the current liabilities and long-term debt. The resulting amount is stated as "net position." The table above shows that the County has increased its total net position by 20.8% between 2010 and 2014. Below you will find some highlights and explanations of major changes to our Statement of Net Position from 2010 and 2014.

Assets and Liabilities:

- Total assets increased 20.2% over the past 5 years, primarily due to the increase in capital assets over this time period.
- Total liabilities increased 18.8% over the 5 year period.

Net Investment in Capital Assets:

- Capital Assets increased 20.1% over the past 5 years and average a 4.0% increase annually.
- A major renovation of the Union Depot was the key driver of our increase in Capital Assets.

What it Means

Capital Assets: Are the county's land, building, equipment, improvements, infrastructure, and construction in process, net of accumulated depreciation.

Long Term Debt: Represents the debt obligations of the county. The proceeds from these various debt issues are used to finance large projects such as building construction and renovations, major equipment purchases, and roadway construction.

Net Investment in Capital Assets: Represents the county's investment in its capital assets less accumulated depreciation and any outstanding debt attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of these assets.

Net Position: Is the difference between assets and liabilities, of which may or may not be available for future spending.

Unrestricted Net Position: Represents the difference between assets and liabilities not restricted for use.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Program Revenues	\$326,035,328	\$358,949,036	\$337,057,408	\$313,161,745	\$308,098,315
General Revenues	300,953,445	302,571,792	317,996,299	313,639,231	325,743,863
Total Revenues	626,988,773	661,520,828	655,053,707	626,800,976	633,842,178
Program Expenses	606,027,982	581,791,475	600,924,069	605,865,602	624,057,253
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Position	20,960,791	79,729,353	54,129,638	20,935,374	9,784,925
Net Position - Beginning	770,216,774	791,177,565	870,906,918	925,036,556	945,971,930
Net Position - End	\$791,177,565	\$870,906,918	\$925,036,556	\$945,971,930	\$955,756,856

The Statement of Activities presents the County's change in net position over a given period. The County's total revenue increased by 1.1% over the five year period between 2010 and 2014. Revenue increases in 2011 and 2012 were largely due to a significant increase in Capital Grants & Contributions to support a variety of construction projects throughout the County. On average, Total Revenue for Ramsey County exceeded Program Expense by over 6%. Over the last five years the counties Net Position has increases by 20.7%. That represents a average increase of over 4% annually since 2010.

Program expenses increased by 3.0% from 2010 to 2014, averaging an increase of 0.60% annually. Program expenses differ from the expenditures listed in the governmental funds due to the unique nature of special service funds such as debt service and capital projects being listed in the total governmental fund expenditures and not in the Statement of Activities.

Ramsey County strives to balance our residents' ability to pay with the need for essential services in difficult economic times. Ramsey County has proven to be a financially responsible government, and will continue to provide essential services while maintaining strong financial management.

What it Means

Program Revenues: Revenues that are earned as a direct result of a given function. Program revenues are offset by program expenses.

General Revenues: Funds that the county received as income. Includes such items a property taxes, fees for services, intergovernmental revenues, fines, forfeitures, grants, revenue from sales and rentals, and interest income.

General Obligation Debt: Municipal debt that is secured by Ramsey County's pledge to use legally available resources, such as tax revenue, to repay bond holders. Debt is issued to provide funds for certain Capital Improvement projects and other major purchases.

CAPITAL ASSETS & DEBT MANAGEMENT

Ramsey County Debt Trend Data

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
General Obligation Debt	\$194,792,000	\$192,770,000	\$210,522,000	\$209,772,000	\$206,362,000
GO Debt to Market Value	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
GO Debt Per Capita	\$364	\$359	\$412	\$398	\$387
Debt Service Tax Levy: County DS	\$17,818,638	\$19,068,638	\$20,700,000	\$21,735,000	\$21,735,000
Library DS	\$1,638,854	\$1,638,376	\$2,049,992	\$1,839,014	\$2,147,561
Debt Service Tax Levy to Total Tax Levy	7%	8%	8%	9%	9%
Estimated Market Value	\$46 B	\$43.2 B	\$39.2 B	\$36.8 B	\$37.0 B
Annual G.O. Bonding	\$16,500,000	\$56,265,000	\$34,840,000	\$34,700,000	\$25,350,000

Capital Assets (Net of Depreciation) Five Year Trend

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Land	\$137,475,719	\$141,861,576	\$142,050,118	\$142,545,765	\$148,187,720
Buildings & Improvements	257,961,015	280,044,643	275,976,887	414,562,150	393,112,544
Improvements Other Than Buildings	17,191,520	16,496,877	16,921,127	22,918,776	21,191,241
Equipment	25,933,752	26,651,694	25,508,525	23,185,552	27,225,767
Computer Software	692,947	122,232	-	-	-
Infrastructure	213,005,364	209,481,328	206,459,365	203,364,097	216,956,727
Construction in Progress	49,133,629	129,295,696	172,574,082	45,676,543	35,924,277
Total	\$701,393,946	\$803,954,046	\$839,490,104	\$852,252,883	\$842,598,276



What it Means

Land: Land holdings like parks.

Buildings & Improvements: Includes all buildings owned by the County as well as cost of improvements to existing buildings.

Improvements Other Than Buildings: Includes golf courses, leasehold improvements and landscaping and trails.

Equipment: Includes service vehicles, etc.

Infrastructure: Includes roads, bridges, sidewalks, and similar items.

Construction in Progress: Capital cost of projects still under construction.



CONNECT WITH US

Stay Informed on line at www.RamseyCounty.us

Access Ramsey County news, programs and services and sign up to receive electronic notifications.

Or call one of the numbers listed below for more information:

General Information	651-266-8500
Assessor's Office	651-266-2131
Board of Commissioners	651-266-8350
County Administration	651-266-8000
County Extension Service	651-704-2080
Courts	651-266-8266
Emergencies	911
Human Services	651-266-4444
Jury Information	651-266-8200
Licenses & Records	651-266-8265
Parks and Recreation	651-748-2500
Procurement	651-266-8072
Property Records and Revenue	651-266-2000
Public Health	651-266-2400
Recycling/Yard Waste	651-653-3279
Road Work/Snow Plows	651-266-7100
Traffic Violations	651-266-8105
Veterans Services	651-266-2545
Voter Registration	651-266-2171
Workforce Solutions	651-770-4499

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 **RAMSEY COUNTY**
Finance

270 Courthouse, 15 West Kellogg Blvd., Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-8041 | www.RamseyCounty.us