



RAMSEY COUNTY, MINNESOTA



RAMSEY
COUNTY
IN
2009

A FINANCIAL REPORT TO CITIZENS

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The 2009 Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

Top Row, Left to Right: Toni Carter (4th District); Jim McDonough (6th District); Tony Bennett (1st District); Victoria Reinhardt (7th District);

Bottom Row, Left to Right: Janice Rettman (3rd District); Chair Jan Parker (2nd District); Rafael Ortega (5th District)

Cover Photo: The City of St. Paul, the County Seat and State Capital, along the Mississippi River

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Welcome to the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for Ramsey County. Our 2009 PAFR provides a general overview of the County's financial position in 2009 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 financial statements, schedules, statistics and notes for the year.

It has been a productive year for the County with several major projects beginning or reaching completion in 2009. The 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 2009, 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 is 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 Office of Budgeting and Accounting, Suite 270, 15 West Kellogg Boulevard, Saint Paul, MN 55102. For more detailed information regarding Ramsey County's financial status for 2009, please view our CAFR on the County's website at: www.co.ramsey.mn.us.



Julie Kleinschmidt
Ramsey County Manager



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 501,428, it is the most densely populated county in Minnesota. Saint Paul is the largest city within the County (with a population of 279,590 or 56% of the residents) and is also the state capital. The suburban area includes communities that range in size from Gem Lake (442 people) to Maplewood (36,087 people), according to the U.S. Census Bureau 2008 estimates.

The County is the most diverse in the state. The largest minority populations of those who are of single ethnicity are Asian (9.1%), African American (8.5%) and Hispanic/Latino (6.5%) according to U.S. Census Bureau 2008 numbers.

Ramsey County's population is aging. All age groups over 55 are predicted to have double-digit increases by 2030; age groups older than 65 are expected to increase more than 80%.

Income

Income in Ramsey County is slightly above the U.S. average. The Census Bureau estimates the 2008 median household income is \$52,480 compared with the national median of \$52,029. About 13.2% of all people in Ramsey County were below the poverty level, which is even with the national poverty level.

Education

Ramsey County has a well-educated population. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 85,349 students were enrolled in grades K-12 in 2008. Of the people 25 and over, 15.3% have a graduate or professional degree; compared to the US rate of 10.2%. About 39.2% have a bachelor's or higher degree; 90.5% have completed high school. The national rates are 27.7% and 85.0% respectively. In addition, it is 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 257,390 people employed here in 2008. This is just under the number of Ramsey County residents in the civilian labor force (276,395). About 59% of its residents work within the County; others commute to other counties.

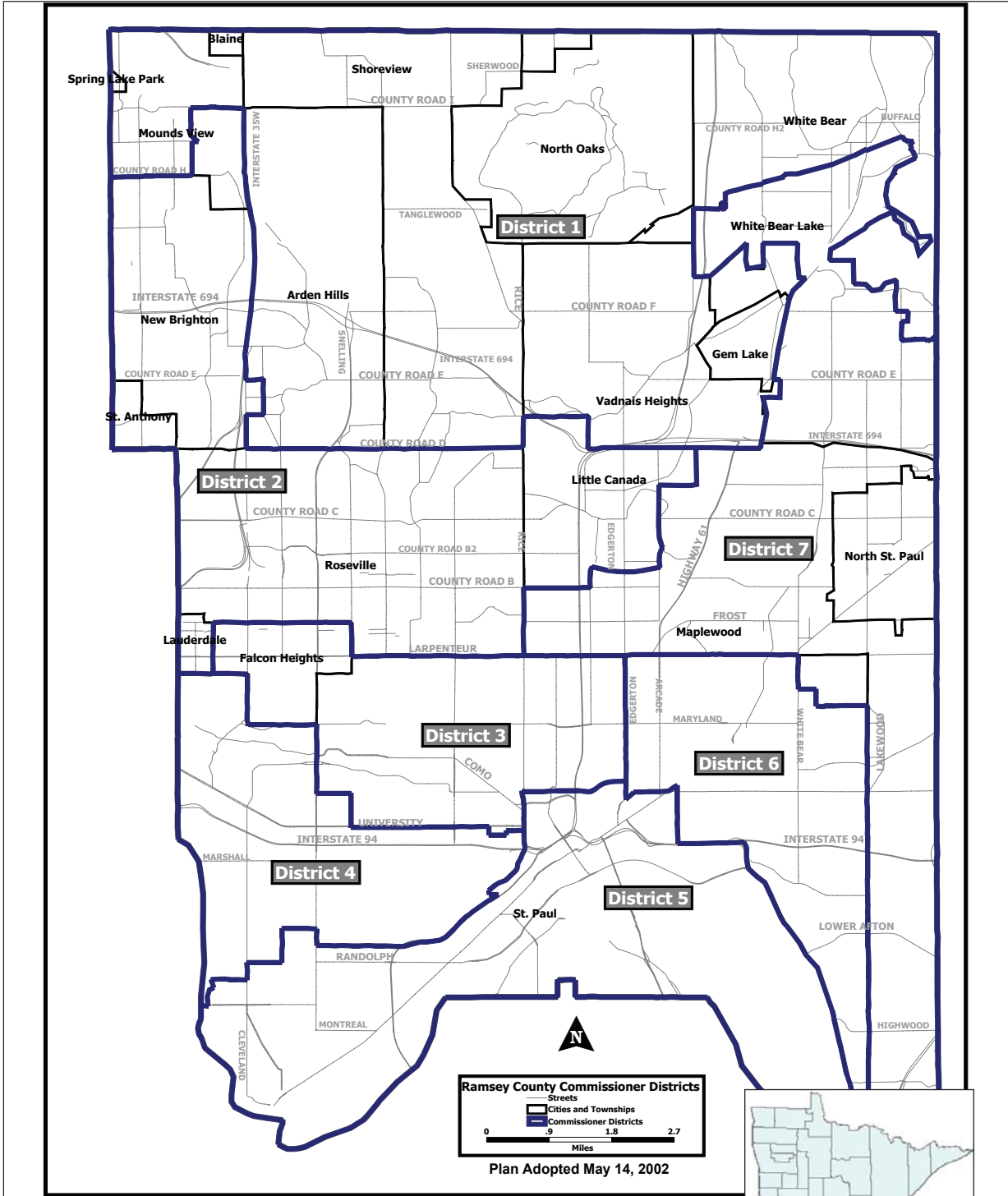
Ramsey County is home to many of Minnesota's largest employers including 3M Company, U.S. Bancorp, Health East, and Ecolab, Inc. Ramsey County itself employs about 3800 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

Ramsey County's unemployment rate is consistently below national and state rates. In 2009, the average unemployment rate within the County was 7.8%, whereas the national and state unemployment rates were 9.3% and 8.0% respectively according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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, Sheriff, and Judges are also elected officials. The Commissioners are responsible for establishing strategic direction for the County, creating policies and adopting the annual 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 the heads of the County's departments.

In 1990, Ramsey County citizens voted to become the first Home Rule Charter County in Minnesota. Adopted in 1992, the Charter authorizes more autonomy to the County for local governance.



**Map of Ramsey County
Commissioner Districts**

Ramsey County

Ramsey County Mission Statement

Ramsey County - Working With You to Enhance Our Quality of Life

Values Statement

Ramsey County is community centered and serves the citizens with integrity, honesty, respect, innovation, and responsibility.

Goals

- Be a leader in financial and operational management
- Promote multi-modal transit and transportation solutions that effectively serve our citizens
- Prevent crime and improve public safety
- Be a leader in responding to the changing demographics in Ramsey County
- Proactively deliver services that improve the quality of life for children and families, and individuals with special needs
- Protect our natural resources and the quality of our environment

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- **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 1974). The County also received an unqualified audit opinion on its 2009 annual financial report from the State Auditor.
- **AAA Bond Rating.** Ramsey County is one of 52 counties nationwide and four counties in Minnesota to receive a AAA/Aaa credit rating, the highest possible credit rating from both Standard & Poor's and Moody's rating agencies.
- **National recognition given by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Haywood Burns Institute** for the County's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) program.
- Runaway Intervention Project received a **Local Government Innovation Award** from the Humphrey Institute's Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center.

2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

County Board and Administration

- The County Board, recognizing that Ramsey County residents and businesses are still struggling in a difficult economy, approved the **lowest levy increase in 10 years**, despite the governor's unallotments and state aid cuts
- The County Board hired a new County Manager, **Julie Kleinschmidt**, as the first woman to serve as Ramsey County's top administrator
- Three county offices moved from the Ramsey County Government Center West to the **90 West Plato Boulevard Facility**: Veterans Services, Emergency Management/Homeland Security and the St. Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health

Health & Human Services

- Ramsey County quickly established a "**Rapid Rehousing**" program as homelessness mushroomed due to the recession
- Public Health set up an emergency operations center **to respond to a sharp increase in H1N1 cases**. Thousands of people received the vaccine at a number of vaccine clinics held in the County

Public Safety & Justice

- A comprehensive, inter-agency **response to domestic violence crimes** was developed by Ramsey County and Saint Paul criminal justice agencies and community-based advocacy organizations (the Saint Paul Blueprint for Safety)
- County Attorney's Office launched an **Elder Abuse Prosecution Unit** that focuses on crimes committed against older people who are victimized

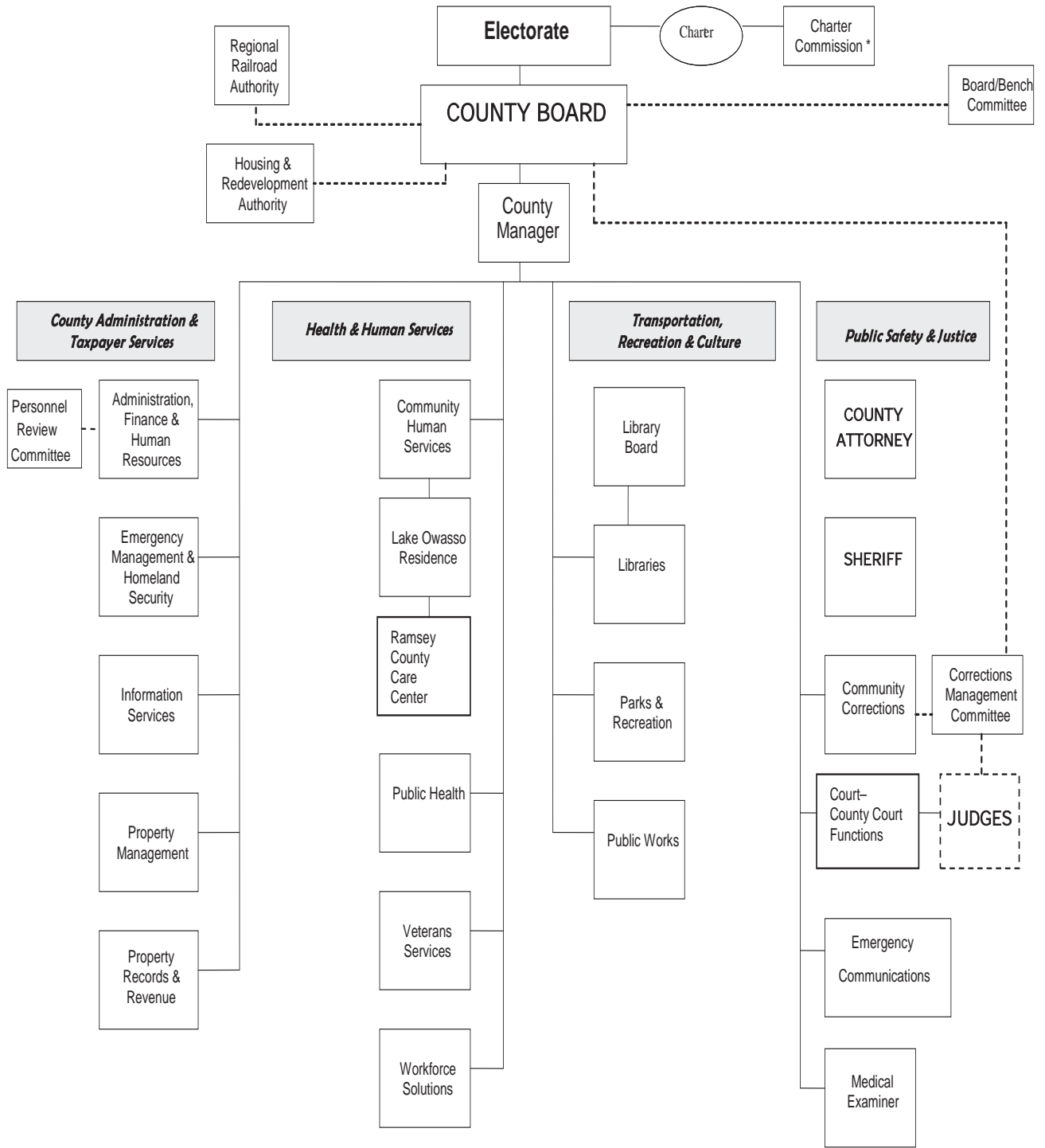
Regional Railroad Authority

- Preliminary engineering began for the **Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project** from Minneapolis to St. Paul along University Avenue and planning continued for the multi-modal transit hub located in **The Union Depot**

Transportation, Recreation and Culture

- The expansion and remodeling of the **Ramsey County Roseville Library**, the state's busiest library, began in 2009
- Construction began of the **Tamarack Nature Center's Destination for Discovery** project, that involves redesigned facilities, trails, programs, and exhibits. New partnerships were launched with community arts and education organizations in support of expanded public programs at Tamarack, and outreach was made to more diverse audiences through partnerships with St. Paul Public Schools

RAMSEY COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



BOLD Elected

- - - Policy

State of Minnesota

* Appointed by District Court

STATISTICAL DATA

Form of Government

Created by Legislature (Oct. 27, 1849)
Home Rule Charter (Nov. 6, 1992)

Area

170 square miles

Demographics (Selected Economic Characteristics 2006-2008, American Community Survey, Most Recent Data Available):

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Population | 501,428 |
| Number of Households | 203,539 |
| Number of Families | 116,294 |
| Median Income (Household / Family) | \$53,141 / \$71,485 |
| Per Capita Income | \$29,755 |
| Median Home Value | \$228,500 |
| County Seat | Saint Paul, also Minnesota's State Capital |

2009 Bond Rating

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Moody's Investors Service | Aaa |
| Standard & Poor's Corporation | AAA |

Miles of County Road:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|
| Centerline Miles of County Roads Maintained | 295 |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|

Parks, Recreation & Open Space System:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Regional Parks (6) & Trails (6) | 4,350 Acres |
| County Parks (9) | 960 Acres |
| Undeveloped Open Space | 636 Acres |
| Special Use Facilities | 323 Acres |
| 11 Ice Arenas | 5 Golf Courses |
| 9 Swimming Beaches | 6 Major Cross-Country Ski Trails |
| 1 Golf Dome with outdoor mini putt | 1 County Fairground |

General Election (November 4, 2008):

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Registered Voters as of 7:00 a.m. | 317,028 |
| Election Day Registrants | 55,847 |
| Number of Votes Casted at Polls | 278,169 |
| Number of Absentee Ballots | 30,786 |
| Percentage of Eligible Voters Voting | 73% |

Issues & Trends:

RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARIES CHANGING TO MEET 21ST CENTURY NEEDS

Ramsey County Library's Facilities Master Plan attempts to improve services, increase organizational capacity and reduce costs throughout the system by redeveloping the infrastructure into three regional libraries and four service portals. The expanded and improved Ramsey County Library in Roseville is the central tenet to achieving these modernization goals. The library promises to be a major destination for the surrounding region and is expected to have the highest circulation of any public library in the state.

Patron Service Improvements

The design of the building is largely focused around activity levels. The main floor will include busier areas that include circulation services, media collections, a large community program room, defined areas for teens and children, group computing, casual seating, a coffee shop, and an outdoor patio. The second level will be generally quieter, with adult fiction and nonfiction collections, quiet computing, lounge and study seating, the majority of reference services, and a variety of study rooms. Three times the current public computing space will be available with 120 stations and significantly expanded bandwidth with fiber to the building.

LIBRARIES ARE BECOMING
THE SOCIAL CORE OF THE
COMMUNITY

Libraries continue to be leaders for reading and literacy, while increasingly serving as centers for life-long learning and technology access.



Almost 18,000 new customers signed up for library cards in 2009 at Ramsey County Libraries

Workflow Improvements

Circulation of materials had grown 67% in the last ten years. The building averaged 233 visitors and 541 checkouts every hour it was open. Demands for service have long outstripped available space and staffing levels.

Labor saving technology will increase staff productivity and building capacity through automated materials handling systems for check-in and sorting activities. Patron self-check out stations will be equipped with automatic pay features to reduce staff handling of items and money.

LEED

Ramsey County Library is leading by example with deliberate inclusion of environmental and economical design elements in the Roseville library renovation. In order to ensure the highest quality of sustainability, the Library was designed using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system.

Issues & Trends:

A SPOTLIGHT ON STIMULUS FUNDING

The 2009 *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA) was intended to counteract the deepening economic recession and stimulate local economies by bringing federal dollars into communities across the United States. Here are a few of the ways that the Ramsey County community has benefitted from ARRA:

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS—

- **ROADS:** The intersection at I-694 and White Bear Avenue will soon be reconstructed to relieve chronic traffic congestion and improve safety for drivers and pedestrians around Maplewood Mall.
- **JOBS:** Because of ARRA funding, an additional 460 unemployed adults received individualized job search, training and job leads. Over 450 additional youth were employed during the summer allowing them to gain valuable on-the-job skills.
- **EMERGENCY and PUBLIC ASSISTANCE:** With additional temporary help, staff processed approximately 4,900 new or backlogged applications for food stamps, medical coverage and/or financial assistance to eligible families.
- **MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION:** 8,700 rides for medical appointments were arranged for eligible County residents.
- **OUTREACH:** Over 700 households were visited by outreach workers to resolve issues affecting benefits for which they were eligible.
- **HOUSING:** Seven vacant foreclosed houses in suburban Ramsey County are being rehabilitated and put back on the market. In partnership with the City of St. Paul, over 140 families, single adults and individual youth were kept from becoming



homeless. An additional 250 families, single adults and individual youth received assistance to find permanent housing.

- **COMMUNITY FACILITIES:** Several community buildings received improvements to their mechanical, lighting, and sprinkler systems.

LONG TERM COST SAVINGS—

- Ramsey County is addressing energy consumption to reduce emissions, conserve energy and reduce the impact of growing energy prices. Older, less-efficient light fixtures have been replaced with more efficient lighting. An effort to reduce computer-related energy use is underway. Several buildings are undergoing studies to identify improvements in mechanical systems that will support future energy efficiency and conservation. Environmental Health is participating in a local committee to select and place electric car-charging stations throughout the metro area.
- County bonds for capital projects have been issued at better rates using Build America Bonds, allowing the County to proceed with projects such as the Roseville Library remodeling.

Issues & Trends:

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND RAMSEY COUNTY FAMILIES

In Ramsey County in 2009, families struggled with lost jobs, foreclosures and other challenges. During an economic crisis, counties provide assistance and programs that keep people fed, clothed, sheltered and safe. We've never seen anything like the "Great Recession." People came to our shelters and food shelves who had never before asked for assistance. Caseloads rose at staggering rates. Some of the community impacts of this recession are highlighted below.

Ramsey County Economic Indicators

- Food stamp usage increased sharply: 23% from 2008, 62% from 2004.
- Medical Assistance cases increased: 7% from 2008-09, 12% from 2004.
- An estimated 13% of county residents live in poverty, about 65,000 people. Almost one in five children — 23,400 — live in poverty.
- People looking for jobs flocked to Workforce Solutions. Resource Room visits increased 32% from 2008 to 2009, an increase of 129% over 2006. Workshop attendance increased 185% from 2008 to 2009, an increase of 468% from 2006.
- Foreclosures remained high in 2009. There were 427% more foreclosures than in 2004.

More Need, But Fewer Resources to Meet that Need

During an economic recession more residents find themselves in need of county services, often on an emergency basis. At the same time, counties find it difficult to meet this sharply increased need because of declining State and Federal revenues, levy limits, increased

expenses and borrowing costs. As such, Ramsey County worked with government leaders at all levels, nonprofit organizations, businesses and community groups to find creative ways to meet these challenges.

Jobs

Ramsey County's 2009 unemployment rates were the highest in decades. In June 2009 the County had a peak rate of 8.5%. The January 2010 rate was 7.4%. A worrisome shift occurred during the current recession. Historically, Ramsey County's unemployment rate has tended to be lower than the state rate, which in turn was lower than the federal rate. Recently, these rates have become closer, with the state and Ramsey County rates moving toward the higher federal rates.

Medical

Medical costs were a concern for residents. Requests for help with Health Care Only grew by 51% from 2004 to 2009; Health Care Combined with Financial Assistance grew 37%. Active public assistance cases in Ramsey County increased 9% from 2008 and 2009, a 23% increase over 2004. Emergency Assistance requests rose by 39% in 2009.

Food

For Food Assistance, the average monthly caseload was 20,565 in 2009, 23% higher than 2008. General Assistance cases increased 7% for 2008.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE SERVICES

Public Safety is a primary concern for Ramsey County. Services included in this area are provided by the Sheriff's Department, the County Attorney's Office, Court system, Emergency Communications, Medical Examiner, and Community Corrections.

Sheriff's Department

The Sheriff's Department provides crime prevention and law enforcement services and operates the pretrial detention facility (Law Enforcement Center) used by all the local law enforcement agencies in the County. The Sheriff's Department also provides patrol services within certain municipalities.

In 2009, the Sheriff's Department:

- Cleared 73.5% of warrants;
- Housed a daily average of 409 inmates at the Law Enforcement Center.

Community Corrections

Community Corrections has three goals: enhancing community safety, holding offenders accountable for repairing the harm they caused to victims and the community, and engaging offenders in the process of developing the competencies they need to remain law abiding. Community Corrections staff carry out the decisions of the court system and implement conditions of probation and treatment plans for juveniles and adults. The department also operates three institutions that detain juveniles and adults after conviction.



Ramsey County operates several buildings that house individuals that are in the custody of the County. These facilities include the Ramsey County Corrections Facility, Boy's Totem Town, Juvenile and Family Justice Center (pictured), and the pretrial detention center (Law Enforcement Center).

Community Corrections in 2009:

- Provided an opportunity for offenders to repair damage through restorative programs such as Sentence to Service and Community Work Service through 85,607 adult hours valued at \$684,852;
- New data just released by the State regarding recidivism in the metro area reflects that 84% of felons released in 2005 did not have a subsequent felony conviction in the following three years.

County Attorney's Office

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

In 2009, the County Attorney's Office:

- Assisted more than 10,000 families who shared in child support collections of \$59.1 million;
- Reduced the average time to charge a felony case by 63% from 2007.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE SERVICES

Emergency Communications

Emergency Communications answers 911 and non-emergency telephone calls and provides multi-agency dispatching services for law enforcement, fire and emergency medical responders.

2009 Statistics and Highlights:

- The Emergency Communications Center answered a total of 794,190 calls in 2009: 305,015 were 911 calls and 489,175 were calls on non-emergency lines;
- Provided technical support for over 3,000 mobile and portable 800 MHz radio users.

Medical Examiner

The Ramsey County Medical Examiner investigates deaths to provide a truthful and unbiased account to Ramsey County residents, law enforcement, and all appropriate agencies as well as the judicial system. The Medical Examiner's Office also responds to death scenes and conducts investigations daily, at all hours.

2009 Statistics and Highlights:

- Performed a critical role in helping law enforcement clear 73% of homicides;
- Worked diligently with tissue procurement organizations and surviving family members to accomplish many successful tissue donations.



Emergency Communications dispatching center

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, four referees and two magistrates. Judges can hear any criminal or civil matter brought before them, so they are assigned to various calendars as determined by the Chief Judge who has the authority to assign judges and referees. The main Courthouse is located in downtown St. Paul. The Second 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.

TRANSPORTATION, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

Recreational activities are essential for a healthy and fun lifestyle. Ramsey County offers a wealth of opportunities for recreation, both indoors and out. The County boasts parks, lakes, and golf courses among its many outdoor options that enhance the quality of life for the people of Ramsey County.

Also included in this function are important departments such as Public Works, which maintains the roadways within the borders of Ramsey County, as well as the Libraries Department. Ramsey County has seven libraries to choose from with wireless networks available as well.



Parks & Recreation

Green Spaces, Fun Places, Active Lives

Ramsey County maintains over 6,500 acres of parks, trails, open space and recreation areas serving over five million visitors annually. Each park area has a 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 activities. Residents from throughout Ramsey County and the region use these facilities and enjoy the convenience of nearby areas that bring nature and outdoor enjoyment into their lives.

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation:

- Operates 5 golf course and 11 ice arenas;
- Is one of 10 Implementing Agencies for the Metropolitan Regional Park System and receives regional and state grants to acquire, develop, restore, operate, and maintain its regional parks and trails. Ramsey County maintains nine County parks, six regional parks, and six regional trails;
- Is responsible for the management of more land than any other entity in the County;
- Provides access to most lakes in the County, encompassing over 11,000 acres of water for boating and fishing and nine County beaches.

TRANSPORTATION, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

Public Works

The Ramsey County Public Works Department constructs, repairs and maintains roads, maintains and protects a lake system, and conducts land surveys. The Public Works Department is responsible for maintenance and construction of 295 miles of roads and bridges, installation and maintenance of traffic control devices, and snow and ice removal. The Department is also charged with lake improvement for 29 lakes, including drainage management, access ramps, water quality, and shoreline erosion control.

Public Works in 2009:

- Recycled 100% of pavement removed on County roads and utilized recycled parts in construction projects such as aggregates and bituminous millings;
- Reduced the use of sand and salt usage by 30% since 2000 as part of snow and ice control operations.



Libraries

With seven libraries, Ramsey County provides a wide variety of services to its residents including childhood programs, library materials, and digital access to information. To address increasing demand for materials, the Libraries are investing heavily in automation and building improvements to improve workflow.

In 2009, the Ramsey County Libraries:

- Approximately 4.5 million items were circulated;
- Almost 18,000 new customers signed up for library cards;
- More than 1.4 million visits to the Library website, up 5.5% over 2008;
- Over 50,000 people attended Ramsey County Library programs in 2009. The Library offered more than 500 storytimes attended by more than 200,000 kids and caregivers. Children's librarians made 115 school visits, reaching almost 6,000 children. Teen programs were attended by almost 1,000 teens.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Ramsey County Health and Human Services function serves to meet basic human needs by providing protection and assisting clients in achieving self-sufficiency. The departments in this function are responsible for providing financial, mental health, social, and job training services to a variety of groups including low income, elderly, disabled, homeless, mentally ill, abused, and vulnerable children and adults, among others.

Community Human Services

CHS receives a combination of federal, state, and local funds to administer and deliver services to approximately 80,000 children and families, low-income and homeless, elderly and physically disabled, chemically dependent, mentally ill, and developmental disabled residents.

The Department's mission is "Making a Difference: Helping People Survive and Thrive" by providing resources to meet basic needs, assuring protection for the vulnerable, and assisting self-sufficiency, all in the most cost-effective manner.

In 2009, Community Human Services:

- Took 44,059 applications for clients applying for financial and medical assistance, and food support;
- Took 1,321 intake reports of child maltreatment;
- Provided 99% of children in crisis with a mental health assessment within 24 hours;
- Finalized 87 adoptions;
- Supported 65 youth to attend post secondary education;
- Took 5,802 admissions into the Detoxification Center; and
- Provided case management services to approximately 6,000 adults and children with disabilities.



The St. Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health

The Department ensures good health for all residents by working to prevent the spread of disease, protect against environmental hazards, prevent injuries, promote healthy behavior, respond to disasters, and assure accessibility of health services.

The emergence of the H1N1 pandemic posed a major challenge for the Department in 2009. Public Health staff worked extensively to inform the community about the new virus and to promote flu prevention. Public Health staff also worked to vaccinate thousands of County residents, and emergency medical and health care workers at 12 clinics held from October thru December of 2009.

In addition to responding to the H1N1 outbreak, department staff also continued to provide regular public health services including:

- Provided 24,806 nurse home visits to 1,842 families – including 820 families headed by teen parents;
- Vaccinated 7,523 adults and children to prevent infectious diseases;
- Helped 31,465 women and children get supplemental nutritious food, and nutrition education and counseling;
- Provided access for over 22,000 primary care clinic visits to people who are uninsured or underinsured.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Lake Owasso Residence

The Lake Owasso Residence provides licensed residential services to adults with developmental disabilities and complex medical and social needs.

Lake Owasso Residence:

- Provides 64 adults with developmental disabilities programming and medical services to prevent regression or loss of functional ability and promote self determination and independence;
- Has eight one-level homes with separate bedrooms and common areas for residents age 17-50's on a campus setting in Shoreview.

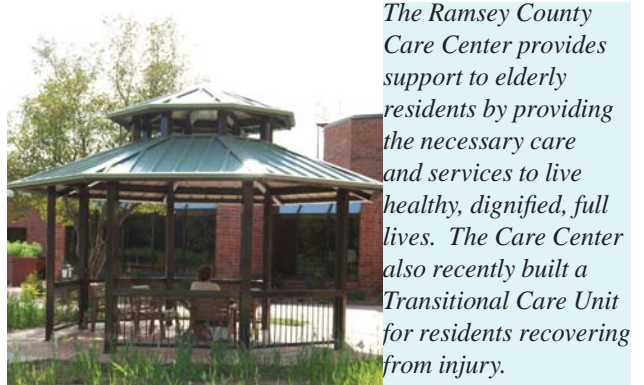
Ramsey County Care Center

The Ramsey County Care Center (formerly Ramsey Nursing Home) has been serving the community since 1854 and is built on a commitment to serving residents and their families. The County operates the Ramsey County Care Center to support its residents. Here, elderly citizens are provided the necessary care and services to live healthy, dignified, full lives.

Ramsey County Care Center's 26 bed Transitional Care Unit combines the advantages of rehabilitation and long-term care with the services of an acute care hospital. The goal is for each patient to achieve the highest level of independence through individualized treatment plans. The Care Center also provides residential long-term care for 152 residents.

Workforce Solutions

The mission of Workforce Solutions is to strengthen the economic success of our community through personalized and effective workforce development. Workforce Solutions does this by providing employment counseling and training opportunities to job seekers, and various support services to employers.



The Ramsey County Care Center provides support to elderly residents by providing the necessary care and services to live healthy, dignified, full lives. The Care Center also recently built a Transitional Care Unit for residents recovering from injury.

In 2009, Workforce Solutions:

- Helped over 15,777 clients search for employment; and
- Helped over 1,200 laid off workers secure new employment

Veterans Services

The Ramsey County Veteran Services Office (RCVSO) provides guidance, assistance and advocacy to the veterans and active military service members of Ramsey County, their dependents and survivors. The staff of Ramsey County Veterans Services are available to assist with applying for all veteran's benefits provided by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Veterans and their survivors were assisted in receiving over \$47 million dollars in VA pension and compensation benefits and \$61 million dollars in VA medical care and educational benefits in 2009.

In 2009, the department:

- Moved to a new location at 90 W. Plato Blvd., Ste 210, St Paul, MN with new contact number 651-266-2545. The office at Plato is easy to access and provides abundant parking for veterans and their families. A snapshot look at statistics indicates the office is seeing an average of twice as many veterans monthly at the new location.

TAXPAYER SERVICES AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

The Taxpayer Services and County Administration Function covers a wide range of vital County services. This function includes the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, County Manager's Office, Property Management, Information Services, as well as Property Records, Revenue, and Elections. Information Services maintains the County's technical infrastructure. Property Management is charged with maintaining the buildings and grounds that are owned by Ramsey County. Property Records, Revenue, and Elections handles real estate documents and appraisals.



St. Paul City Hall/Ramsey County Courthouse

Property Management

The Property Management Department provides facility and project management services for County owned and leased buildings. The Department manages over 2 million rentable square feet in 19 major County owned buildings.

In 2009, Property Management:

- Continued to provide exceptional building services while maintaining an operating cost per gross square foot of \$6.33 for their buildings;
- Instituted a "Green Cleaning" program resulting in the elimination of 74 potentially hazardous cleaning products and introduced 41 Green Seal Certified cleaning products;
- Provided voice services to more than 6,700 County, City of St. Paul, and Minnesota 2nd Judicial District Court users;

- Completed the purchase of Metro Square Office building, thus paving the way for the County to vacate the RCGC-West and former jail properties on the riverfront;
- Completed the design work and began construction of the Ramsey County Library in Roseville Renovation and Expansion Project. This project will be completed in 2010.

County Board and Administration

This functional area includes operations and funding for the County Board and County Manager's Office, including Human Resources, Budgeting and Accounting, and Emergency Management.

TAXPAYER SERVICES AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Information Services

IS administers and coordinates the County's computer technology infrastructure, applications support, records management, technology acquisition, and maintains its website.

In 2009, the Information Services Department:

- Had computer systems available during 98% of business hours;
- Had over 300,000 visits each month on the County's website.

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 the County, and collecting and distributing property taxes. The Department is also responsible for the facilitation of state, local, and national elections.

In 2009, the Examiner of Titles Office joined the Department and:

- Issued 1,269 Directives and Certificates of Examiner
- Reported on 1,089 title defects cases
- Conducted 1,476 hearings

The Recorder's Office recoded, indexed, and returned over 97,000 real estate documents to customers.

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



Ramsey County has a wide variety of services available on their website. Here, you can find anything from how to do business with Ramsey County, to job openings, to information on the public golf courses throughout the County. All of this and more can be found at www.co.ramsey.mn.us.

The Assessor's Office completed 33,193 property reappraisals and 2,495 review appraisals.

The year began for the Elections Office much as 2008 ended – in the midst of the dispute between the two major party candidates for the U.S. Senate. Several administrative improvements were implemented in response to the issues that arose during the trial, including a double-check of all rejected absentee ballots, improved instructions to absentee voters and a follow-up letter and phone call or email message to each voter whose absentee ballot was rejected. The audit trail used to verify the number of persons voting in the election was also revised and as a consequence, a dramatic improvement in these statistics occurred.

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, the Ramsey County Landmark Center, and the County Extension Service.

REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY

The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority was organized in 1987 by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. The Authority is dedicated to a long-range vision of transit services to meet changing needs for today and for succeeding generations.

The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority is composed of the seven members of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. In 2009, the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority participated on LOCATE, Red Rock Corridor Commission, Rush Line Corridor Task Force, Midwest High Speed Rail Association, Northeast policy Advisory Committee, Robert street Steering Committee, Central Corridor Partnership, Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission, I-94 Corridor Commission, and the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB).

CTIB is a joint powers organization that includes members from Ramsey, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, and Washington Counties. The counties voted to impose an excise and sales tax to fund transitways in their counties.

In 2009, the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority made its second installment payment on the purchase of the Post Office concourse and purchased the Union Depot Head house, furthering plans to implement the Union Depot as a multi-modal transit hub. In the comprehensive long-range transit vision laid out by the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, many modes of transit will come together at the refurbished Union Depot.

The Union Depot multi-modal transit hub represents the next stage in the metro region's transportation future. A revitalized Union Depot will blend transit modes that exist today with others that are programmed in the region's long-range plan in one historic location. It will serve regional, state, and community needs and is the terminus for the Central Corridor light rail line.

Commuters and visitors arriving on trains will connect with local transit lines to get to jobs, government services, pro sports and entertainment venues, shopping and restaurants.

For more information on the transit plans set forth by the Regional Railroad Authority, please visit their website at <http://www.regionalrail.org/>.



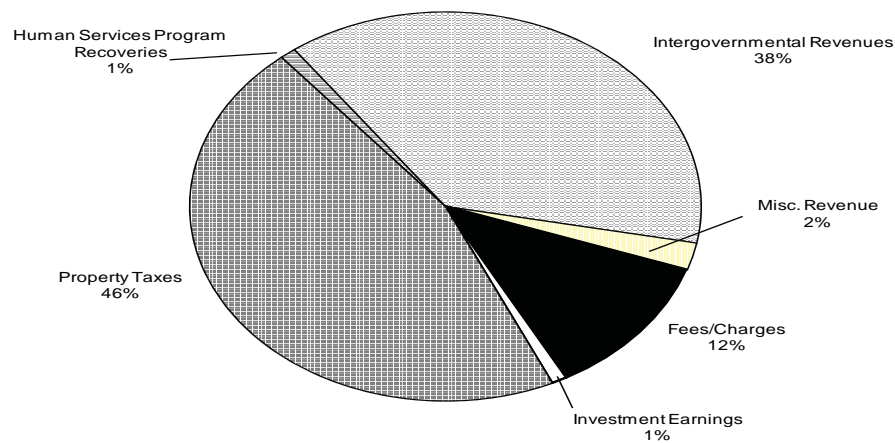
An artist's rendering of the fully remodeled Union Depot in downtown St. Paul, with construction to begin in 2010 and be completed in 2012. The refurbished Union Depot will serve as a regional hub for transportation and transit services, including serving as a terminus for the Central Corridor light rail line.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

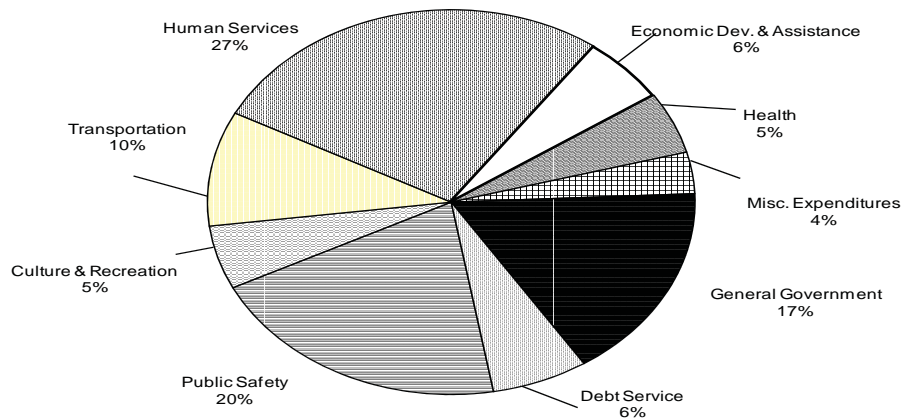
This section presents summarized financial statements for the County. The County uses two formats for presenting its financial statements. Government-wide, which is similar to a private sector business, shows a broad overview of the County's financial standing and reflects a long-term focus. The fund financial statements, on the other hand, provide a look at an individual fund's assets, liabilities, and fund balance and reflects a short-term focus. For more detailed financial statements, please refer to the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) found on the County's website at www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ba/index.htm.

The information presented in the graphs is derived from the fund financial statements.

Where County Revenue Comes From...

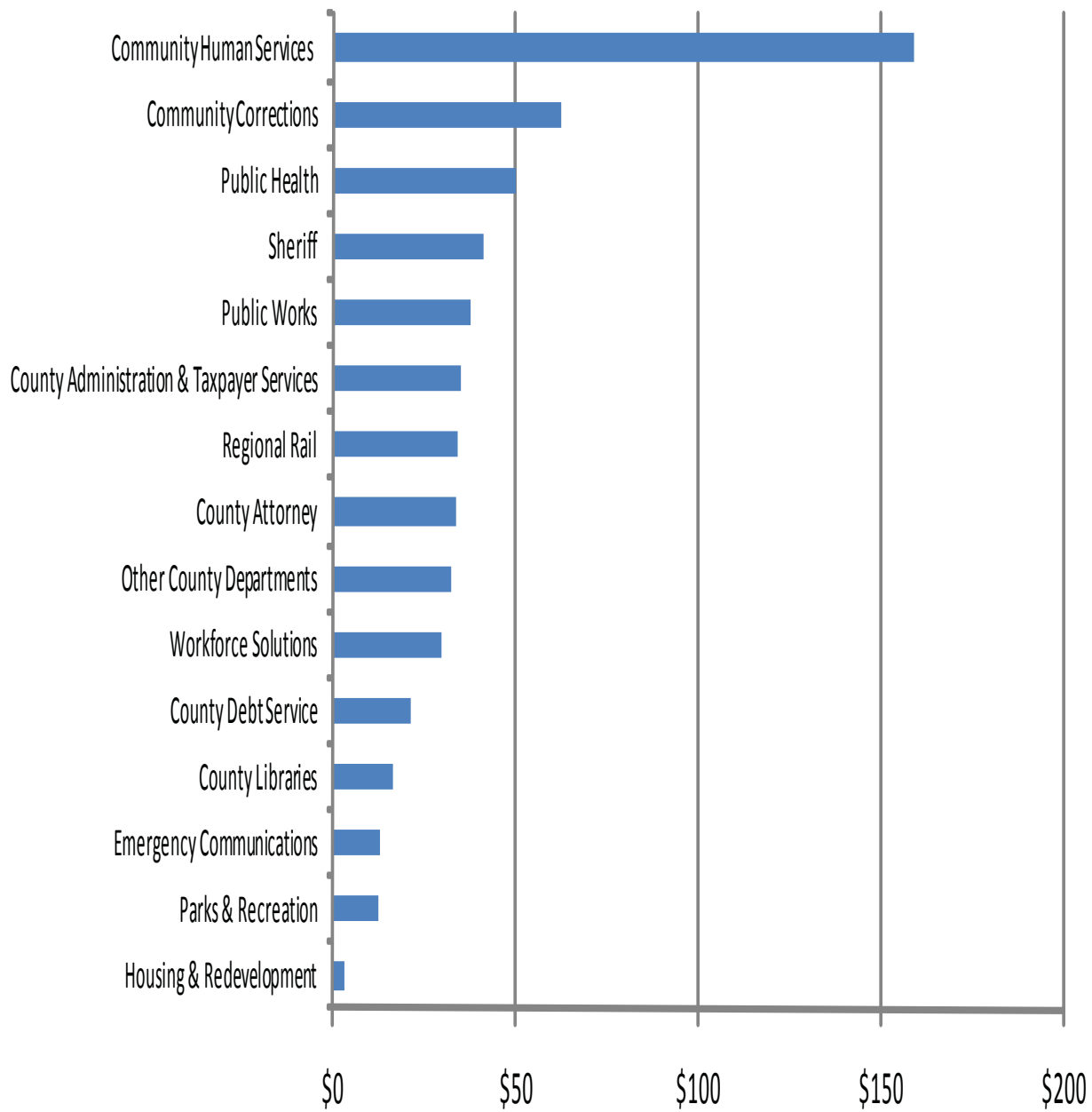


Where County Revenue Goes...

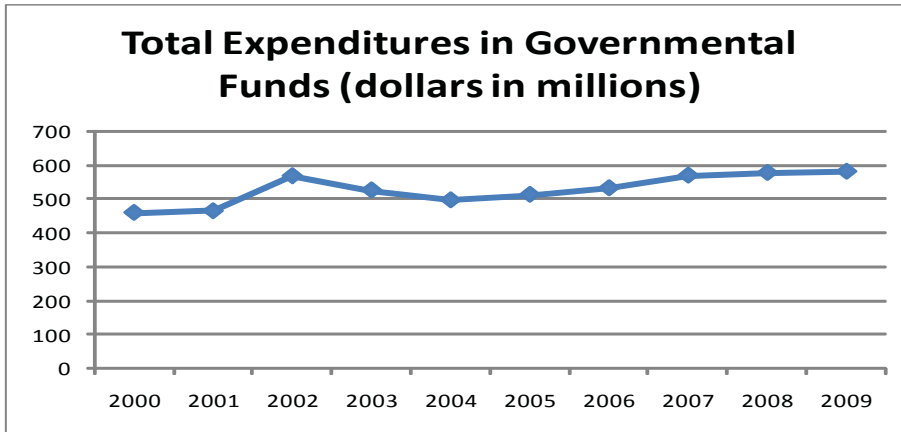


EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT

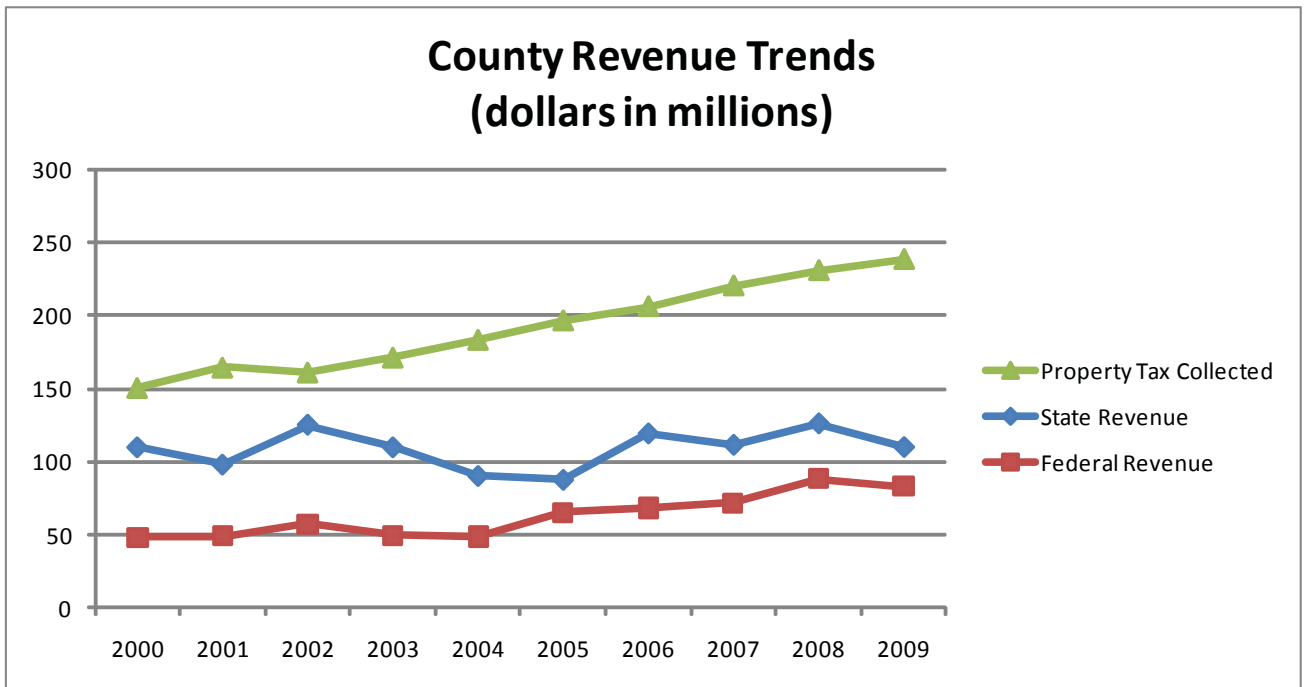
2009 Actual Expenditures - Governmental Funds (dollars in millions)



MULTI-YEAR FUNDING TRENDS



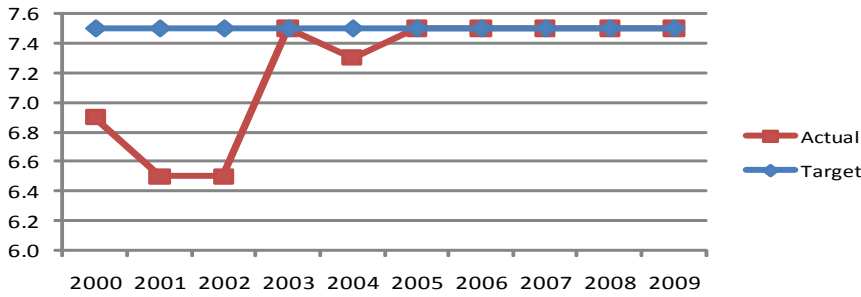
Total County expenditures have increased from a recent low in 2004 and are now at funding levels similar to 2002. Total County expenditures in 2009 were \$580,707,534



The Ramsey County property tax levy has been trending upward since 2000, primarily as a result of flat or reduced State aid. Property taxes provided 36% of the County’s budget in 2000, but increased to 46% by 2009. State aid has failed to keep pace with population growth, increased service demands and inflationary cost pressures. State revenues include County Program Aid, Market Value Homestead Credit Aid, categorical grants and road construction funding.

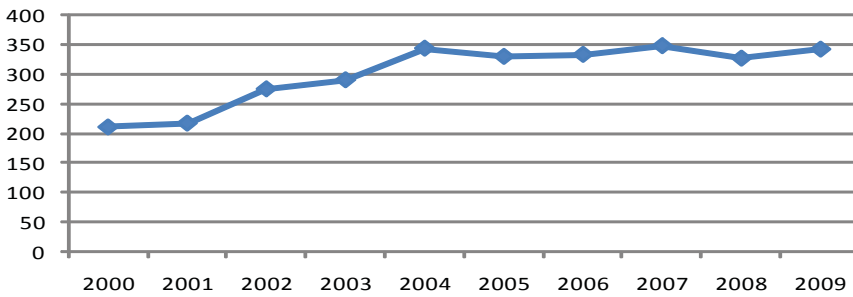
MULTI-YEAR FUNDING TRENDS

**Undesignated Fund Balance
(as a % of subsequent year's budget)**



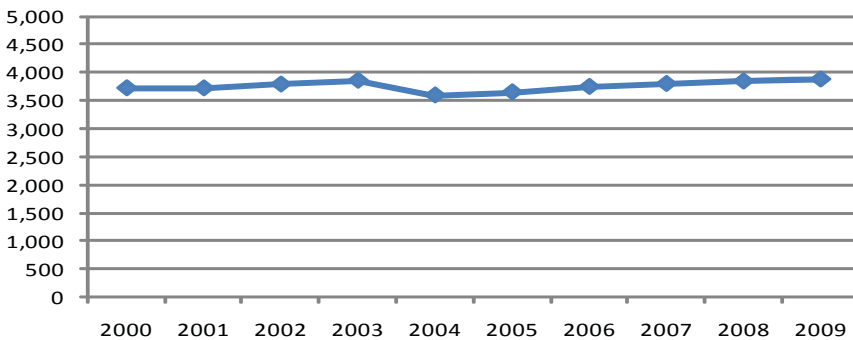
Ramsey County currently maintains a target of 7.5% of its subsequent year's budget for its year-end undesignated fund balance (emergency reserves). This allows adequate cash flow for County operations and provides financial flexibility to address unexpected revenue losses.

**Net Bonded Debt Per Capita
(in dollars per capita)**



Low interest rates and rapid repayment have 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 fall within the low to moderate benchmark set by credit rating agencies for "triple A" counties.

County Employees (budgeted FTEs)



The number of County employees has been relatively stable since 2000, notwithstanding increased population growth and higher demand for services by the public. Year-to-year fluctuations can occur based on changes in Federal, State, and local revenues.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENTS

The information presented in the following section is derived from the government-wide financial statements.

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Total Current Assets | \$ 457,132,789 | \$ 440,753,759 |
| Total Non Current Assets | 693,869,439 | 670,604,767 |
| Total Assets | <u>\$ 1,151,002,228</u> | <u>\$ 1,111,358,526</u> |
| Liabilities | | |
| Total Current Liabilities | \$ 105,391,097 | \$ 91,059,762 |
| Total Non Current Liabilities | 276,154,538 | 274,872,847 |
| Total Liabilities | <u>\$ 381,545,635</u> | <u>\$ 365,932,609</u> |
| Net Assets | | |
| Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt | \$ 494,518,908 | \$ 463,216,707 |
| Restricted for: | | |
| Debt Service | 37,927,305 | 37,838,626 |
| Capital Projects | 4,298,813 | 2,896,889 |
| Solid Waste | 19,594,595 | 19,925,240 |
| Other Purposes | 2,831,310 | 1,243,446 |
| Unrestricted | 210,285,662 | 220,305,009 |
| Total Net Assets | <u>\$ 769,456,593</u> | <u>\$ 745,425,917</u> |

Assets

- Current Assets include Cash, Receivables and Inventories
- Non Current Assets are primarily Capital Assets such as Land, Buildings, Infrastructure and Equipment

Liabilities

- Current Liabilities are payables or obligations that are due and will be paid in the following year
- Non Current Liabilities are obligations that are not due and will be paid at a later date

Net Assets

- Total Net Assets are broken down into three categories; Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt; Restricted; and Unrestricted. Invested in Capital Assets such as Land, Buildings, and Equipment, although reported net of related debt, are resources that are not available to meet the County's ongoing financial needs. Restricted Assets are those in which a legal or contractual "restriction" has been placed on the asset assuring its use for a specific purpose such as Debt Service. On the other hand, Unrestricted Net Assets are assets that the County holds for general purposes and are available for spending. This is primarily Cash and Receivables.

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

The Statement of Net Assets presents the County's capital and cash assets, minus the Current and Non Current Liabilities such as payables currently due and long-term debt. The resulting amount is stated as "net assets." The table on the previous page shows that the County has increased its total net assets by 3.2% between 2008 and 2009.

Below you will find some highlights and explanations of major changes to our Statement of Net Assets from 2008 to 2009.

Assets:

- Assets stayed relatively stable from 2008 to 2009. Increases occurred in Current Assets such as Cash and Non Current Assets such as Buildings and Improvements because of less spending in 2009 and the completion of some major capital projects

Liabilities:

- The State of Minnesota sent all counties a contingency reserve for the Medicare revenue Child Welfare – Targeted Case Management Program because of an expected reduction from the Federal government. When these reductions were not made at the Federal level, the State required the counties to return the reserve funds. A liability was set up to recognize the repayments to the State. The large portion of the increase in current liabilities was the result of recognizing this liability

Net Assets Invested in Capital Assets:

- Net Assets Invested in Capital Assets increased due to additions to Capital Assets through the County's 6-year Capital Improvement Program

Capital Projects:

- The year-end balance in Capital Projects increased due to the slow timing of project cash flow needs

Other Purposes:

- The increase was due to less spending in the County Recorder's Equipment Special Revenue Fund, which is a restricted asset by State Statute

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

| Program Revenues: | 2009 | 2008 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fees, Fines, Charges, and Other | \$ 109,636,318 | \$ 114,497,212 |
| Operating Grants and Contributions | 164,308,369 | 178,801,767 |
| Capital Grants and Contributions | 20,994,338 | 17,386,082 |
| General Revenues: | | |
| Property Taxes | 261,103,048 | 251,168,844 |
| Grants and Contributions Not Restricted to Specific Programs | 28,042,678 | 23,843,634 |
| Investment Earnings | 5,767,194 | 15,293,305 |
| Gain/(Loss) on Disposition of Capital Assets | 647,829 | 2,539,681 |
| Total Revenues | \$ 590,499,774 | \$ 603,530,525 |
| Program Expenses: | | |
| Public Safety and Justice | \$ 159,720,569 | \$ 127,723,864 |
| Health and Human Services | 241,463,739 | 258,804,808 |
| Transportation, Recreation, and Cultural Services | 76,640,226 | 52,606,589 |
| Taxpayer Services and County Administration | 50,163,108 | 96,712,755 |
| Interest | 8,322,655 | 8,590,471 |
| Business Type Activities: | | |
| Lake Owasso Residence | 8,479,113 | 8,772,381 |
| Ponds at Battle Creek | 655,002 | 738,633 |
| Ramsey Care Center | 15,082,263 | 14,400,779 |
| Law Enforcement Services | 5,942,423 | 5,582,194 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 566,469,098 | \$ 573,932,474 |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets | \$ 24,030,676 | \$ 29,598,051 |

Program Revenues

- Includes fees, fines and other charges; and Federal and State operating and capital grants

General Revenues

- Includes property taxes, grants that are not restricted in nature, investment earnings and the net gain or loss on disposed capital assets

Program Expenses

- Includes operating expenses for all County departments and programs including Business-Type Activities such as Lake Owasso Residence, Ramsey County Care Center, the Ponds at Battle Creek and Law Enforcement Services

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Statement of Activities presents the County's change in net assets over a given period. This statement does not take into account the timing of related cash flows. The County's total revenue decreased by \$13,030,751, or 2.2%, between 2008 and 2009. The revenue reduction was largely the result of cutbacks in State funding and lower earnings on investments due to the downturn in the economy. To offset these revenue reductions the County instituted cost-containment measures including service reductions and leaving vacant positions unfilled. These cost-containment measures are reflected in the 1.3% decrease in expenses between 2008 and 2009.

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 fiscally responsible government, and will continue to provide essential services while maintaining strong financial management.

Several factors led to significant increases and decreases on the Statement of Activities for 2009. Below is a brief description of some of the major changes that occurred.

Program Revenues:

- Fees, Fines and Other Charges decreased due to reduced business activity during the recession
- Operating Grants and Contributions decreased in 2009 due to the County beginning to use the centralized State Child Care payment system (MEC2). Prior to that conversion, the County paid over \$20 million in child care expenditures to vendors. The new system disburses checks directly from the State
- The Public Works Department received more funding through State and Federal grants for road construction, which increased capital grants
- Property tax revenues increased slightly from 2008
- The County shared revenues from the State (grants and contributions not restricted to specific purposes) increased in 2009 for County Program Aid and Highway User Tax Revenue, although less than originally projected after State funding reductions
- Interest rates continued to decrease in 2009 which resulted in reductions in investment earnings
- Disposition of capital assets spiked in 2008 when the County sold the Sheriff Patrol Station. This category resumed a more normal level in 2009

Program Expenses:

- The majority of the change in Public Safety and Justice was the result of reclassification of the Adult Correctional Facility addition and Emergency Communication Assets in 2008
- A significant reclassification of Regional Railroad Fund expenses increased Transportation, Recreation and Cultural Services and decreased Taxpayer Services and County Administration
- Health and Human Services declined due to State funding reductions that were explained in Operating Grants and Contributions above

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT MANAGEMENT

The County's investment in capital assets for its governmental and business type activities as of December 31, 2009, amounts to \$647,049,933 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings, improvements, equipment, park facilities, roads, highways, and bridges. The total increase in the County's investment in capital assets for the current fiscal year was 3.8% (a 3.7% increase for governmental activities and a 0.1% increase for business-type activities), which included the following events:

- A variety of street construction projects continued into 2009.
- Regional Rail purchased the Head House for \$5.5 million as a part of the overall plan to transform the Union Depot into a multi-modal transportation hub.
- Roseville Library started a major update of \$18 million in 2009.
- The Metro Square Building was purchased for \$4.1 million to relocate staff from the West Building to make way for redevelopment of the St. Paul riverfront.

Capital Assets (Net of Depreciation)

| | Governmental Activities | | Business-type Activities | | Total | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Land | \$98,201,461 | \$90,715,687 | \$107,073 | \$107,073 | \$98,308,534 | \$90,822,760 |
| Buildings & Improvements | 234,898,633 | 230,801,370 | 7,461,299 | 7,670,852 | 242,359,932 | 238,472,222 |
| Improvements Other Than Buildings | 14,520,109 | 15,777,893 | 3,083,411 | 2,936,850 | 17,603,520 | 18,714,743 |
| Equipment | 26,451,620 | 28,612,169 | 624,387 | 554,052 | 27,076,007 | 29,166,221 |
| Infrastructure | 192,191,207 | 184,420,970 | - | - | 192,191,207 | 184,420,970 |
| Construction in Progress | 69,510,733 | 62,282,012 | - | - | 69,510,733 | 62,282,012 |
| Total | \$635,773,763 | \$612,610,101 | \$11,276,170 | \$11,268,827 | \$647,049,933 | \$623,878,928 |

Outstanding Debt General Obligation and Revenue Bonds

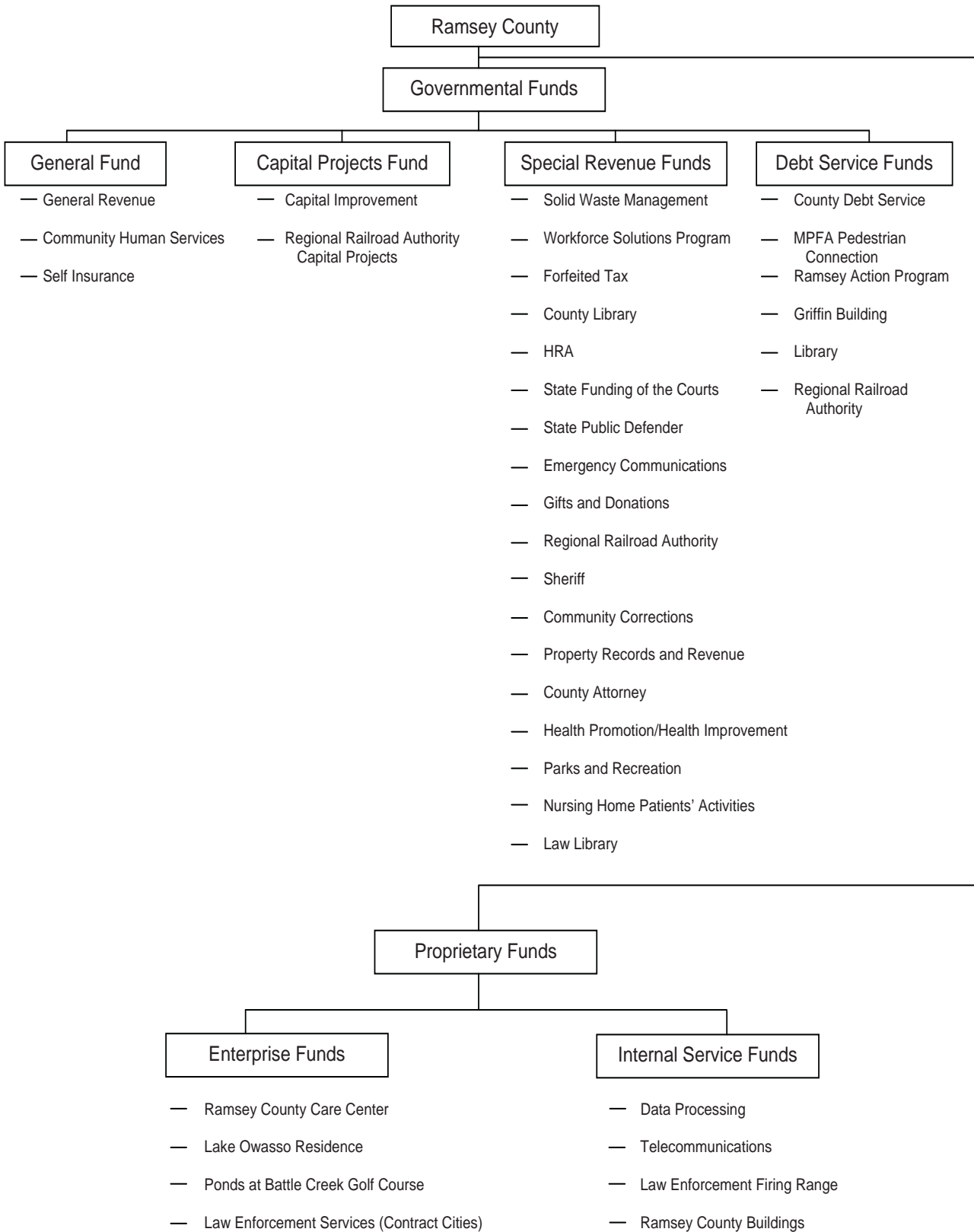
| | Governmental Activities | | Business-type Activities | | Total | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 |
| General Obligation Bonds | \$180,170,000 | \$170,290,000 | \$7,420,000 | \$7,840,000 | \$187,590,000 | \$178,130,000 |
| Notes Payable | 5,712,000 | 5,897,000 | - | - | 5,712,000 | 5,897,000 |
| Lease Revenue Bonds | 11,360,000 | 11,890,000 | - | - | 11,360,000 | 11,890,000 |
| Total | \$197,242,000 | \$188,077,000 | \$7,420,000 | \$7,840,000 | \$204,662,000 | \$195,917,000 |

Ramsey County issued \$22 million in debt (after debt repayment) in 2009 for building renovation/expansion, road construction and other projects. Total bonded debt increased by \$8,745,000 (4.46%).

The County maintains a "AAA" rating from Standard & Poor's and a "Aaa" rating from Moody's for its general obligation debt.

Minnesota state statutes limit the amount of general obligation debt a County may issue to 3% of its total market value of taxable property in the County. The current debt limitation for the County is \$1.4 billion, which is significantly in excess of its outstanding general obligation debt. Additional information on the County's long-term debt can be found in note IV.I on pages 53-57 of the 2009 CAFR.

RAMSEY COUNTY FUND STRUCTURE





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