
Sponsor: County Manager's Office

Meeting Date: 6/18/2024

Title: Minnesota Council on Local Results and Innovation's
Performance Measurement Program

File Number: 2024-195

Background and Rationale:

In 2010, the Minnesota Legislature created the Council on Local Results and Innovation with the direction to develop standard performance measures and comprehensive performance measurement systems for cities and counties. The purpose of the Minnesota State Auditor Performance Measurement Program for Local Governments ("Program") is to "aid residents, taxpayers, and state and local elected officials in determining the efficacy and effectiveness of counties and cities in providing services, and measure residents' opinions of those services " (Minnesota Statutes 6.90, Subdivision 2). Each participating county is required to select measures from the 27 items identified in the "Standard Measures for Counties" prepared by the Council on Local Results and Innovation, implement a system for measuring them, and report the Minnesota Council on Local Results and Innovation - State Auditor Performance results to residents by the end of that calendar year. The report to residents should be distributed through publication, direct mailing, website posting or at a public hearing at which the budget and levy will be discussed and public input be allowed.

Ramsey County staff examined the items listed in the "Standard Measures for Counties" and selected measures that provide a brief, high-level view of the county. These are the same measures that are proposed for submission this publishing year. They include:

- Crime rates per 100,000 residents
- Average county pavement condition rating
- Percentage of low birth-weight births
- Property value assessment ratios
- Accuracy of post-election audit (percent of ballots counted accurately)
- Dollars brought into county for veterans' benefits
- Number of annual park and library visits per 1,000 residents
- County bond ratings
- Recycling percentage

On June 25, 2013, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved county participation in the Program and the list of measures (Resolution 2013-182). The county has continued to participate in the Program. The 2023 Ramsey County Minnesota Local Government Performance Measures Report was prepared according to the Program requirements. This report was posted on the county's public [website](https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/open-government/research-data) [<https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/open-government/research-data>](https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/open-government/research-data). The same process for publishing and making the report available will be followed in 2024.

One of the benefits from participating in the Program is a reimbursement of up to \$25,000 from the state of Minnesota. In past years, the funds have been used to fund the work of the county's Policy & Planning Division in the County Manager's Office to maintain and refine the county's performance measurement processes, and to fund the county's Progressive Internship Program.

To participate in this voluntary program, Ramsey County must file a report with the Minnesota Office of the State Auditor by July 1. The report includes a resolution to demonstrate the county's continued commitment to the program, including the submission of the report to the Minnesota Office of the State Auditor and the release of its performance measures report to the public.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve continuation of Ramsey County's participation in the Minnesota Council on Local Results and Innovation's Performance Measurement Program, as well as public distribution of the performance measures report via the county's website.
2. Ratify the County Manager's submission of Ramsey County's annual report of its adopted performance measures to the Minnesota Office of the State Auditor.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McGuire, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Frethem, Martinson, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board

Minnesota Council on Local Results and Innovation’s Performance Measurement Program: 2024 Report

Ramsey County participates in the Minnesota Council on Local Results and Innovation’s comprehensive performance measurement system for cities and counties. This program encourages local governments to publish and compare information on their activities. The data items were selected from a list provided by the state. Many of the items in the State system are included in the County’s own performance measures.

Public Safety: Crime Rates (per 100,000 people)	2019	2020	2021	2022
Part I Crimes (Serious Crimes)	3,779	4,051		
Part II Crimes (Other Crimes)	3,670	3,527		
Total	7,449	7,578		
Group A Offenses (per 100,000 people)			8,280	8,125
Group B Arrests			2,667	2,679
The uniform crime statistics program is a standard way of comparing crime patterns across jurisdictions. Source: State of Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, “Uniform Crime Report,” 2018 (Section 4.4.2), 2019 (Section 4.4.2) and 2020 (Section 4.4.2). In 2021, the UCR report changed considerably and included new terminology related to arrests (Group A vs. Group B offenses and arrests). 2021 data on Group A and Group B offenses cannot be compared to the previous years’ data.				

Public Works: Pavement Conditions	2020	2021	2022	2023
Average pavement condition rating for county roads	62.1	60.4	60.98	61.86
Roads are regularly examined and rated, on a scale of 1 to 100, using a standardized system developed by MnDOT. The results are used to plan and implement county maintenance operations efficiently. Source: Ramsey County Public Works.				

Public Health, Social Services: Low Birth Weight	2020	2021	2022	2023
Low birth weight births (percent of all live, singleton births with weight < 2500 grams)	6.6%	6.8%	7.0%	8.0%
Babies born weighing less than 2500 grams (5lb. 8 oz.) have greater health risks than babies born at a higher birth weight, including poorer health outcomes and a greater likelihood of death before their first birthday. Reducing such risks will reduce health care costs, decrease use of social services programs, and increase family wellbeing. Sources: Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota County Health Tables, “Nativity Table 10. Preterm and Birth Weight of Singleton Births by State/County/ CHB, Minnesota Residents,” 2014-2020; County Health Rankings & Roadmaps.				

Property Records, Evaluation, Assessment: Assessment Ratios	2020	2021	2022	2023
Residential Assessment Ratio	94.78	94.30	97.72	97.60%
Apartment Assessment Ratio	97.00	97.36	95.64	100.24%
Commercial Assessment Ratio	92.89	97.62	92.72	94.42%
Industrial Assessment Ratio	98.02	97.73	92.46	94.51%
Assessment ratios of assessed values to market sales are part of the Minnesota Department of Revenue’s annual analysis of the accuracy of property value assessments. Assessors are required to have ratios between 90% and 105%. If values are less than 100, the assessed values tend to be lower than market sales. Source: Ramsey County Assessor.				

Elections: Accuracy of post-election audit	2020	2021	2022	2023
Ballots counted accurately -- post-election review	100.00%	*	100.00%	*
After elections, the results of ballot counting are reviewed to determine the accuracy of the counting process. 99.5% is the minimum accuracy required by the state. Source: Ramsey County Elections. *State-county elections are not conducted in odd-numbered years.				

Veterans Services: Benefits Received by Veterans	2020	2021	2022	2023
Federal pension and disability benefits for veterans and survivor	\$74.75 million	\$78.60 million	\$90.34 million	92.55 million
Value of VA Medical Care Services which includes state of the art Primary and Specialty Care as well as many programs and services.	\$107.17 million	\$107.07 million	\$116.45 million	125.51 million
Veterans Services provides counseling and other assistance, including advocacy for veterans, their dependents, and survivors who are entitled to federal and state benefits; enrollment in the VA Medical Care System; and referral to other programs and services provided within the VA Medical Care System. Source: Ramsey County Veterans Services.				

Parks, Libraries: Visits	2020	2021	2022	2023
Ramsey County Regional Parks (visits per 1,000 residents)	N/A*	5,903	14,997	N/A*
Ramsey County Library (physical visits per 1,000 residents)	1,404	1,977	2,967	3,382
Ramsey County Library (virtual visits per 1,000 residents)	26,351	32,838	30,588	34,446
Parks: Numbers indicate visits to Ramsey County's six regional parks and six regional trails. They do not include visits to nine county parks, which are not tracked. Sources: Metropolitan Council, "2018 Park Use Estimates Dashboard," https://metro council.org/Parks/Services/Parks-Research/Regional-Park-System-Annual-Use-Estimates.aspx (as the Metropolitan Council changed its methodology with its 2017 report, these numbers have been recalculated and are not comparable to the numbers in reports that Ramsey County previously submitted to the Office of the State Auditor); Metropolitan Council, "Appendix A: Detailed 2019 Visitation Estimate," https://metro council.org/Parks/Publications-And-Resources/PARK-USE-REPORTS/2019-Regional-Park-System-Use-Estimate-Methodology.aspx . For more reference the Met Council annual use estimate can be found here . *Due to COVID-19, the Metropolitan Council did not produce parks use estimate in 2020. ** 2022 data is not available. Libraries: Traditionally, libraries have tracked physical visits as a measure of services. As the use of digital library materials becomes more common, Ramsey County is also tracking virtual visits. Source: Ramsey County Library.				

Budget, Financial: Bond ratings	2020	2021	2022	2023
Standard & Poor's Ratings Services	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA
Moody's Investor Services	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa
Rating agencies examine a county's financial and management characteristics to rate whether the bonds will be safe investments. Source: Ramsey County Finance.				

Environment: Recycling percentage	2020	2021	2022	2023
Mixed municipal solid waste (MSW) recycled	46.2%	46%	51.3%	67%
Recycling is critical for reducing the impact of waste on the environment. Source: Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health.				