



# Richfield's 2023 Legislative Priorities

January 12, 2023



# Welcome from the Mayor

**Support** legislation that addresses the widening existing economic, racial, health and education gaps, and the adverse impacts a warming climate will have on our most vulnerable communities

**Support** local officials who know what tools and programs best support our residents

**Oppose** the imposition of legislative mandates that increase local costs without a corresponding state appropriation or funding mechanism

**Mayor Mary Supple**  
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# Remarks from City Council Members



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**Sharon Christensen,  
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# Top Legislative Priorities, 2023

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- ★ **SUPPORT** a bonding bill for a new Wood Lake Nature Center facility
- ★ **SUPPORT** legislation which would provide the City of Richfield the authorization to propose a local sales tax (LST) to support regionally significant park projects
- ★ **SUPPORT** local control of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

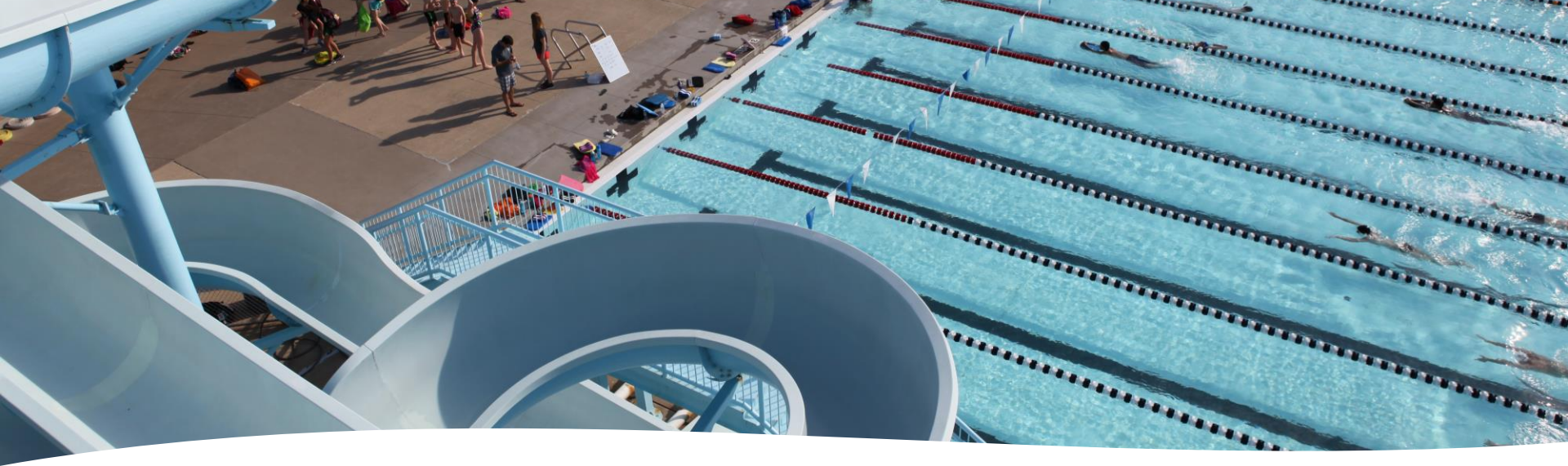




# **SUPPORT a bonding bill that appropriates \$12M towards a new Wood Lake Nature Center facility**

- This beloved and vital regional asset is turning 52 years old in 2023
- Center needs a new building and improved trail system
- 22,500+ people attend programs each year
- Serves people from all areas of the Twin Cities metro including visitors from greater Minnesota





**SUPPORT legislation  
which allows  
Richfield the  
authorization to  
propose a local sales  
tax (LST)**

- LST funds would support regionally significant park projects
- The projects must also include the length of time the funding will be in effect
- Provides additional long-term funding for future large-scale public projects



# SUPPORT local control of Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

- Allow local government to designate which licensed ambulance service or provider(s) may serve their communities to ensure the appropriate level of service
- Local government should be provided with tools and authority to ensure transparency and responsiveness by EMS providers





## Executive

- ★ **SUPPORT** legislation which allows cities *greater flexibility* for remote participation for city council, board and commission members under the Open Meeting Law, while addressing the public's needs to be fully informed of city decision-making





# Administrative Services

- ⦿ **OPPOSE** the elimination of current Minnesota Law (Coleman Act) that allows an open wholesale system for alcoholic beverages (spirits)
- ★ **SUPPORT** full reimbursement to cities for the cost of providing continued health insurance coverage for police and firefighters disabled or killed in the line of duty
- ★ **SUPPORT** reimbursement to cities for the cost of covering employees who are out on military leave
- ★ **SUPPORT** legislative action to address increasing workers' compensation costs and the presumptive clause for coverage for Police Officers and Firefighters for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

# Administrative Services, cont...

- ★ **SUPPORT** policies that provide opportunities for employees diagnosed with PTSD to receive treatment for PTSD that could result in continued employment with the local government
- ★ **SUPPORT** splitting revenue from mail or online vehicle transactions with deputy registrars and increase both filing fees and appropriations to the vehicle services operating account





# Community Development

- **OPPOSE** legislation or rule change that limits local authority related to the decision-making functions performed by cities
- ★ **SUPPORT** Housing Infrastructure Bonds for affordable housing
- ★ **SUPPORT** legislation for the preservation and rehabilitation of naturally occurring affordable housing properties



# Community Development, cont....

- ★ **SUPPORT** local autonomy in the development and approval of comprehensive plans and official controls
- ★ **SUPPORT** an amendment the Minnesota State Building Code to allow cities to require electric vehicle infrastructure in new construction
- ★ **SUPPORT** amendment to the TIF statute to allow 10% of units at 30% of the Area Median Income in a Housing TIF District





A person wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt is seated at a desk, working on financial documents. Their hands are visible; one is holding a pen over a calculator, and the other is holding a document with a pie chart. The desk is cluttered with various financial papers, including one with a line graph and another with a pie chart. A laptop is partially visible on the left side of the frame. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the desk and the person's arm.

# Finance

- ★ **SUPPORT** maintaining and increasing Local Government Aid
- ★ **SUPPORT** current formula and distribution of Fiscal Disparities and oppose shifting to fund projects
- ★ **SUPPORT** state action to identify and strengthen state and local cybersecurity capabilities

# Fire

- ★ **SUPPORT** continued funding of the Hometown Heroes Assistance Program
- ⊖ **OPPOSE** efforts to limit the use of residential fire sprinklers. We support working collaboratively with the stakeholders to provide the safest and most cost-effective homes
- ⊖ **OPPOSE** efforts to legalize and expand fireworks within the state





# Public Safety

- ★ **Support** additional regulation of products containing hemp-derived THC or cannabinoid products
- ★ **Support** Police Officer Safety, Health, and Wellness (Protecting the Protectors) legislation
- ★ **Support** legislation that provides a way for all persons to obtain a Driver License (regardless of citizenship status)
- ★ **Support** the **Arbitration Revision Act**, creating a more objective arbitration process by having the Office of Administrative Hearings handle all the police officer termination grievances





## Public Safety, cont....

- ★ **SUPPORT** the Officer Integrity Act, allowing for a Minnesota Licensed Peace Officer to be terminated from public employment without opportunity to challenge the remedy of termination should the basis for termination be willful or intentional dishonesty, deception, or similar unethical or illegal conduct that is deemed sufficient to imperil their credibility in court testimony
- ★ **SUPPORT** legislation focused on retention and recruitment of law enforcement officers



# Public Works

- ⊗ **OPPOSE** any legislation that would eliminate or reduce the ability to use State Aid funds for local projects, including lane reductions
- ⊗ **OPPOSE** any legislation or rule change that limits local authority related to use of public rights-of-way (small cell, for example)
- ★ **INTRODUCE/SUPPORT** a maximum local contribution to County and State projects and limit long-term ownership and major maintenance responsibility placed on local agencies



# Public Works, cont.....

- ★ **SUPPORT** a state-wide, comprehensive and stable water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure funding source to address Minnesota's aging infrastructure to ensure Minnesota communities remain a great place to live and competitive place to do business
- ★ **INTRODUCE/SUPPORT** legislation that would create or increase grant programs for local agencies statewide to combat Emerald Ash Borer on public and private property
- ★ **SUPPORT** state laws that provide limited liability to commercial salt applicators that are certified through an established voluntary salt applicator certification program







# RECREATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

- ★ **SUPPORT** efforts for the proper labeling of compostable products and not allow products with misleading claims to be sold or distributed in the State (H.F.1165 / S.F. 2243)
- ★ **SUPPORT** Hennepin County funding that would expand infrastructure at the local level for the creation of compost processing sites and/or anaerobic digesters
- ★ **SUPPORT** legislation that would designate all solid waste taxes generated to the state's SCORE fund to support sustainability efforts





Questions?



A serene sunset scene over a body of water. The sky is filled with soft, orange and pink clouds, transitioning into a deep blue at the top. The water is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky and the silhouettes of the trees and buildings in the distance. In the foreground, tall green reeds are visible, partially submerged in the water. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

# Updates from Legislators