



# Richfield's 2024 Legislative Priorities

January 12, 2024  
Legislative Breakfast



# 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**  
[MSupple@RichfieldMN.gov](mailto:MSupple@RichfieldMN.gov)





# Remarks from City Council Members



**Simon Trautmann,  
Ward 1**  
[STrautmann@RichfieldMN.gov](mailto:STrautmann@RichfieldMN.gov)



**Sean Hayford Oleary,  
Ward 2**  
[SHayfordoleary@RichfieldMN.gov](mailto:SHayfordoleary@RichfieldMN.gov)



**Ben Whalen,  
Ward 3**  
[BWhalen@RichfieldMN.gov](mailto:BWhalen@RichfieldMN.gov)



**Sharon Christensen,  
At-Large**  
[SChristensen@richfieldmn.gov](mailto:SChristensen@richfieldmn.gov)

# 2023 Legislative Successes

- \$12 million in state bonding for a new Wood Lake Nature Center facility.
- Authorization to hold a referendum for a local sales tax (LST) to support regionally significant park projects.
- Historic Investment in affordable housing
- Increase in Local Government Aid. (\$1.4 million increase)
- Driver License for all legislation.
- Many other successes.





# Top 2024 Legislative Priorities

---

- **Support** a bonding request for \$10,000,000 to supplement the City's estimated local cost-share for the upcoming Nicollet Avenue (CSAH 52) reconstruction project in partnership with Hennepin County.
- **Introduce and Support** limits on local contributions, ownership, and major maintenance responsibilities for County and State projects.
- **Support** local control of Emergency Medical Services (EMS).



# Support a bonding request for \$10,000,000 for Nicollet Avenue reconstruction project.

- Hennepin County will reconstruct Nicollet Avenue from 66th Street to 77th Street in 2026.
- Staff anticipates a \$10,000,000 contribution will be required from Richfield, roughly 50% for local cost share and 50% for Richfield utilities.
- Without the award of bond funds, the City will be forced to sell street reconstruction and utility bonds and place an additional burden on taxpayers.





# **INTRODUCE & SUPPORT limits on local contribution, ownership, major maintenance or responsibilities for County and State projects.**

- “One-size fits all” cost participation policies adopted by the State and Hennepin County are inequitable as they do not consider the financial ability of local agencies to pay.
- These projects are mainly focused on regional needs and facilitating travel and commerce through and not into a local community, yet the residents of the local communities are tasked with paying.
- Trends in cost share policies continue to add to the local burden every time a cost share policy is updated or developed.



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

- Allow local units of government to designate which providers may serve their communities to ensure the appropriate level of service.
- Local units of government should be provided with tools and authority to ensure transparency and responsiveness by EMS providers.







## Administrative Services

- **SUPPORT** continued funding for full reimbursement to cities for the cost of continued health insurance coverage for police/firefighters disabled or killed in the line of duty.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that would provide ongoing full state funding for the 2023 duty disability law to include paid time off for mental health treatment, emotional trauma training, programs that provide peer support and early intervention.

# Administrative Services Continued...

- **SUPPORT** reimbursement to cities for the cost of covering employees out on military leave. Cities must pay for 15 paid military leave days and are obligated to pay for employee coverage for military leave through overtime expenses.
- **SUPPORT** a legislative solution to modernize funding for public communications, including public access channel programming and the distribution of public information.





# Community Development

- **SUPPORT** legislation to clarify that cities' comprehensive plans are exempt from review under the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act (MERA).
- **SUPPORT** ongoing support of Housing Infrastructure Bonds and other financing capital for affordable housing.
- **SUPPORT** amendment to the Tax increment financing (TIF) statute to allow 10% of units at 30% of the Area Median Income in a Housing TIF District.
- **SUPPORT** legislation prohibiting housing discrimination of Section 8 and other rental assistance voucher holders.





# Finance

- **SUPPORT** maintaining and increasing Local Government Aid.
- **SUPPORT** the current formula and distribution of Fiscal Disparities and
- **OPPOSE** shifting to funds based on specific projects.
- **SUPPORT** state action to identify and strengthen state and local cybersecurity capabilities.





# Fire

- **SUPPORT** efforts to ensure that firefighters are protected from the emerging threat of Lithium-Ion Battery fires.
- **OPPOSE** efforts to limit the use of residential fire sprinklers. We support working collaboratively with stakeholders to provide the safest and most cost-effective homes.
- **OPPOSE** efforts to legalize and expand fireworks within the state.
- **SUPPORT** continued funding of the Hometown Heroes Assistance Program.



# Public Safety

- **SUPPORT** Police Officer Safety, Health, and Wellness (Protecting the Protectors) legislation. This legislation would provide law enforcement agencies with training for emotional resiliency and understanding of trauma. It would create peer support groups, provide mental health checks, therapy, suicide prevention and awareness and family support to officers and their loved ones.
- **SUPPORT** legislation focused on retention and recruitment of law enforcement officers.





# Public Works

- **SUPPORT** a state-wide, comprehensive, and stable transportation, water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure funding source to address Minnesota's aging infrastructure.
- **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).
- **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.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that would designate all solid waste taxes to the state's SCORE fund to supporting sustainability efforts.
- **SUPPORT** legislation around extended producer responsibility for paper and packaging.
- **SUPPORT** an increase in county and state funding for local sustainability initiatives and recreational assets including increasing support for access to new funding sources at the state and federal levels.





Questions?



A scenic landscape photograph of a lake at sunset. The sky is filled with large, colorful clouds in shades of orange, pink, and blue. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow. The lake's surface is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding greenery. In the foreground, tall green reeds are visible. In the background, a dense line of trees separates the lake from a city skyline, with a few buildings visible on the left side.

# Updates from Legislators