

City of Hopkins

2025 Legislative Agenda



About Hopkins

The City of Hopkins is a fully developed, dynamic urban community located five miles west of Minneapolis with a current population of approximately 19,079. Hopkins is demographically unique to the Twin Cities with 38% of the population identifying as non-white and 65% of residents in Hopkins renting their homes. The City is four-square miles, making it one of the densest communities in the metro area.

The METRO Green Line light rail extension is driving rapid population and housing growth. The Metropolitan Council forecasts that the population will be 21,000 by 2030 and 21,800 by 2040.

Recreation and Resilience Bonding Request: SF 3707 and HF 3358

- The City of Hopkins is requesting \$5,000,000 in financial assistance to help design and construct two community park buildings to be used for recreational, educational and climate resilient spaces to help residents connect, gather, learn and participate in government; and to offer a safe shelter during times of extreme heat or other climate events. Total project cost is estimated at \$10.1 million.
- This new construction building will meet regional recreation needs, while being designed to be carbon neutral and powered by renewable energy sources which can retain power during emergencies.
- Buildings would begin construction as early as Spring 2026.



Rendering of potential building from Park System Master Plan

2025 Legislative Priorities

The City of Hopkins participates in the Municipal Legislative Commission, League of Minnesota Cities, Metro Cities, Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association and Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association and generally supports their legislative platforms. This legislative agenda is intended to advocate specifically for the community's residents and businesses, avoid duplication of services, and enable the city to govern itself.

Hopkins supports the following legislative priorities:

- **Local Sales Taxes**

The legislature should allow for a change in law to generally allow cities to enact a local sales tax for public improvements and capital replacement costs without requiring a special law authorization.

- **Local Control**

The legislature should work to maintain local control for city planning and zoning matters, and be mindful of the unintended consequences that may occur through preemption of this control.

- **Workforce Development**

The legislature should continue to support expanded partnerships between K-12 education, post-secondary education, the business community and the city to address existing workforce needs and the creation of a future pipeline.

- **Cannabis**

The legislature should continue to support the preservation of local control measures within the current adult-use cannabis law, including local zoning authority and local registration authority of cannabis businesses.

- **Tree Canopy & Emerald Ash Borer**

The legislature should continue to support funding which assists cities with tree removal and replacement in areas affected by invasive species to preserve urban canopies.

- **Redevelopment Tools**

The legislature should consider the expansion of redevelopment tools such as tax increment financing and tax abatement to help support development in cities.

- **Sprinkler Funding**

The legislature should consider creating a fund to help Housing and Redevelopment Authorities sprinkle buildings to be in compliance with State statute.

Other Legislative Priorities

- **SUPPORT** legislation to allow two-family and accessory dwelling units by-right, but retain local autonomy in the development and approval of official controls.
- **SUPPORT** tax preferences to assist developers in converting underutilized commercial properties to residential properties.
- **SUPPORT** legislation prohibiting housing discrimination against Section 8 and other rental assistance voucher holders.
- **SUPPORT** legislation to stiffen penalties to include mandatory minimum sentences for fleeing in a motor vehicle and modify the law governing the use of tracking devices on fleeing vehicles.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that would increase penalties for violent felons in possession of firearms and for straw purchases and illegal sales of firearms from licensed gun dealers.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that prohibits prosecutors' offices and law enforcement agencies from declaring something legal in their jurisdiction that state or local laws state is illegal.
- **OPPOSE** any legislation that would eliminate or reduce the ability to use State Aid funds for local projects, including lane reductions.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that would designate all solid waste taxes to the state's SCORE fund to support sustainability efforts.
- **OPPOSE** any legislation that attempts to remove or alter building codes and regulations that ensure residential safety and monitor proposed group home legislation impacting fire safety and access.
- **OPPOSE** any legislation which would limit the use of residential sprinklers or limit local governments from enacting requirements beyond the State Building Code.
- **SUPPORT** legislation which allow local governments to set standards for EMS services in their communities.
- **SUPPORT** legislation allocating funding to local jurisdictions for staffing and equipment to support public safety measures related to the light rail.
- **SUPPORT** efforts to expand the High-Rise Sprinkler System Grant Program to include buildings which do not meet the 75 foot height requirement but are still subject to MN State Sprinkler requirements.

For questions or more information, please contact
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