

2026 Proposed Budget: City Council

Department Mission: The City Council makes legislative, policy, budget approval, and performance auditing decisions for the City of Saint Paul. The seven Councilmembers also serve as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the Board of Health, and the Library Board.

Learn More: stpaul.gov/city-council

Department Facts

- **Total General Fund Budget:** \$4,696,600
- **Total Special Fund Budget:** \$250,000
- **Total FTEs:** 31.50
- There are seven part-time Councilmembers representing the seven wards of the City.
- Councilmembers are elected to serve four-year terms.
- The current term ends on December 31, 2028.

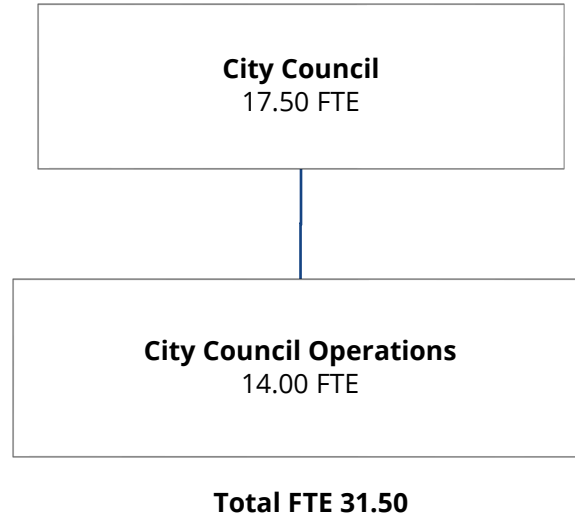
Department Goals

- Support transparent, efficient, and accountable council operations.
- Set legislative priorities and enact policies that reflect community needs and values.
- Ensure responsible budgeting, transparent financial decisions, and long-term fiscal health.
- Strengthen relationships with residents through outreach, accessibility, and responsive communication.

Recent Accomplishments

- Supported recruitment for key leadership positions within the Council, strengthening overall capacity and expertise.
- Considered over 2,300 legislative items as part of weekly City Council meetings.
- Conducted approximately 1,100 legislative hearings on assessments, license applications, nuisance issues, water services, rent stabilization, and organized garbage collection appeals.
- Completed a study of the Capital Improvement Budget process through the Audit Committee in partnership with Wilder Research and the Office of Financial Services.
- Expanded community engagement outreach on the city budget, reparations, development projects, and other critical city initiatives.
- Established a Public Safety Committee to provide focused oversight and policy development in this area.
- Strengthened internal operations by establishing clearer norms and processes for collaboration between Councilmembers, legislative aides, and central staff.
- Planned and facilitated two City Council retreats, using input from members to align sessions with strategic priorities.
- Expanded interdepartmental engagement through regular check-ins with department leadership, improving information flow and collaboration.

City Council Organizational Chart



Department Division Descriptions

The City Council is elected by constituents. It includes the following divisions:

- **City Council**: The City Council is responsible for setting City policy through ordinances and resolutions. The Council also has sole responsibility for adopting the City's budget. The Council legislates by passing Ordinances which become City laws.
- **City Council Operations**: The operations staff conducts research and policy development and council support. This staff also organizes legislative hearings and community engagement. It also includes the City Clerk and elections operations staff.

2026 Proposed Budget CITY COUNCIL

Fiscal Summary

Spending	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Change From Prior Year	FY 2025 Adopted Budget FTE	FY 2026 Proposed Budget FTE
100: CITY GENERAL FUND	3,622,649	4,595,666	4,835,575	4,696,600	(138,975)	31.50	31.50
211: GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS	143	50,000	250,000	250,000	-	-	-
Total	3,622,792	4,645,666	5,085,575	4,946,600	(138,975)	31.50	31.50

Financing	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Change From Prior Year
100: CITY GENERAL FUND	398,927	403,281	405,271	407,539	2,268
211: GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS	14,000	50,000	250,000	250,000	-
Total	412,927	453,281	655,271	657,539	2,268

Budget Changes Summary

The 2026 proposed budget for the City Council removes a one-time transfer to the General Government Special Projects Fund for the creation of a Reparations Committee (\$250,000), reflects higher anticipated regulatory fee revenue, includes current service level adjustments for salaries and benefits, and repurposes funds to upgrade a Senior Policy Analyst position to a Chief Policy Analyst

The General Government Special Projects Fund removes one-time spending and revenue for the creation of a Reparations Committee, adds one-time funding for City Council office security updates (\$200,000), and carries forward remaining funds from the 2025 budget for the City Council Modernization Project (\$50,000).

City Council Spending Reports

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Spending Plan by Department

Department: CITY COUNCIL

Fund: 100 - CITY GENERAL FUND

Budget Year: 2026

Spending by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Change From Prior Year
EMPLOYEE EXPENSE	3,515,474	4,200,624	4,320,533	4,444,590	124,057
SERVICES	72,023	276,048	196,048	183,016	(13,032)
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	35,152	68,294	68,294	68,294	-
ADDITIONAL EXPENSES	-	700	700	700	-
OTHER FINANCING USES	-	50,000	250,000	-	(250,000)
Total Spending by Major Account	3,622,649	4,595,666	4,835,575	4,696,600	(138,975)

Spending by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Change From Prior Year
10010100 - CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE	3,448,542	4,435,222	4,835,575	4,696,600	(138,975)
10010105 - RECORDS MANAGEMENT	174,107	160,443	-	-	-
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	3,622,649	4,595,666	4,835,575	4,696,600	(138,975)

CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Spending Plan by Department

Department: CITY COUNCIL

Fund: 211 - GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS

Budget Year: 2026

Spending by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Change From Prior Year
SERVICES	-	50,000	250,000	250,000	-
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	143	-	-	-	-
Total Spending by Major Account	143	50,000	250,000	250,000	-

Spending by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Change From Prior Year
21110225 - COUNCIL SPECIAL PROJECTS	143	50,000	250,000	-	(250,000)
21110820 - CITY COUNCIL MODERNIZATION	-	-	-	250,000	250,000
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	143	50,000	250,000	250,000	-

City Council Financing Reports

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Financing Plan by Department

Department: CITY COUNCIL
Fund: 100 - CITY GENERAL FUND

Budget Year: 2026

Financing by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Change From Prior Year
LICENSE AND PERMIT	1,100	-	-	-	-
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	130,272	135,726	137,716	139,984	2,268
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	267,555	267,555	267,555	267,555	-
Total Financing by Major Account	398,927	403,281	405,271	407,539	2,268

Financing by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Change From Prior Year
10010100 - CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE	398,927	403,281	405,271	407,539	2,268
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	398,927	403,281	405,271	407,539	2,268

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Financing Plan by Department

Department: CITY COUNCIL

Fund: 211 - GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS

Budget Year: 2026

Financing by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Change From Prior Year
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	14,000	-	-	-	-
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	-	50,000	250,000	250,000	-
Total Financing by Major Account	14,000	50,000	250,000	250,000	-

Financing by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Change From Prior Year
21110225 - COUNCIL SPECIAL PROJECTS	14,000	50,000	250,000	-	(250,000)
21110820 - CITY COUNCIL MODERNIZATION	-	-	-	250,000	250,000
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	14,000	50,000	250,000	250,000	-