



COUNCIL OF  
METROPOLITAN  
AREA LEAGUES

MINNESOTA

# METROPOLITAN COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

**Report to Members of the Council of Metropolitan Area  
Leagues of Women Voters, on a study conducted to update  
League position on the Metropolitan Council.**

January 2019

# Table of Contents

- Purpose of Study to Update CMAL Position on Metropolitan Council Governance .....3
- Current Position Regarding Governance of Metropolitan Council.....4
- Consensus Questions for Metropolitan League Members.....5
- What is the Metropolitan Council? .....7
- Metropolitan Council Management.....7
- What Does the Metropolitan Council do?.....8
  - Metropolitan Council 2018 Budget .....8
- Functions of the Metropolitan Council .....9
  - Long-Range Planning.....9
  - Land Use Planning ..... 10
  - Transportation ..... 10
    - Transportation Planning..... 10
- Transportation Advisory Board ..... 11
  - Operation of the Regional Transit System ..... 12
  - Regional Parks and Trails..... 12
  - Housing..... 12
    - Housing Planning ..... 13
  - Wastewater and Water..... 13
- Questions and Opposing Viewpoints for CMAL Members To Consider ..... 14
  - Metropolitan Council Governance Structure ..... 14
  - Should CMAL Continue to Support Its Position of Metropolitan Council Members Appointed by the Governor? ..... 14
    - Locally Elected Officials Serving on Metropolitan Council..... 14
  - Should local elected officials serve on the Metropolitan Council?..... 15
  - Should CMAL continue to support fixed, staggered terms for Metropolitan Council members, whether they are appointed, elected local officials, or elected directly? ..... 15
  - Should CMAL continue to support its current position of “an open appointment process, including publicized vacancies, with increased citizen, local government and legislative influence on appointments”? ..... 16
- Metropolitan Council Member Qualifications ..... 17
  - Should CMAL be more specific in the type of formal qualifications that are required for appointment to Metropolitan Council? ..... 17

Should CMAL continue to support its position: “The Appointed Metropolitan Council is Responsible to our Elected State Legislature and watched over by our Elected Local Officials”? .....	17
Should the Number of Metropolitan Council Districts Be Increased?.....	17
Should the Transportation Advisory Board (Tab) Be Retained? .....	18
How is regional planning accomplished in other urban areas of the United States? .....	19
Are local officials satisfied with the Metropolitan Council? .....	19
<i>Questionnaire overview</i> .....	20
<i>Interview Results</i> .....	20
Metropolitan Council Effectiveness .....	20
Metropolitan Council Impact on City or County .....	20
Metropolitan Council Membership.....	21
Chair of the Metropolitan Council.....	22
Removal of Members .....	22
Metropolitan Council Membership Qualifications.....	22
Metropolitan Council Member Nomination and Selection Process.....	23
Metropolitan Council Accountability .....	24
Metropolitan Council and Transportation Advisory Board.....	24
Transportation Funds .....	24
Bibliography.....	26
Acknowledgements.....	28
Appendix.....	31
Metropolitan Council Organizational Chart (2017) .....	31
Metropolitan Council Districts .....	32
Questionnaire Used to Collect Data.....	33

## **PURPOSE OF STUDY TO UPDATE CMAL POSITION ON METROPOLITAN COUNCIL GOVERNANCE**

The purpose of this study is to update the 2001 Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) position on Metropolitan Council Governance.

In the 2018 Minnesota Legislative session, a bipartisan bill passed both the House and Senate to add local elected officials to the Metropolitan Council.

The previous CMAL position had not considered the appointment of local elected officials to the Metropolitan Council. This report has been prepared to enable our members to update the CMAL consensus position on Metropolitan Council governance.

## CURRENT POSITION REGARDING GOVERNANCE OF METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Per the 2001 CMAL Study of the Metropolitan Council Governance, the CMAL Board adopted the following Position based upon the consensus of CMAL membership.

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) supports as the decision-making body for metropolitan needs in accordance with these criteria:

- Efficiency and Economy
- Equitable Financing
- Flexibility
- Citizen Control
- Responsiveness to the Electorate

CMAL supports provision for coordinated metropolitan services focused through the Metropolitan Council.

CMAL supports retention of an **appointed** Metropolitan Council with greater use of its existing powers. (1969) (1976) (1993) (2001)

CMAL supports:

- Retention of an appointed Metropolitan Council  
The appointed Metropolitan Council is seen as less parochial, less subject to special interests, and better able to adopt and maintain unpopular positions for the good of the entire area.
- The appointed Metropolitan Council is responsible to our elected state Legislature and watched over by our elected local officials (1969) (1976) (1993) (2001).
- An open appointment process including:
  - Publicized vacancies
  - Increased citizen, local government and legislative influence on appointments
  - Formal qualifications for office
  - Return to fixed, staggered terms
  - Establishment of a removal procedure for members of the council and district apportionment based on population (1969) (1976) (1993) (2001)

In the event that it appears that the Council may become an elected body, CMAL supports:

- Nonpartisan candidates with the availability of public financing
- Selection of the chair made by the council members from among their number
- Maintaining of population as the basis for districts
- Election of Council members at the same time as local officials.
- Continuation of a part-time Council and the per diem basis for compensation (1976) (1993)

## CONSENSUS QUESTIONS FOR METROPOLITAN LEAGUE MEMBERS

The purpose of this study is to update the CMAL position on Metropolitan Council Governance (2001).

As you read through the study report, please consider the following consensus questions for updating our position (see report's page numbers for information following each question). Answer option (Current) indicates current structure or practice.

- 1. Members of the Metropolitan Council should be (choose one or more);**  
(Report Pages 14, 15, 21)
  - a) Directly elected by the voters of each Metropolitan Council district
  - b) Persons currently holding local elected office in the district
  - c) Citizens residing in the district who are not local elected officials (current)
  
- 2. If Council members are appointed, appointments should be made by (choose one);**  
(Report Pages 14, 21)
  - a) Governor (current)
  - b) Local elected officials from each district should select the district representative
  - c) Some Council members selected by each
  
- 3. The Chair of the Metropolitan Council should be appointed by (choose one);**  
(Report Page 22)
  - a) Governor (current)
  - b) Local elected officials within the metropolitan area
  - c) Members of the Metropolitan Council from among Council members
  
- 4. If Council members are appointed, their terms should be (choose a or b)**  
(Report Pages 16, 21)
  - a) Coterminous with that of the Governor and
    - I. Removable only for cause OR
    - II. Serving at the pleasure of the appointing authority (current)
  - b) Fixed staggered terms, removable for cause
  
- 5. If Council members are directly elected, terms should be (choose one);**  
(Report Pages 16, 21)
  - a) Staggered
  - b) Not staggered (current)
  
- 6. Members of the Metropolitan Council should meet the following criteria (choose all that apply);**  
(Report Pages 17, 23)
  - a) Business or labor skills and experience

- b) Professional expertise (finance, architecture, transportation, environment, housing, engineering, etc.)
- c) Commitment to regional perspectives
- d) Knowledge of regional issues
- e) Demographic diversity
- f) Ability to meet time requirements for service (Metropolitan Council Board and committee meetings, as well as meetings with district elected officials)
- g) Previous experience as an elected official
- h) Other (please identify)

**7. If Council members are appointed by the Governor, there should be a nominating committee that includes (choose a or b)**

(Report pages 16, 24)

- a) 7 members (current)
- b) Expand to 13 members.

**8. If Council members are appointed by the Governor, there should be a nominating process that meets the following criteria (choose all that apply);**

(Report pages 14, 16, 23, 24)

- a) The nominating committee should
  - I. Conduct an open and public review process
  - II. Recommend a slate of nominees to the Governor (current)
- b) Local elected officials should be a majority of the nominating committee.
- c) There should be a separate nominating subcommittee within each Metropolitan Council district.
- d) A Governor who declines to appoint a nominee recommended by the nominating committee should be required to explain to the nominating committee why the decision was made.

**9. To whom should Metropolitan Council members be accountable? (choose all that apply);**

(Report pages 17, 24)

- a) Governor
- b) Residents of their Metropolitan Council district
- c) Residents of the metropolitan area as a whole
- d) Legislature
- e) City and County local elected officials in their district
- f) Residents of the State of Minnesota
- g) Other (please identify)

**10. The number of Metropolitan Council members should (choose all that apply);**

(Report pages 17, 18, 24)

- a) Remain at one member from each of the current 16 districts (current)
- b) Increase the number of districts
- c) Additional members at large should be appointed
- d) Other (please identify)

# Metropolitan Council Governance Report

To Members of the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters

**Study completed by:**  
Metropolitan Council Governance  
Update Study Committee  
**January 2019**

## WHAT IS THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL?

The Metropolitan Council is a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota created by the Minnesota legislature in 1967. It was established in the context of public policy problems not easily solved by individual counties, cities or towns. These problems included: failing private septic systems, inadequate wastewater treatment, a failing private bus company, rapid growth threatening preservation of natural areas, and growing fiscal disparities along with competition for commercial/industrial development.

Its jurisdiction includes the seven (7) county metropolitan area including: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties, and excluding the cities of Northfield, Hanover, Rockford and New Prague. It includes three million people, 182 cities and towns and nearly 3,000 square miles.

It was created for the purpose of planning for and coordinating the orderly and economic development of the metropolitan area.

The Metropolitan Council is managed by a Board of Directors, which consists of 16 members, appointed from districts of substantially equal population and a chair appointed at-large by the Governor. Appointments have been and continue to be made by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Minnesota Senate.

## METROPOLITAN COUNCIL MANAGEMENT

The Metropolitan Council is managed by a Regional Administrator, who oversees a workforce of approximately 4,400 employees and an annual budget for operations, pass-through programs, and debt service of approximately \$1.059 billion.

Approximately 4,000 employees are associated with the transit and wastewater treatment (bus and train drivers, bus and train maintenance personnel, transit police), and wastewater treatment plant workers).



**WHAT DOES THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL DO?**

Metropolitan Council authority derives exclusively from statutes enacted by the Minnesota legislature. **It does not have any authority beyond the enabling legislation.** The legislation is found throughout Minnesota Statutes Chapter 473.

Metropolitan Council enabling legislation has been extensively amended since 1967. Originally, the Metropolitan Council functioned exclusively as a long-range planning and research agency, with some indirect control over other regional operating agencies.

This changed in 1994, when the legislature reorganized the Metropolitan Council to include direct administration of the metropolitan area wastewater treatment and transit systems.

Previously, both had been managed by separate regional agencies (Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Commission and the Metropolitan Transit Commission, respectively), which were abolished.

Accordingly, the Metropolitan Council today is both a long-range regional planning and research agency, as well as an operator of regional services.

**Metropolitan Council 2018 Budget**

Annual Budget: \$1.057 billion

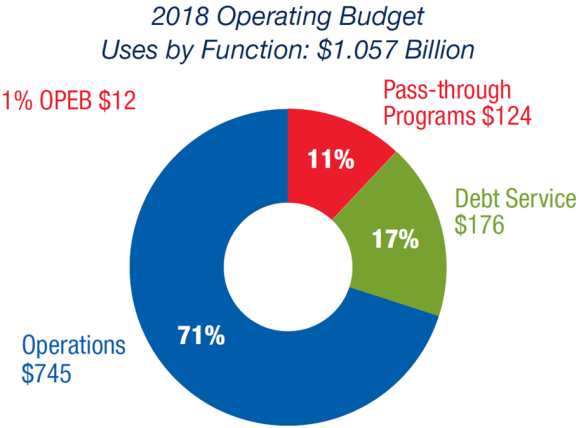
**Revenues**

▪ 39% State Revenues	\$407M
<i>\$139M State Appropriations &amp; \$268M Motor Vehicle Sales Tax</i>	
▪ 37% Charges for Service	\$388 M
<i>\$113M Fares&amp;\$275 Wastewater Charges</i>	
▪ 9% Federal	\$101 M
▪ 8% Property Tax	\$85 M
▪ 3% Local	\$35 M
▪ 3% Other	\$28M
▪ 1% reserves	<u>\$13M</u>
	\$1.057B

**Operating Budget**

• 71% Operations	\$745M
• 17% Debt Service	\$176 M
• 11% Pass through Programs	\$124 M
• 1% OPEB	<u>\$12 M</u>
	\$1.057B

### Operating Budget by Function



### FUNCTIONS OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

- Long-Range Planning
- Land Use Planning
- Transportation
- Parks and Open Space
- Wastewater and Water
- Housing

#### Long-Range Planning

The Metropolitan Council’s basic long-range plan is its **Comprehensive Development Guide**, which must be adopted at least once a decade (10 years) following the decennial federal census.

The guide is the policy foundation for the Metropolitan Council’s Policy Plans for:

- Transportation
- Water Resources
- Regional Parks
- Housing
- Metropolitan System Statements
  - Wastewater Treatment, Transportation, Regional Parks, and Airports

The most recent local comprehensive plans were required to be submitted by December 31, 2018, unless an extension is granted.

Implementation strategies are developed over the upcoming decade, with the most current Comprehensive Development Guide, adopted in 2014, entitled *Thrive MSP 2040*.

***Land Use Planning***

Although land use planning and regulation (zoning, subdivision control, etc.) is primarily within the authority of local government, the Metropolitan Land Planning Act of 1976 requires local governments to:

- Develop local comprehensive plans that include the elements identified by the Metropolitan Council;
- Submit the plans to the Metropolitan Council for review of conformity with Metropolitan Council plans and policies;
- Refrain from adopting zoning that conflicts with the approved local comprehensive plan.

***Transportation***

The Metropolitan Council has two principal transportation functions:

- Transportation planning
- Operation of the regional transit system.

**Transportation Planning**

The Metropolitan Council is responsible for the efficient and effective regional inter-modal transportation planning, all within the constraints of likely available financial resources, including:

- Aviation
- Highway,
- Transit, bicycle, and pedestrian.

To this end, the Metropolitan Council prepares its Transportation Policy Plan every four (4) years, among other reports, plans and policies.

The Metropolitan Council is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the metropolitan area.

Metro area requests for federal transportation funding for certain highway, bridge and transit projects are channeled through the Metropolitan Council, which reviews and prioritizes them in conjunction with the Metropolitan Council’s Transportation Advisory Board (TAB).

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

What is the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and how does it work?

Federal Requirements for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)

- Federal law requires that urbanized areas with population over than 50,000 have a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in place to be eligible for federal funding for certain highway, bridge and transit projects.
- Among other responsibilities, the MPO is required to prioritize requests for federal funding of local transportation projects.
- The purpose of MPO review is to assure the federal government that federally funded transportation projects have broad community support and therefore are likely to be successfully implemented.
- There are approximately 400 federally designated MPOs in the United States.
- Under federal law an MPO must consist of local elected officials, officials of public agencies that administer transportation services, and appropriate state officials.
- The Minnesota Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) consists of a majority of local elected officials. The legislature established the TAB to enable the Metropolitan Council to be the MPO for the metropolitan area, even though no local elected officials serve on the Metropolitan Council.
- The Minnesota legislature, in 1974, established the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) (MN Statute 473.146) to advise the Metropolitan Council on the prioritization of metropolitan area transportation projects for potential federal funding. Historically, the Metropolitan Council has adopted the TAB priorities for federal transportation funding.

Who Serves on the Transportation Advisory Board?

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) consists of:

- 17 local elected officials
- 16 other members, including persons representing various transit modes, state officials, and 8 Metropolitan Council appointees.

## ***Operation of the Regional Transit System***

The Metropolitan Council is the primary provider of regional transit services.

Transit operations include:

- Regular route bus service (express and local)
- Dial-a-ride (Metro Mobility and Transit Link)
- Light Rail Transit (LRT)
- Bus Rapid Transit (highway BRT and arterial BRT)
- Commuter Rail.

## ***Regional Parks and Trails***

Through its regional Parks Policy Plan, the Metropolitan Council plans for development of the regional park system, which includes 55 regional parks and regional park reserves, 400 miles of interconnected regional trails and eight (8) special recreational features.

Regional parks and trail facilities are owned, developed and operated by 10 local implementing agencies, not by the Metropolitan Council itself.

The implementing agencies are Anoka County, Carver County, Dakota County, Ramsey County, Scott County, Washington County, Three Rivers Park District (chiefly suburban Hennepin County), City of St. Paul, City of Minneapolis and City of Bloomington.

The Metropolitan Council approves the implementing agencies' regional parks plans and provides grants to them for acquisition and development of regional park and trail facilities.

Funding sources for the grants include the State of Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, and regional park bonds issued by the Metropolitan Council.

The Metropolitan Council also allocates to the implementing agencies legislatively appropriated funds for park operations and maintenance, although most operating costs for these facilities rests with the implementing agencies.

## ***Housing***

The Metropolitan Council has two principal housing functions: housing planning and operation of the federal Section 8 affordable housing voucher program.

## **Housing Planning**

1. The Metropolitan Council has developed its Housing Policy Plan, based upon the principles of Thrive MSP 2040.
2. The Metropolitan Council guides and reviews the housing elements of local comprehensive plans. It identifies existing housing needs and promotes the allocation of land for development of affordable housing.
3. The Metropolitan Council implements the Livable Communities Program, which awards grants to cities for the clean-up of polluted sites, expansion of affordable housing opportunities, and the building of pedestrian-friendly and transit-oriented development. Funding for the grants comes from the Metropolitan Council's property tax levy for this purpose, in an amount not to exceed \$20 million per year.

Operation of the federal Section 8 affordable housing voucher program:

- Metropolitan Council, through its Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), administers the federal Section 8 voucher program for 100 suburbs and rural communities in the metro area, mainly in Anoka, Carver, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties.
- Metropolitan Council also implements the Family Affordable Housing Program, which consists of ~150 scattered site single family homes and townhomes, for low and very low-income families, who pay rent with Section 8 vouchers. This program was created as a result of fair housing litigation in the metro area.

## ***Wastewater and Water***

The Metropolitan Council has two principal wastewater and water functions: Wastewater and water planning and Operation of sewer interceptors and wastewater treatment plants. The Metropolitan Council builds, operates and maintains eight wastewater treatment plants and 600 miles of sewer interceptors.

Through its Water Resources Policy Plan, the Metropolitan Council undertakes long-range planning for the management of:

- Wastewater
- Water supply
- Surface water.

**QUESTIONS AND OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS FOR CMAL MEMBERS TO CONSIDER**

***Metropolitan Council Governance Structure***

Though the governor has broad powers in the appointment of members to the Metropolitan Council, the governor is not operating alone. The Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government “must monitor appointments to the Metropolitan Council and may make recommendations on appointments to the Nominating Committee under section 473.123, subdivision 3, or to the Governor before the Governor makes the appointments. The Commission may also make recommendations to the Senate before appointments are presented to the Senate for its advice and consent.

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/3.8841/pdf>

***Should CMAL Continue to Support Its Position of Metropolitan Council Members Appointed by the Governor?***

<b>Supporting View</b>	<b>Opposing View</b>
Metropolitan Council is accountable directly to the Governor, who was elected by the state’s voters. Authority of Council is backed by the power of the Governor.	The Council is not accountable directly to an electorate.
Council can pivot quickly to a different policy with election of new governor.	The governor might appoint friends or big donors, who may not be as qualified.
Council is less parochial, and more likely to consider region-wide needs of all metro area in decision-making.	In the process of campaigning, elected candidates hear a wide variety of views from constituents.
Less partisan because members don’t have to go through a contentious election	Governor doesn’t have to appoint nominees recommended by the Nominating Committee and does not have to give a reason for not following its recommendation.
Gridlock not a problem, because governor can remove members blocking decision-making.	It’s “taxation without representation” to have a taxing authority that consists exclusively of non-elected officials
Less driven by special interests because members don’t have campaigns to finance.	Transportation Advisory Board would not be necessary if Metropolitan Council were elected or had local elected officials appointed to it.

**Locally Elected Officials Serving on Metropolitan Council**

CMAL’s 2001 position on Metropolitan Council governance only considered persons directly elected to the Metropolitan Council or appointed by Governor. The concept of locally elected officials being appointed to serve on the Metropolitan Council had never been considered.

In the 2018 MN Legislative session, a bipartisan bill (S.F. 2809) passed both House and Senate, which called for a majority of locally elected officials to serve on the Metropolitan Council but was vetoed by the Governor. This bill would have increased the Metropolitan Council to 29 members, of which eight would be county commissioners (one from each county, except Hennepin would get two), and 16 city council members. The remaining members would be appointees representing transportation interests for the purpose of the Council’s role as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) under federal law and the chair appointed by the Governor.

***Should local elected officials serve on the Metropolitan Council?***

<b>Supporting View</b>	<b>Opposing View</b>
Metropolitan Council wouldn’t need a separate Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) to receive federal transit funds.	TAB provides local elected officials with substantial input on transportation issues.
This would lessen the argument of “No taxation without representation”	Metropolitan Council taxing authority is set by the elected state legislature, which limits the amount of the Council’s levy.
2018 legislation called for a county commissioner from each county, plus two from Hennepin.	This would not be representation by population, with districts of equal population. Small counties would have equal representation as large counties.
Elected officials enhance accountability.	Members simultaneously serving two different units of government are incompatible.
A mix of appointed and elected members would provide an effective mix of regional and local perspectives. (Office of Legislative Auditor) (OLA)	This would lead to an increased workload for elected officials with existing public duties. (Office of Legislative Auditor)
The Council would have increased credibility with ... local elected officials. (OLA)	Questions on voting weights and representation would arise. (OLA)

***Should CMAL continue to support fixed, staggered terms for Metropolitan Council members, whether they are appointed, elected local officials, or elected directly?***

Currently, terms of Metropolitan Council members are coterminous with the governor and members serve at the pleasure of the governor. This was to create clear accountability to the governor with the reorganization of Metropolitan Council in 1994. Before 1994, terms of Metropolitan Council members were fixed and staggered.



<b>Supporting fixed, staggered terms</b>	<b>Opposing fixed, staggered terms</b>
Creativity of solutions may be enhanced with less fear of being removed by the governor.	Members appointed by previous governor could be less accountable to a new governor.
Provides stability and continuity for Council when transitioning to new Governor, which is more conducive to long-range planning.	Can complicate the accountability issue, with members appointed by previous governor.
Allows for a wider range of perspectives on the Council	Council would have less accountability to the public for its decisions. (Office of Legislative Auditor)
Avoids wide swings in policy between different governors, especially when governors come from different political parties.	Easier for governor to implement his/her vision for Metropolitan Council with all his/her appointees.

***Should CMAL continue to support its current position of “an open appointment process, including publicized vacancies, with increased citizen, local government and legislative influence on appointments”?***

Currently, the governor appoints seven (7) metropolitan area citizens to the nominating committee. Of the seven members, three must be local elected officials. (MN Statute: 473.123 Subdivision 3c) <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/15.0597/pdf>

- Reasons to increase size of nominating committee: opportunity to bring more diverse voices to the review and selection process.
- Reasons to keep the nominating committee the same are: smaller committees are more efficient. It already has elected officials on it; no need to expand the size.

## METROPOLITAN COUNCIL MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS

Current MN Metropolitan Council Statutes 473.123  
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/473.123>

(Subd. 3e, 3e and 3g) sets the following requirements of Metropolitan Council members:

- (1) Appointments to the council are subject to the advice and consent of the senate as provided in section 15.066.
- (2) Must reflect fairly the various demographic, political, and other interests in the metropolitan area and the districts.
- (3) Must be knowledgeable about urban and metropolitan affairs.

The current CMAL position does not specify the type of formal qualifications for Metropolitan Council members.

### ***Should CMAL be more specific in the type of formal qualifications that are required for appointment to Metropolitan Council?***

- Supporting View: More qualifications, the better decision-making.
- Opposing View: This could hamstring the appointment process.

For more views, see page 23, for comments by elected officials and local staff.

### ***Should CMAL continue to support its position: “The Appointed Metropolitan Council is Responsible to our Elected State Legislature and watched over by our Elected Local Officials”?***

In terms of accountability, the CMAL Update Study Committee discussed two principal definitions.

- One is the responsibility to answer for successes and/or failures of the Metropolitan Council. For example, the failure of the Metro Mobility system in the early 1990s, coupled with the difficulty in deciding who was responsible for it, is part of the history behind the current governance model that makes the governor responsible for the Metropolitan Council by providing that all members serve at the governor’s pleasure.
- Another definition of accountability focuses on the ability and willingness of Metropolitan Council members to bring forward district issues to the Metropolitan Council for resolution.

### ***Should the Number of Metropolitan Council Districts Be Increased?***

When the Metropolitan Council was created in 1967, the population of the metropolitan area was 1,807,208. There were 14 Metropolitan Council districts of 129,086 per district.

In 2017 the regional population was 3,075,563, with 16 Metropolitan Council districts of 192,223 per district. By way of comparison, the population of a Minnesota State Senate district today is approximately 84,029, based upon an estimated Minnesota population of 5.63 million.

CMAL has not previously considered whether increasing the number of Metropolitan Council districts and, hence, the number of Metropolitan Council members, would be beneficial.

<b>Support for Increasing the Number of Districts for Metropolitan Council</b>	<b>Opposition for Increasing Number of Districts for Metropolitan Council</b>
Members could be more responsive to their district’s constituency and local elected officials	The governing board might be unwieldy
Members could more easily specialize in regional policy areas	More expensive to support more members
Members could become more familiar with local issues and concerns.	Some might consider this an unnecessary expansion in the size of government

***Should the Transportation Advisory Board (Tab) Be Retained?***

Retain TAB View	Abolish TAB View
Local elected officials may have time to serve on TAB but would be unable to have time to serve on Metropolitan Council.	It is inefficient to have two decision-making transportation bodies.
Abolishment would require reconfiguration of Metropolitan Council governance.	TAB functions should be assigned to a re-configured Metropolitan Council, to include a majority of local elected officials.
Metropolitan Council uniformly adheres to TAB’s recommendations.	There is no law requiring Metropolitan Council to always adhere to TAB’s recommendations.
Metropolitan Council is not like other MPO’s. It the operations of wastewater and transit, etc. It was grandfathered in as an MPO, therefore can operate as it has from the beginning.	Metropolitan Council should be like other Municipal Planning Organizations (MPO) and be comprised of a majority of local elected officials. This is a federal requirement of all MPO’s, except for Metropolitan Council.

CMAL update study committee did not study the effectiveness of TAB and, therefore, has no conclusion.

## ***How is regional planning accomplished in other urban areas of the United States?***

As noted above, there are approximately 400 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in the United States. CMAL had intended to undertake a review of at least some of these, in order to offer a comparison with our metropolitan area.

It was not realistic for us to undertake a comparative study of MPOs in the time frame available for the update study, however there is a wide variety among MPOs as to their areas of authority and responsibility.

Most MPOs have only planning authority; not many operate regional services directly, such as in Minnesota. All MPOs except the Metropolitan Council include local elected officials or directly elected officials on their boards.

There are also a wide variety of legal climates in which MPOs operate. Some areas have many local governmental units (such as in Minnesota) and other do not.

In essence, a valid comparison with other MPOs will have to take into consideration scope as well of governance structure; anything short of that would result in an apples-to-oranges comparison.

## ***Are local officials satisfied with the Metropolitan Council?***

From October to mid-December 2018, 36 CMAL members from 16 local leagues interviewed 50 city mayors, council members, county commissioners, county administrators, city managers, planning directors, and community development directors.

The purpose of the interviews was to gather opinions of those in local government who have the most interaction with Metropolitan Council to determine the positive and negative impacts of Metropolitan Council on cities and counties, and what, if any, changes to the governance and selection process for Metropolitan Council would be supported.

All those interviewed were assured their answers were anonymous and would only be known in the aggregate compilations.

## **QUESTIONNAIRE OVERVIEW**

Each person interviewed was asked the same 20 questions. The study interviewed participants from urban, suburban, exurban and rural locations to gather a wide range of experiences with the Metropolitan Council. The questionnaire covered the following areas:

- a) Effectiveness of the Metropolitan Council,
- b) Metropolitan Council impact on interviewee's city and on the metro area as a whole,
- c) Metropolitan Council structure and qualifications
- d) Metropolitan Council nomination process
- e) To whom should the Metropolitan Council be accountable?
- f) Transportation Funding

## ***Interview Results***

### **Metropolitan Council Effectiveness**

On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest, the Council was rated as a **7.2** in its effectiveness. There are a wide variety of answers. Below are the top three responses for each question.

Participants were asked to list one or two areas where the Metropolitan Council is working effectively. The top three areas mentioned as most effective were:

- Sewer system
- Transit/Transportation
- Research, forecasting, planning assistance

Participants were then asked to list one or two areas where the Metropolitan Council is not working effectively. The top three areas mentioned for improvement were:

- Lack of communication and interaction with the cities and public perception.
- Transit not working well within cities.
- Comprehensive plan process needs to be streamlined; too onerous.

### **Metropolitan Council Impact on City or County**

On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest, the Council was rated **6.8**, regarding its impact on their city or county.

Participants were asked to list one or two positive impacts that Metropolitan Council had on their city (or county). The top three areas mentioned for their positive impacts were:

- Sewer system (upgrades to infrastructure and technical assistance)
- Transit, BRT and the positive impact on redevelopment with LRT
- Grants for livable communities, environmental cleanup for redevelopment.

Participants were then asked to list one or two areas where the Metropolitan Council had a negative impact on their city (or county). The top three areas mentioned as negative impacts on their city were:

- Comprehensive Plan: huge process every 10 years, unclear criteria, mission creep, density requirements that don't consider naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH); mandates to put things into plan but cannot do plan without money; 'one-size-fits-all' goals and not much flexibility.
- Bureaucracy and lack of responsiveness. Long process to change land use.
- Sewer access charges are affecting business growth (cited by four cities).

### **Metropolitan Council Membership**

The survey wanted to understand if the current Metropolitan Council membership is working or if there was support for changes in the structure.

In the current structure the Governor appoints the membership.

- **51%** support the current system of the governor appointing Metropolitan Council members.

All were asked if they would support any of the following changes in the Metropolitan Council membership structure:

- **88%** supported switching to fixed, staggered terms for the benefit of long-range planning and to maintain institutional knowledge when a new governor is elected, especially if from a different political party. Those opposing staggered terms liked governor with his/her team. Two opposed anything to do with governor appointing.
- **46%** favored counties and cities appointing members. Supporters wanted more local input into the process. Opposing views were that it might be too parochial, too political, too complicated and some would fear the represented counties.
- **30%** support counties and cities within each district appointing members who are local elected officials. Supporters felt elected officials were better at communicating and would increase accountability. Opposing views were that elected officials would not have the time (cited most often by the elected officials) and incompatible interests associated with serving two different constituencies.
- **21%** supported expanding membership to include citizens-at-large. Support for more input, but most opposed seeing no value in increasing the size.
- **19%** supported the direct election of Metropolitan Council members. Supporters said this would give more accountability as a taxing authority, but most opposed this as the district would be too large, it would become hyper-partisan and feared Metropolitan Council would lose sight of what's best for the region.

- **14%** supported expanding the membership by increasing the number of Districts within the Metropolitan Council. Most opposed increasing the size of Council. Supporters liked that representatives would have more time to meet with cities.

### **Chair of the Metropolitan Council**

Currently, the Governor appoints the Chair of the Metropolitan Council.

- **72%** supported the governor's appointing the Metropolitan Council chair.

The survey asks all participants if the following changes in the appointment of Metropolitan Council members might be considered:

- **46%** would support membership electing the Chair through an internal process between Council members. Supporter comment: It would be "self-governing". Comments against this said it could create a lot of politics or factions; and that the new members wouldn't know each other.
- **17%** supported the Legislature developing a process to select the chair. Support for this was that the rural viewpoints might be better represented; opposition questioned why legislators outside the metro area should have a say and that this would slow down the process of selecting a chair.

### **Removal of Members**

Currently, the Governor may replace a member for any reason.

- **61%** support the process that only the governor can replace a member for any reason, with the caveat that the governor could not simply replace all previous administration appointees.

The survey asked all participants if the following changes in the replacement of Metropolitan Council members might be considered:

- **49%** support the Council developing a process for removing members.
- **36%** support the Legislature developing a process for removing members.

Most comments were that whoever appoints should be able to remove members. Others said there should be some procedural process or code of conduct developed in case there was a problem.

### **Metropolitan Council Membership Qualifications**

Currently, the qualifications for membership on the Metropolitan Council include:

- Candidate must live in the district
- Candidate must be knowledgeable about urban and metropolitan issues

- Candidate must fairly represent the various demographic, political and other interests of their district.
- **90%** support the current Metropolitan Council membership qualifications.

The survey also asked about the importance of the following qualifications for membership in the Council.

On a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the highest:

- Average Rank of **9.2**: Candidates can commit the time necessary to achieve the Council's objectives. **78%** rated this as very important (9 or 10).
- Average Rank of **7.2**: Candidates have subject matter expertise. **26%** rated this very important.
- Average Rank of **7.1**: Candidates have experience in local government. **30%** rated this very important.
- Average Rank of **6.8**: Candidates represent their district's demographics. **24%** rated this very important.

Respondents added other qualifications: such as collaborative, nonpartisan, market knowledge, open minded, understand rural affairs, visionary thinkers, not single issue, and good communicator.

### **Metropolitan Council Member Nomination and Selection Process**

Currently, the Governor has the responsibility to:

- Appoint a Nomination Committee of seven (7) members to review applications for Council membership for all 16 Districts.
- From those applications, the Nomination Committee proposes a slate of candidates to the Governor.
- The slate of candidates is not made public, and the Governor may choose from this slate or select from outside the slate.
- The slate of proposed candidates is not published, and the Governor can opt to choose the slate or nominate other candidates.

**50%** supported the current membership nomination process.

All participants were asked what changes they would support to the nomination process.

- **40%** felt that the Nomination Committee should be expanded to 13 members. Supporters said it would bring more diverse voices to the selection process. Those opposed cited that it would still be the governor appointing.



- **60%** felt that it was important to expand the nomination committee to include elected city and county officials. Some supporters wanted a majority of elected city and county officials on the committee, especially if there aren't elected officials on Metropolitan Council. Others said there already are elected officials on this committee and were concerned about it being self-serving. Some suggested having past elected officials on committee instead.
- **40%** felt it was necessary to establish district committees to receive nominations for their district and make recommendations to the Nominating Committee. A supporting comment: "Representation would be better." Opposing comment: "I'm concerned the process would be getting too complex and bureaucratic."
- **60%** supported the proposed slate of candidates be published prior to the governor selecting the final candidates. Some responded to add "21 days" before appointment for transparency. Those opposed were concerned there could be lobbying pressure and also could discourage some from applying.
- **50%** felt the Governor should explain why he/she did not appoint from the recommended slate of candidates. (Some supported but said governor should explain why his choice, instead of why not from the slate.)

### **Metropolitan Council Accountability**

Participants were asked to whom should the Metropolitan Council be accountable? They could select any or all of the choices below:

- Governor (**56%**)
- Residents of each District (**56%**)
- Metropolitan Region as a whole (**52%**)
- Legislature (**22%**)
- Federal rules mandating the Council (**20%**)
- Local elected officials (**18%**)

### **Metropolitan Council and Transportation Advisory Board**

Participants were asked, "How well do the Metropolitan Council and the Transportation Advisory Board work together?"

On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest:

- 28% of participants did not have enough experience to answer the question.
- 72% responded with the average ranking of **7.9**

### **Transportation Funds**

Participants were asked, "How fair is the current distribution of Metropolitan Council transportation funds to your city or county?"

On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the highest:

- 20% of participants did not have enough experience to answer the question.
- 80% responded with an average rank of **6.7**.

Comments on transportation funding ranged from “the scoring process is fair” to “unfair”. Some said east metro gets less funding than west metro. Another said some projects may be more expensive than others, but over a decade, they achieve geographic balance in distributing limited funds.

Some asked for a more transparent scoring process; others said there was no bias. One suburban city said they need more coordination of infrastructure for streets and roads when the sewer lines are expanded. Another said not all cities have the personnel “savvy” or time to write the applications for transportation funds.

There were many interesting and informative comments from local officials that will be published later in an aggregated format for anonymity to those officials in an appendix to this report.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Reports

Citizens League. The Metropolitan Council: Recalibrating for the Future. April 4, 2016.

[Citizens League on the Metropolitan Council](#)

Haigh, Susan.: The Metropolitan Council.” William Mitchell L. Rev. 160 2013-2014.

Metro Governance Transparency Initiative (MGTI) [metrogovernance.com](http://metrogovernance.com)

Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities, [metrocouncil.org](http://metrocouncil.org)

Metropolitan Maze 2000. Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters. September 2000.

Naftalin, Arthur. Making One Community out of Many –Perspectives on the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities Area. (Metropolitan Council, September 1986).

Office of the Legislative Auditor. Governance of Transit in the Twin Cities Region. January 2011.

### Press

Burkhardt, Kevin and King, Jason. “Bring the Met Council into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” Star Tribune, August 18, 2017.

Callaghan, Peter. “A bill to reform the Met Council will probably be vetoed That doesn’t mean a lot of people still don’t have problems with the Met Council. MinnPost, May 5, 2018.

Crockett, Kim and King, Jason. “Met Council needs more than tweaks.” Star tribune, April 28, 2016.

Dornfeld, Steve. “Met Council Actually Serves Metro Area Quite Well.” Star tribune, August 3, 2017.

Editorial staff. “Feds shouldn’t interfere with Met Council.” Star Tribune, April 30, 2018.

Gamache, Mike and Thompson, Annette. “It’s time to change the makeup of the unelected Met Council.” StarTribune, May 13, 2018.

Gaylord, Kathleen and Maluchnik, Randy. “Here’s a new way to appoint Met Council members.” Star Tribune, July 13, 2017.

Hovland, James, Kautz, Elizabeth and Williams, Janet. “No need to mess with the Metropolitan Council.” Star Tribune, May 4, 2018.

Lewis, Jason. “Apologists for unelected Met Council get desperate.” Opinion Page, Star Tribune, May 10, 2018.

Look, Matt, Maluchnik, Randy, Schouweiler, Nancy, and Ulrich, Jon. “The Metropolitan Council: It’s long past time to make it accountable to the public.” Star Tribune, October 1, 2016.

Moore, Janet. “Rep. Lewis’ move to retool Met Council fails in D.C.” Star Tribune, October 11, 2018.

Nelson, Emma. “Coalition pushes major Met council breakdown.” Star Tribune, October 23, 2016.

Roper, Eric. “U.S. House OKs Measure taking aim at Met Council.” Star Tribune, April 27, 2018.

Roper, Eric. “Legislature sends Met council reforms to Dayton.” Star Tribune, May 18, 2018.

Roper, Eric. “Rep. Lewis seeks to curb Met Council role.” Star Tribune, May 3, 2018.

Runbeck, Linda and Peppin, Joyce. “Why this unelected governing body needs reforms.” Star Tribune, November 18, 2017.

Sturdevant, Lori. “Our success is a regional story – at risk of an unhappy ending.” Star Tribune, February 4, 2018.

Taylor, Zach. “The Metropolitan Council: before curing its makeup, understand its history.” Star Tribune, May 24, 2018.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) gratefully acknowledges the time and input from both the interviewers and those interviewed. Their contributions helped CMAL members understand the impact of Metropolitan Council and its governance structure on cities and counties. The many professionals in the area of governance helped the study committee understand the overview of the issues. Thank you to the following:

Alene Tchourumoff, Chair, Metropolitan Council  
Charlie Vander Aarde, Government Relations Specialist, Metro Cities  
C. Terrence Anderson, U of M Center for Urban and Regional Affairs  
Mary Anderson, former Metropolitan Council Chair and former Mayor of Golden Valley  
Keith Carlson, Executive Director, Minnesota Inter-County Association  
Deb Dyson, Legislative Analyst, Minnesota House of Representatives  
Pahoua Yang Hoffman, Executive Director, Citizens League  
Angela Klebsch, Policy Director, Citizen League  
Patricia Nauman, Executive Director, Metro Cities  
Katie Rodriguez, Metropolitan Council member  
Kathleen Salzman, former Minnesota State Senator, consultant to MGTI

### **Mayors**

Bob Applegren, Randolph  
Myron Bailey, Cottage Grove  
Todd Carlson, Excelsior  
Molly Cummings, Hopkins  
Gerry DeLaVega, Tonka Bay  
Mary Hamann-Roland, Apple Valley  
Shep Harris, Golden Valley  
Kathi Hemken, New Hope  
Jim Hovland, Edina  
Elizabeth B, Kautz, Burnsville  
Deb Kind, Greenwood  
Bill Mars, Shakopee  
Jake Spano, St. Louis Park  
Mark Steffenson, Maple Grove  
Brad Wiersum, Minnetonka  
Janet Williams, Savage  
Scott Zerby, Shorewood  
Edwina Garcia, City of Richfield, Council Member

### **City Managers, Community Development Directors and Planning Directors**

Jeff Dahl, City of Wayzata City Manager  
Marie Darling, City of Shorewood Planning Director  
Donna Drummond, City of St. Paul Planning Director

Jenni Faulkner, City of Burnsville Community Development Director  
Grant Fernelius, City of Coon Rapids, Community Development Director  
Dusty Finke, City of Medina Planning Director  
Tim Gladhill, City of Ramsey Community Development Director  
John Hinzman, City of Hastings, Community Development Director  
Eric Hoversten, City of Mound City Manager/Planner  
Jill Hutmacher City of Eagan Community Development Director  
Steve Juetten, City of Plymouth Community Development Director  
Thomas Lawell, City of Apple Valley, City Administrator  
Jennifer Levitt, City of Cottage Grove Interim City Administrator  
Dean Lotter, City of New Brighton City Manager  
Michael Martin, City of Maplewood Economic Development Director  
Kirk McDonald, City of New Hope City Manager  
Meg McMonigal, City of St. Louis Park Principal Planner  
Justin Miller, City of Lakeville City Administrator  
Heidi Nelson, City of Maple Grove City Administrator  
Dave Osberg, City of Eagan City Administrator  
John Sutter, City of Crystal Community Development Director  
Jeff Thomson, City of Wayzata, Planning and Building Manager  
John Tingley, City of Tonka Bay Administrator  
Pat Trudgeon, City of Roseville City Manager  
Bill Turnblad, City of Stillwater Community Development Director  
Jamie Verbrugge, City of Bloomington City Manager  
Sean Walther, City of St. Louis Park Planning/Zoning Supervisor  
Jason Zimmerman, City of Golden Valley Planning Director  
Eric Zweber, City of Maple Grove, Interim Senior Planner

### **County**

Jan Callison, Hennepin County Commissioner District 6  
Linda Higgins, Hennepin County Commissioner District 2  
Matt Look, Anoka County Commissioner District 1  
Matt Smith, Dakota County Administrator

### **League of Women Voters Volunteer Interviewers**

Susan Anderson, LWV Anoka, Blaine and Coon Rapids  
Polly Bergerson, LWV Dakota County  
Ginny Bjerke, LWV New Brighton  
Dorothy Boen, LWV Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, and Hopkins  
Paula Stein Clark, LWV Dakota County  
Peg DuBord, LWV South Tonka  
Shannon Emil, LWV South Tonka  
Kay Erickson, LWV South Tonka  
Colleen Feige, LWV Edina  
Linde Gassman, LWV Dakota County  
Sherry Hood, LWV Roseville Area  
Holly Jenkins, LWV Dakota County

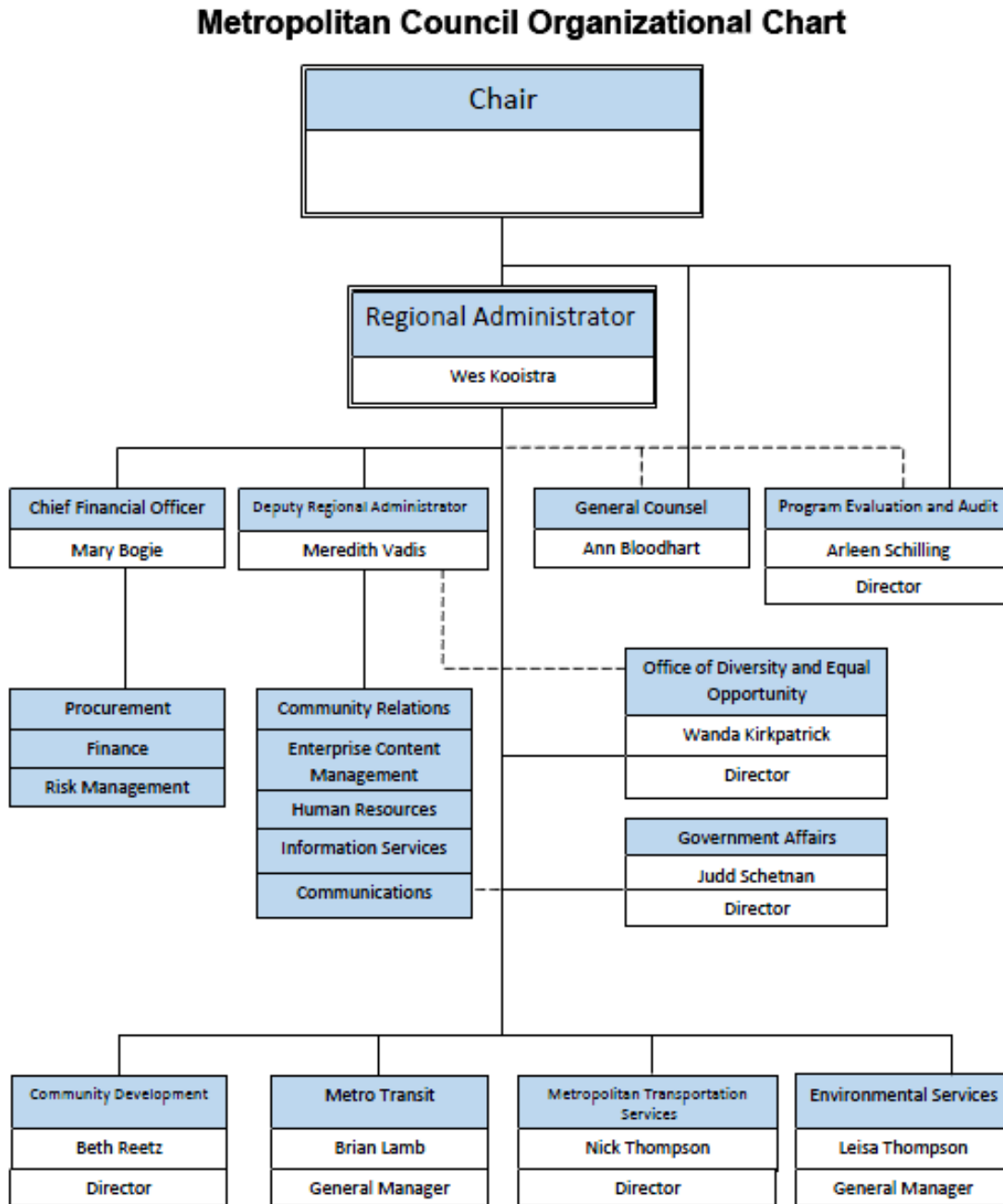
Eleanor Johnson, LWV Brooklyn Park, Osseo, Maple Grove  
Bonnie Koch, LWV Roseville Area  
Lisa Kopas-Lane, LWV South Tonka  
Anne Koutnik, LWV Dakota County  
Linda Krefting, LWV Brooklyn Park, Osseo and Maple Grove  
Peggy Kvam, LWV Minnetonka, Eden Prairie and Hopkins  
Idelle Longman, LWV Edina  
Martha Micks, LWV Golden Valley  
Tamara Mittelstadt, LWV Woodbury/Cottage Grove Area  
Sharon Murphy-Garber, LWV South Tonka  
Ardyth Norem, LWV Wayzata Plymouth Area  
Paula Overby, LWV Dakota County  
Mary Rice, LWV Bloomington  
Jean Rozinka, LWV Woodbury/Cottage Grove  
Karla Sand, LWV Woodbury and Cottage Area  
Elaine Savick, LWV St. Louis Park  
Karen Schaffer, LWV Roseville Area  
Maureen Scaglia, LWV Richfield  
JoAnn Schaub, LWV South Tonka  
Miriam Simmons, LWV White Bear Lake Area  
Carol Thiss, LWV South Tonka  
Kay Thompson, LWV South Tonka  
Marcia Wattson, LWV Bloomington  
Lois Wendt, LWV Crystal, New Hope and East Plymouth  
Tracy Whitney, LWV South Tonka  
Karen Zais, LWV South Tonka

**CMAL Study Committee**

Karen Schaffer, Committee Chair  
Susan Anderson  
Peg DuBord  
Holly Jenkins  
Lynne Markus  
Martha Micks  
Ardyth Norem  
Elaine Savick

APPENDIX

**Metropolitan Council Organizational Chart (2017)**

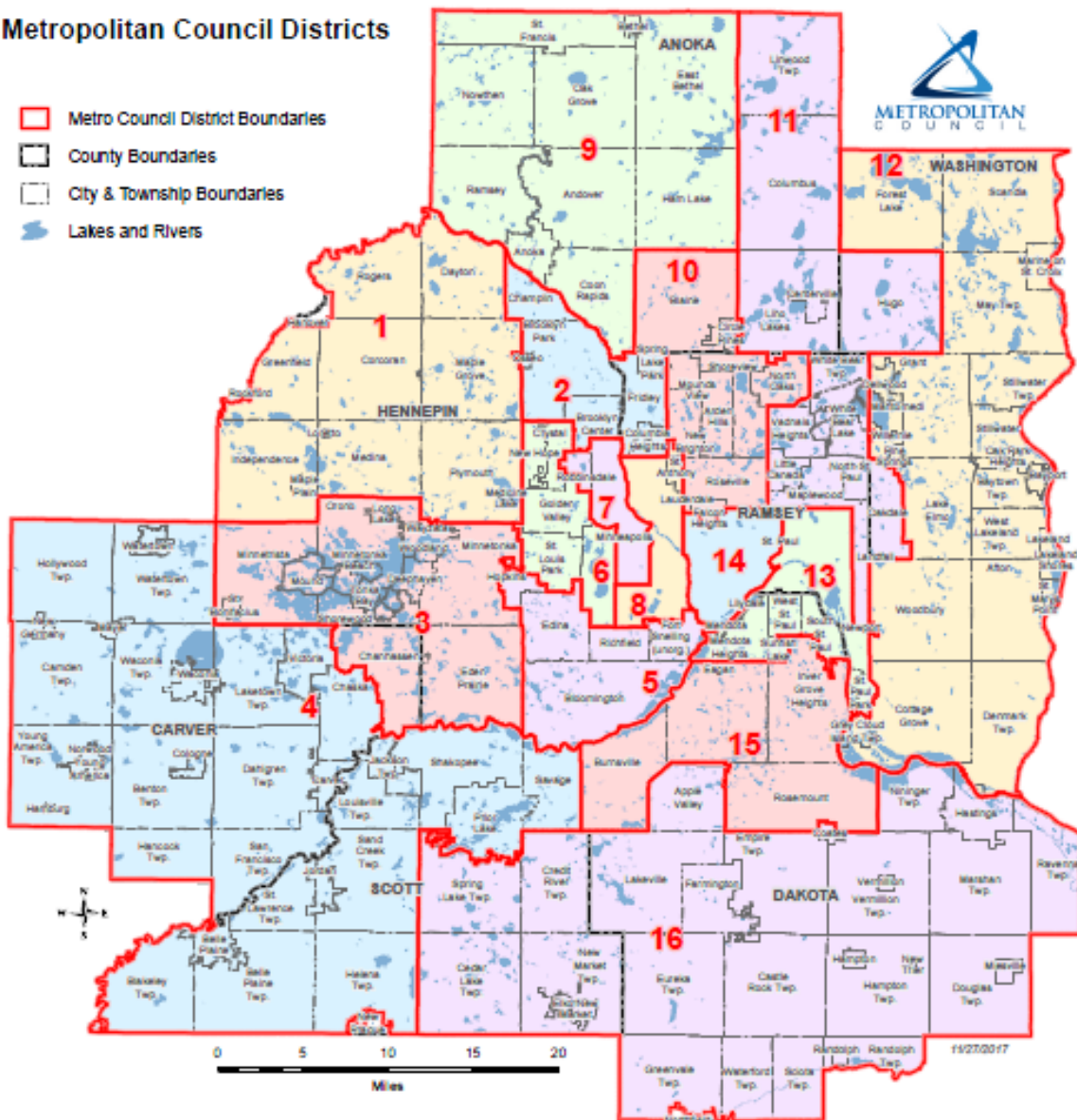




# Metropolitan Council Districts


## Metropolitan Council Districts

- Metro Council District Boundaries
- County Boundaries
- City & Township Boundaries
- Lakes and Rivers



Source: Metropolitan Council Redistricting Plan passed by the state legislature on May 17, 2013. Boundaries re-aligned with municipal and county boundaries and NCompass Street Centerlines.

## Questionnaire Used to Collect Data

 <b>Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Date:</b>		
	<b>Title:</b>			
	<b>City or County:</b>	<b>Years working with Met Council:</b>		
<b>Review of the League's Current Positions on the Metropolitan Council Questionnaire for City Planners and Elected City or County Officials</b>				
<b>Met Council Effectiveness</b>				
1. Please rate the Met Council's current effectiveness overall. <i>Not at all effective</i> 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 <i>Extremely effective</i>				
2. Please list 1 or 2 areas where the Met Council is working effectively.				
3. Please list 1 or 2 areas where the Met Council is not working effectively.				
<b>Met Council Impact</b>				
4. Please rate the degree to which the Met Council has impacted <b>your</b> city or county. <i>No impact at all</i> 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 <i>Extreme impact</i>				
5. Please list 1 or 2 positive impacts the Met Council has had on <b>your</b> city or county.				
6. Please list 1 or 2 negative impacts the Met Council has had on <b>your</b> city or county.				
<b>Met Council Membership Structure</b>				
7. The Met Council is currently comprised of 16 members plus a Chair. The Governor appoints all members to terms, coterminating with the term of the Governor, who has the authority to terminate a member at will. Do you support the current membership structure?				
		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>YES</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> </table>	YES	NO
YES	NO			
8. Would you support any of the following changes in membership structure?				
A. The Governor appoints members to fixed, <b>staggered</b> terms. <i>Why or why not? (optional)</i>		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>YES</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> </table>	YES	NO
YES	NO			
B. Counties and cities within each District appoint members <i>Why or why not? (optional)</i>		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>YES</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> </table>	YES	NO
YES	NO			

**Met Council Membership Structure (cont.)**

8.	<p>C. Counties and cities within each District appoint members who are elected officials <i>Why or why not? (optional)</i></p>	YES	NO
	<p>D. Expand membership to include Citizens-at-Large. <i>Why or why not? (optional)</i></p>	YES	NO
	<p>E. The public directly elects Council members. <i>Why or why not? (optional)</i></p>	YES	NO
	<p>F. Expand membership by increasing the number of Districts within the Met Council. <i>Why or why not? (optional)</i></p>	YES	NO
	<p>G. Additional Comments:</p>		
9.	Currently, the Governor appoints the Chair of the Met Council. Do you support this process?	YES	NO
10.	Would you support any of the following changes in the Chair selection process?		
	A. The membership elects the Chair through an internal process between Council members	YES	NO
	B. The Legislature develops a process for selecting a chair.	YES	NO
	B. Other:		
11.	Currently, only the Governor can replace a member for any reason. Do you support this process? <i>Why or why not?</i>	YES	NO

12. Would you support any of the following changes in the member removal process?

A. The Council internally develops a process for removing members.

B. The Legislature develops a process for removing members.

C. Other:

YES	NO
YES	NO

**Met Council Membership Qualifications**

13. Currently, the qualifications for membership in the Met Council include:  
 Must live in the District;  
 Must be knowledgeable about urban and metropolitan affairs, and  
 Must fairly represent the various demographic, political and other interests in the metropolitan area and the districts.

A. Do you support these qualifications?

YES	NO
-----	----

14. How important are the following qualifications for candidate nomination to the Met Council?

A. Candidates have experience in local government	<i>Not at all important</i>	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10	<i>Extremely important</i>
B. Candidates have subject matter expertise		1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10	
C. Candidate represent their District's demographics		1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10	
D. Candidates can commit to the time necessary to achieve the Council's objectives		1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10	
E. What other qualifications could you see as necessary?			

**Met Council Membership Nomination Process**

15. Currently, the Governor has the responsibility to:  
 Appoint a Nomination Committee of seven (7) members to review applications for Council membership for all 16 Districts.  
 From those applications, the Nomination Committee proposes a slate of candidates to the Governor.  
 The slate of candidates is not made public, and the Governor may choose from this slate or select from outside the slate.  
 The slate of proposed candidates is not published and the Governor can opt to choose the slate or nominate other candidates.

Do you support this membership nomination process?

YES	NO
-----	----

16. Would you support any of the following changes in the membership nomination process?

A. Expand the Nomination Committee from 7 to 13 members  
*Why or why not? (optional)*

YES	NO
-----	----

**Met Council Membership Nomination Process (cont.)**

16. B. Expand the Nomination Committee to include elected city and county officials <i>Why or why not? (optional)</i>	YES	NO
C. Should District Committees be established to receive nominations for their district representation and make recommendations to the Nomination Committee? <i>Why or why not? (optional)</i>	YES	NO
D. Should the proposed slate of candidates be published prior to the Governor selecting the final candidates. <i>Why or why not? (optional)</i>	YES	NO
E. Should the Governor explain why he/she did not appoint from the recommended slate of candidates? <i>Why or why not? (optional)</i>	YES	NO
F. Additional Comments:		

**Met Council Accountability**

17. In your opinion, to whom should the membership of the Met Council be ultimately accountable?	<i>Please circle any/all options you wish.</i>
A. Governor B. Legislature C. Federal rules mandating the Council	D. Residents of each District E. The Metro Region as a whole F. Local elected officials G. Additional Comments:

**Transportation Funding**

**The Met Council, in conjunction with the Transportation Advisory Board, is the designated entity for receipt of federal transportation funds.**

18. In your experience, how well do the Met Council and the Transportation Advisory Board work together?	<i>Not at all well</i> 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 <i>Extremely well</i>
19. In your experience, how fair is the current distribution of Met Council transportation funds to your City or County?	<i>Not at all fair</i> 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 <i>Extremely fair</i>
20. Additional Comments:	

**Thank you for taking the time to assist the League of Women Voters with this survey.**