

# Coon Rapids Local Sales Tax (LST)

April, 2026



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## Brief Background on the issue

- Coon Rapids has been exploring large capital projects –
  - Police Station - expansion/remodel due to space and modernization challenges.
  - City Center - houses many functions, including senior center and an event facility. All are 30 years old and in need of renovation.
  - City has long desired to build a community center at the Coon Rapids Ice Center/Boulevard Plaza site.
- Very difficult to finance these projects through traditional means (levy) given bonding capacity is tied up in infrastructure projects
- City has been pursuing a Local Sales Tax (LST) now that the moratorium has been lifted

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## Project #1 – Police Department and City Center

### POLICE STATION EXPANSION/CITY CENTER: \$40M

- » Building addition, plus renovation of existing facilities.
- » Increase overall security in lobby, interview rooms and work spaces.
- » Add locker room capacity to accommodate more female officers.
- » Increase training and evidence processing areas, and add storage for specialized equipment.
- » Support physical and mental health with modern fitness and wellness features.
- » Update City Center workspaces, senior center and rental facilities to enhance security and customer service.



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### REGIONAL IMPACT

- » Provide space and technology to operate an Emergency Command Center.
- » State-of-the-art training facility and gun range to benefit north metro agencies.
- » Adequately meet demands for evidence processing and storage.
- » Increase functionality and capacity of City Center, which serves as a hub for regional senior programming and community rental opportunities.

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## Project #2 – Community Center

### COMMUNITY CENTER/EVENT SPACE: \$40M

- » Add accessible, flexible spaces for athletics, entertainment and events.
- » New amenities may include:
  - Field house/gymnasium/walking track
  - Athletic courts
  - Indoor playground
  - Meeting/gathering spaces
  - Outdoor event facilities to expand Boulevard Plaza
  - Additional entrances & parking



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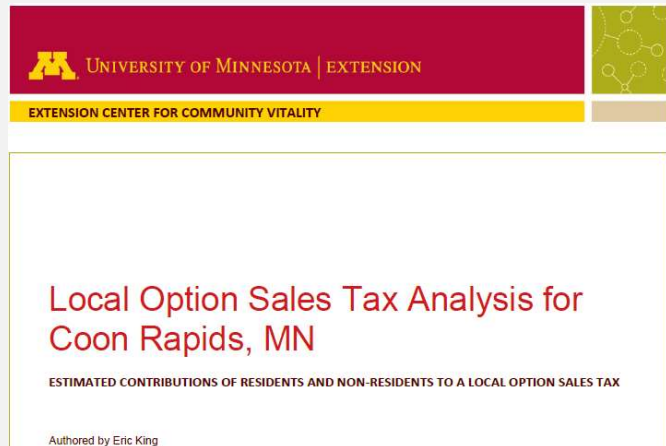
### REGIONAL IMPACT

- » Existing Boulevard Plaza splash pad and Coon Rapids Ice Center skating facility are widely used area amenities.
- » The site hosts large, regional events:
  - 4th of July
  - Farmers Markets
  - Blue Ox Hockey
  - Youth sports
- » Future site for a Veterans Memorial.
- » Improve safety and accessibility for large crowds.
- » Increase sports and event tourism.

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## LST Analysis Background

- City engaged U of M Extension to conduct study
- Focus on potential revenue generation of 0.5% sales tax
- Understand impact to residents, non-residents and the revenue generated by merchandise category
- Actual data through 2022



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## Summary of Findings

- A 0.5% sales tax would have yielded \$4.687M in 2022
- Approx. 51.2% from residents, 48.8% from non-residents
  - On average, Coon Rapids resident would have paid an additional \$37.85 in sales tax in 2022
- A LST has the potential to generate over \$5M each year

**Figure 2: Estimated 2022 Taxable Sales Subject to LOST**

	Taxable Sales	Percent of Sales
City residents	\$479,998,640	51.2%
Non-residents	\$457,596,360	48.8%

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Figure 5: Forecast for Tax Proceeds based on Past Trends 2013 to 2022

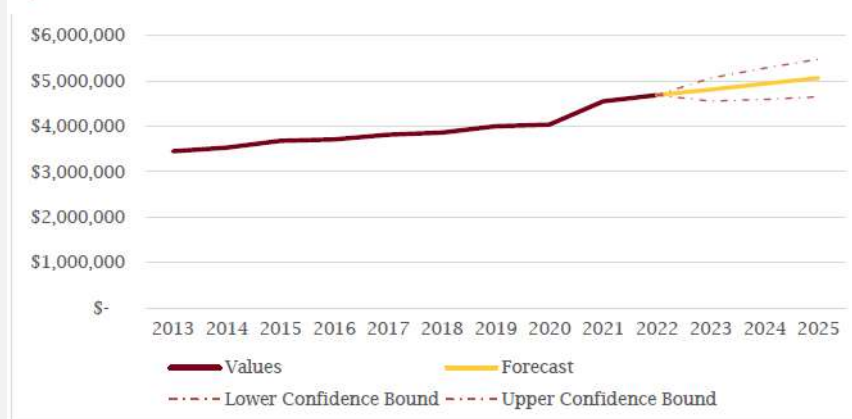


Figure 6: Forecast with Upper and Lower Bound 2023-25

	Forecast	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
2023	\$4,810,439	\$4,554,526	\$5,066,353
2024	\$4,937,785	\$4,593,317	\$5,282,253
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## LST Statutory Process

- ✓ 1. Adopt a resolution – tax rate, “regional significance,” amount to be raised and estimated years for tax
- ✓ 2. Submit resolution and supporting materials to state tax committees by Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>
3. Secure legislative authorization
4. Adopt resolution accepting new law
5. Hold referendum – each project must be a separate question
6. If approved, pass ordinance imposing the tax

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## Metro (and adjacent) Cities with LST

- Bloomington
- Chanhassen
- Edina
- Elk River
- Excelsior
- Golden Valley
- Maple Grove
- Minneapolis
- Richfield
- Rogers
- St. Paul
- Stillwater
- West St. Paul
- Woodbury

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# COON RAPIDS LOCAL SALES TAX

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST —→ AUTHORIZE .5% TAX

## Purpose

Present Coon Rapids voters with two separate ballot questions to consider a half percent (0.5%) Local Sales Tax (LST) to be collected for up to 25 years. If approved, LST funds would support two proposed projects serving greater regional significance:

- » Police Station Expansion/ City Center Updates.
- » New Community Center/ Outdoor Event Space.



If approved, Coon Rapids will include the referendum questions on the November 2026 ballot to coincide with the general election.

## Projects



### POLICE STATION EXPANSION/CITY CENTER: \$40M

- » Building addition, plus renovation of existing facilities.
- » Increase overall security in lobby, interview rooms and work spaces.
- » Add locker room capacity to accommodate more female officers.
- » Increase training and evidence processing areas, and add storage for specialized equipment.
- » Support physical and mental health with modern fitness and wellness features.
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### REGIONAL IMPACT

- » Provide space and technology to operate an Emergency Command Center.
- » State-of-the-art training facility and gun range to benefit north metro agencies.
- » Adequately meet demands for evidence processing and storage.
- » Increase functionality and capacity of City Center, which serves as a hub for regional senior programming and community rental opportunities.



### COMMUNITY CENTER/EVENT SPACE: \$40M

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  - 4th of July
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  - Blue Ox Hockey
  - Youth sports
- » Future site for a Veterans Memorial.
- » Improve safety and accessibility for large crowds.
- » Increase sports and event tourism.

## Financial Estimates

**\$5 MILLION/YEAR**

Coon Rapids serves as a north metro destination and regional retail hub, with the Riverdale shopping area drawing consumers from many surrounding communities.

A University of Minnesota Extension study forecasted \$5M in taxable sales per year, buoyed by Riverdale.



**48.8%** Percent of LST collected from non-residents.



# City of Coon Rapids

# Local Sales Tax Request

Request Narrative & Documentation of  
Regional Significance



## Project Narrative and Documentation of Regional Significance

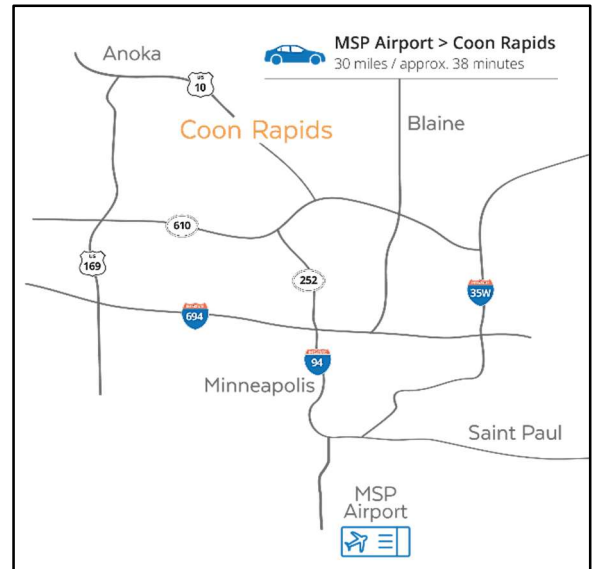
### **Introduction:**

The City of Coon Rapids, located in Anoka County, is a nearly fully developed suburban community with an estimated population of over 63,000 residents. Coon Rapids is an economic hub of the northwest metro and home to major regional retail amenities, major commercial and industrial employers, and to several regional amenities. The City of Coon Rapids is seeking a 0.5% local sales tax to fund two major capital investments of regional significance. The first project is an expansion and renovation of the City's Police Department and City Center facility. The second is a community center expansion located at the City's current Ice Center site. These projects will be further detailed in this narrative.

### **Coon Rapids Regional Position:**

Coon Rapids is a significant regional center in the northwest Twin Cities metropolitan area. The city is home to nearly 28,000 jobs across many business, government and non-profit employers. Major employers include:

- Allina Health
- Cretex Medical – RMS
- HOM Furniture Corporate Headquarters
- John Roberts Company
- Mary T, Inc.



Additionally, Coon Rapids is home to several regional amenities, including:

- Mercy Hospital – Allina Health
- Anoka-Ramsey Community College
- Bunker Hills Regional Park
- Coon Rapid Dam Regional Park
- Riverdale shopping center and many other significant retail centers
- Major State highways, including – Trunk Highway 610 and Trunk Highway 10
- Major sports/tourism facilities, including – Sand Creek Park, the Coon Rapids Soccer Complex, and the Coon Rapids Ice Center & Boulevard Plaza
- Seven hotels with several hundred rooms available combined

## **Project Needs and Descriptions**

**Project #1: Police Station Expansion/Renovation and City Center Renovation** — Up to \$40 million to modernize and expand the City’s police station and City Center campus. The current facility is 30 years old and inadequate in many respects. This project will include an addition to the police station, plus full renovation of existing facilities, and an addition to the garage that houses police and fire vehicles and equipment to adequately support the department's training and storage needs. Additional project features include:

- New police and public safety training facilities that will also benefit public safety agencies in the region.
- Modernized technological infrastructure to ensure continuity of the Emergency Operations Center and effective delivery of essential services.
- An expanded police station lobby to enhance security and customer service.
- New police interview rooms and employee workspaces.
- Expanded locker rooms to accommodate the significant growth in officers, especially female officers, since the facility was constructed.
- Expanded evidence processing and storage spaces.
- Expanded spaces to support physical and mental health for police officers.



The project would also include a renovation of the City Center, including employee workspaces, to effectively integrate the facility with the renovation and expansion of the police station. This project will also include:

- Enhanced security and customer service throughout the facility.
  - Updated mechanical and electrical infrastructure as necessary to ensure the reliability of the facility and to provide for continuity of essential services.
- Renovation of the Senior Center and banquet facility to provide for expanded programming and contemporary amenities.



This project fulfills the regional significance requirements in the following way:

- The new police training facilities are designed for use by area law enforcement agencies on a not-for-profit basis.
- Several area law enforcement agencies have written letters in support of this project and have stated their intention to use the facility if it is constructed. These letters are included as attachments to this application.
  - Additionally, the new training center would be used by multi-jurisdiction agencies, such as Anoka County SWAT and the Anoka Hennepin Narcotic and Violent Crimes Task Force, and their member cities, to conduct training that will benefit the entire region.
- The City Center is a multi-use governmental facility that houses City Hall offices and the Civic Center, which is used as a Senior Center during the day and as an event/banquet facility on nights and weekends.
  - In 2025, the Coon Rapid Senior Center had 1,776 unique senior citizen visitors. Of which, 788 were non-residents of Coon Rapids. This means that about 43% of the senior citizens that utilized this facility in 2025 came from communities outside of Coon Rapids, mainly from the surrounding Anoka County communities.
  - The total number of visitors to the Civic Center in 2025 was nearly 25,000 people, many of which visited for weddings, celebrations, meetings or public events. A significant proportion of these visitors come from outside of Coon Rapids.



\*\* Report continued on the following page\*\*

**Project #2: Community Center and Event Space** — Up to \$40 million to construct a new Community Center facility integrated with the Coon Rapid Ice Center and Boulevard Plaza. Planned amenities include:

- A field house/gymnasium with walking track.
- Indoor play and recreational space.
- Meeting and gathering spaces.
- Outdoor event facilities to expand Boulevard Plaza.
- Updates to existing ice center facilities, lobby/customer service areas, park amenities, and other public facilities on-site.
- Additional entrances and parking to support the expanded complex.

This project fulfills the regional significance requirements in the following way:

- The existing Coon Rapid Ice Center and Boulevard Plaza have already been established as a regional asset:
  - The Ice Center is home to many community-based and regional organizations, including:
    - Coon Rapids Youth Hockey
    - Figure Skating Club
    - Spring Lake Park/Coon Rapids Boys High School Hockey
    - Champlin Park/Coon Rapids Girls High School Hockey
    - Minnesota Blue Ox Junior A Hockey of the USPHL
    - Minnesota Wild Sled Hockey Program



- The indoor ice sheet and outdoor refrigerated rink are host to hockey tournaments and events throughout the year resulting in over 200,000 visitors each year, many from outside of Coon Rapids.
- The area surrounding the Ice Center is known as Boulevard Plaza and includes a Splash Pad, playground and open space used for large events.
  - The Splash Pad and playground are used heavily during the summer months by residents, visitors, and as a destination for summer school/childcare field trips. Staff estimates that nearly 50% of the visitors to the Splash Pad come from outside of Coon Rapids.
  - Boulevard Plaza hosts major community events that draw tens of thousands of visitors to the site, including the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration and fireworks (voted one of the best fireworks shows in the state), an annual Holiday Tree Lighting event, and weekly Farmers Market events July through October.
- The new Community Center expansion would address a regional need in the following ways:
  - The addition of a field house/gymnasium would address the lack of indoor recreational space in the region for both athletics purposes and for indoor event space.
    - The Anoka-Hennepin School District and area community athletic groups have regularly cited the lack of gym space as a major obstacle to providing adequate or expanded programming in our region.
  - An indoor walking track is a highly requested amenity in our region, especially amongst the senior citizen population for the purpose of being able to safely exercise during winter months.
  - An indoor playground would provide residents in the region with an option for safe play and wellness for children during the winter months.
  - The new outdoor amenities would integrate with existing events of regional significance and allow for expansion of these events.



**Concept of existing facility integration with new field house expansion**



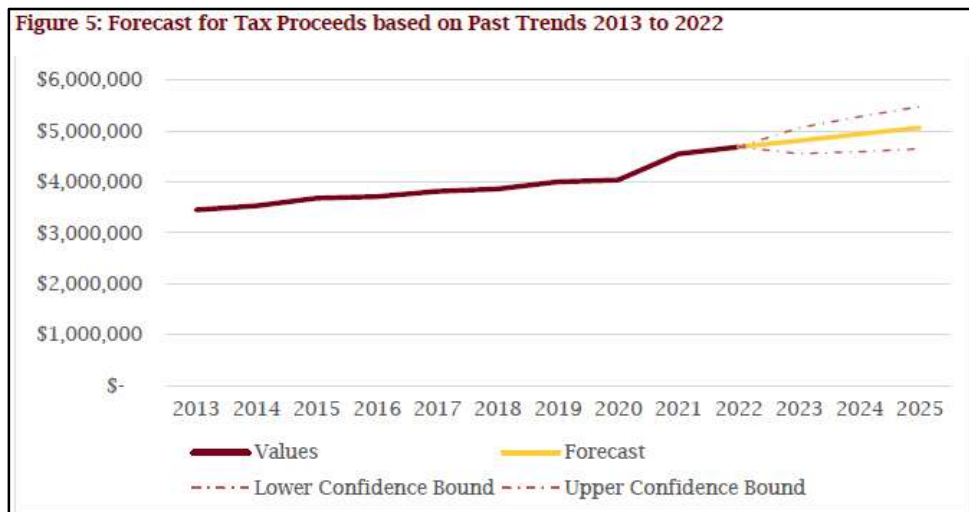
**Concept field house/gymnasium with elevated walking track**

**University of Minnesota Extension Study:**

The City engaged the University of Minnesota Extension – Department of Community Development to conduct an analysis of the impact of a 0.5% local sales tax in Coon Rapids. The report identified several significant findings:

- Using 2022 sales data, the most recent data available at the time the analysis was conducted, it was estimated that 51.2% of the taxable sales would be generated by residents, and 48.8% from non-residents.
  - The nearly 50-50 split between residents and non-residents is driven by the city’s regional shopping center, Riverdale, and the number of regional amenities located within the city.
- If the local sales tax were in place in 2022, it would have generated at least \$4.7 million in revenue, not including online sales.
- In future years, the analysis suggests that the city could reasonably expect at least \$5 million in annual revenue.

Graphical excerpt from the U of M Extension Study:



**Figure 6: Forecast with Upper and Lower Bound 2023-25**

	Forecast	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
2023	\$4,810,439	\$4,554,526	\$5,066,353
2024	\$4,937,785	\$4,593,317	\$5,282,253
2025	\$5,065,131	\$4,650,471	\$5,479,790

### **Final Considerations:**

Without the ability to move forward with proposing these projects as separate referendum questions on a future ballot, it is very unlikely the City would be able to advance these projects in a meaningful way in the next several years. As a nearly fully developed community with a tax base that is below the metropolitan average on a per-capita basis, our tax levy capacity for issuing debt must be focused on replacement of existing infrastructure. Given the number of significant regional amenities that exist within the city, several of which don't generate property tax due to their non-profit or governmental status, a local sales tax is a practical way to address the need for additional capital facilities that are also a regional benefit.

The City of Coon Rapids is willing to work within the requirements of State Statute, and to address the guidelines provided by the Tax Committees. As such, the City will provide supplemental information as necessary to respond to any requirements or questions that haven't been adequately addressed within this report. The City of Coon Rapids thanks the Tax Committees for considering this request and looks forward to future conversations about these plans.

### **List of Attachments:**

1. Resolution adopted by the Coon Rapids City Council on January 6, 2026, to comply with statutory requirement.
2. Informational flyer describing the projects and sales tax request.
3. Nine letters from area law enforcement agencies expressing their support for the police training facility that is part of the Police Department/City Center project.

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-24**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SOLICITATION OF STATE LEGISLATIVE  
AUTHORIZATION TO HOLD A REFERENDUM ON A LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX  
TO FUND SPECIFIC CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROVIDING REGIONAL  
BENEFIT**

**WHEREAS**, the Coon Rapids City Center campus is a multifaceted public facility housing the city's police department, general administration services, senior center, and banquet facility; and

**WHEREAS**, whereas the City Center was completed in 1996 and has not undergone any significant facility improvements or expansions since completion; and

**WHEREAS**, the city's Police Department has grown significantly since 1996 due to the substantial increase in call volumes, growth in population and housing density, increased commuter traffic on State highways, and the addition of regional amenities such as the Riverdale shopping center; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Police Department has become inadequate to properly house training facilities needed to meet increased training standards, evidence processing, locker rooms that can accommodate for the growth in female police officers, building security, workspaces for the growth in staffing and to address current challenges related to officer wellness, space for the recently established community mental health professionals program, and several other space needs related to new programs, equipment, and personnel needed to maintain a modern and effective department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Police Department is housed within the City Center, which is an integrated facility that includes the city's general government services that can't be efficiently or effectively renovated or expanded without addressing the overall building structure and needs; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City Center also houses the city's Senior Center, which provides services to not only Coon Rapids residents, but to the approximately 43 percent of its regular visitors that come from outside of the city; and

**WHEREAS**, separately, the City of Coon Rapids has identified the development of a community center at the current Coon Rapids Ice Center site as a key investment to continue to support the city as a north metro regional center.

**WHEREAS**, Coon Rapids Ice Center was completed in 2011 and includes one indoor ice sheet and one outdoor refrigerated ice sheet and currently serves youth ice sports that attracts visitors from throughout the state and region; and

**WHEREAS**, it was anticipated the Coon Rapids Ice Center would be the first phase of a larger community center and the property surrounding the site would support large events and recreational programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the city has further invested in this site to include a splash pad and playground, known as Boulevard Plaza, that attracts visitors from throughout Anoka County and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, this location has already become a site for events of regional significance, including: the city's annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, farmers markets, a holiday tree lighting festival, and more; and

**WHEREAS**, the city desires to construct a community center on this site that is connected to the existing facilities and will result in a regional benefit to area residents and businesses, and

**WHEREAS**, the city is committed to engaging its residents and business community regarding both the Police Station/City Center and Community Center projects; and

**WHEREAS**, Coon Rapids has several large regional draws that benefit the community, but also place a large demand on city services without the benefit of property taxation, including Mercy Hospital, Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Bunker Hills Regional Park, and the Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park; and

**WHEREAS**, each project will result in benefits to both residents and businesses within Coon Rapids and to non-resident visitors and businesses, and

**WHEREAS**, funding the projects with a local sales tax will distribute the cost of the projects in a way that better reflects the regional nature of the city and the increased demand for the regional facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the construction related costs of each project are estimated to be \$40 million, for a total need of \$80 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the city estimates that a local sales tax of 0.50 percent for 25 years would adequately generate enough revenue to cover the construction-related costs of the projects plus the financing costs needed to cover the debt issuance for the projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the city has provided documentation of the regional significance of each project and how they provide benefit to visitors and businesses located outside of the jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, the revenue derived from the imposition of a sales tax will be used to pay the capital costs of construction, construction design and management, procurement of necessary materials and furniture/fixtures/equipment, demolition, renovation, and the associated interest and financing costs for the project as follows:

Project #1: Police Station Expansion/Renovation and City Center Renovation

- An addition to the police station, plus full renovation of existing facilities, and an addition to the garage that houses police and fire vehicles and equipment to adequately provide for the city's training and storage needs. The essential features of this project will include:

- Modernized technological infrastructure to ensure continuity of the Emergency Operations Center and effective delivery of essential services.
- An expanded police station lobby to enhance security and customer service.
- New police interview rooms and employee workspaces.
- New police training facilities that will also benefit public safety agencies in the region.
- Expanded evidence processing and storage areas.
- Expanded spaces to support physical and mental health for police officers.
- Renovation of the City Center, including employee workspaces, to effectively integrate the facility with the renovation and expansion of the police station. This project will also include:
  - Enhanced security and customer service throughout the facility.
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Project #2: Community Center and Event Space

- Construct a new Community Center facility integrated with the Coon Rapid Ice Center and Boulevard Plaza, amenities to include:
  - A field house/gymnasium with walking track.
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  - Meeting and gathering spaces.
  - Outdoor event facilities to expand Boulevard Plaza.
  - Updates to existing ice center facilities, lobby/customer service areas, park amenities, and other public facilities on-site.
  - Additional entrances and parking to support the expanded complex.

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statute 297A.99 authorizes the imposition of a general sales tax if permitted by special law of the Minnesota Legislature, and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statute 297A.99 requires the city to pass a resolution requesting authorization from the Minnesota Legislature prior to seeking local voter approval through a referendum.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of Coon Rapids, Minnesota, as follows:

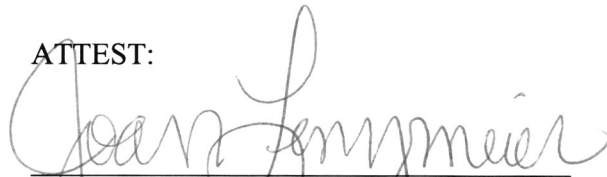
1. The City Council supports the authority to impose a general local sales tax of 0.50 percent for a period of 25 years to fund the aforementioned projects.
2. Upon approval of this resolution, the city will submit the adopted resolution and documentation of regional significance to the chairs of the House and Senate Tax Committees by January 31<sup>st</sup> of 2026.
3. Upon Legislative approval and passage of the special law authorizing the tax, the city will adopt a resolution accepting the new law at least 90 days prior to the general election.

4. The city will put detailed ballot questions on a general election ballot within two years of receiving legislative authority.
5. If the ballot questions pass, the city will also pass an ordinance imposing the tax and will notify the Commissioner of Revenue at least 90 days before the first day of the calendar quarter that the tax will be imposed.
6. Upon completion of the aforementioned requirements, the local sales tax will commence and run for 25 years or until a sum sufficient to fund the voter approved projects, including related debt costs, is raised, whichever comes first.
7. The City Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized to take all actions necessary or appropriate, and in accordance with applicable laws of the State of Minnesota, to prepare and submit to the Minnesota Legislature for enactment of a special law authorizing the local sales tax referred to in this Resolution.

Adopted by the Coon Rapids City Council this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Koch, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joan Lenzmeier, City Clerk



# COON RAPIDS LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST —→ AUTHORIZE .5% TAX

## Purpose

Present Coon Rapids voters with two separate ballot questions to consider a half percent (0.5%) Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) to be collected for up to 25 years. If approved, LOST funds would support two proposed projects serving greater regional significance:

- » Police Station Expansion/ City Center Updates.
- » New Community Center/ Outdoor Event Space.



If approved, Coon Rapids will include the referendum questions on the November 2026 ballot to coincide with the general election.

## Projects



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- » Building addition, plus renovation of existing facilities.
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### REGIONAL IMPACT

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- » Future site for a Veterans Memorial.
- » Improve safety and accessibility for large crowds.
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## Financial Estimates

**\$5 MILLION/YEAR**

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A University of Minnesota Extension study forecasted \$5M in taxable sales per year, buoyed by Riverdale.



**48.8%** Percent of LOST collected from non-residents.



# Office of the Sheriff

## ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF BRAD WISE

December 18, 2025

Chief Bill Steiner  
Coon Rapids Police Department  
11155 Robinson Drive NW  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

### **RE: Support for the City of Coon Rapids Remodel & Expansion Local Option Sales Tax Proposal**

Dear Chief Steiner:

I am writing to offer my personal support for the City of Coon Rapids and the Coon Rapids Police Department as you seek legislative approval to pursue a Local Option Sales Tax to fund the remodel and expansion of their police department facility.

I had the privilege of serving as Chief of Police for the City of Coon Rapids and have firsthand knowledge of its operations, challenges, and commitment to public safety. During my time as chief, I have experienced how the department's responsibilities, staffing needs, and training requirements continued to expand while operating out of a facility originally constructed in 1996, and those demands have only continued to grow in the years since.

The remodel and expansion would be a great benefit not only to your department and the City of Coon Rapids, but to our entire county and region. The proposed addition of a training facility, designed for countywide use, will benefit all agencies by providing a central location for advanced and consistent training.

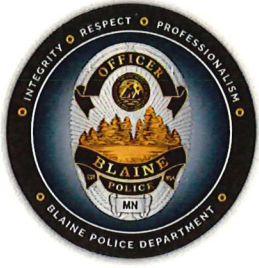
As the Sheriff of Anoka County, I also recognize how this facility would provide additional opportunities for the Anoka Hennepin Narcotics and Violent Crimes Task Force (AHNVCTF) and the Anoka County SWAT Team, which includes members from multiple law enforcement agencies within the county. Because the Anoka County SWAT Team also provides support to neighboring counties, this project would deliver regional benefits in addition to local advantages. Providing the AHNVCTF and Anoka County SWAT Team with access to the new training facility would be a significant benefit to their operations and professional development.

I fully support this proposal, which represents an important investment in public safety that will benefit the City of Coon Rapids, the county, and the surrounding communities for years to come.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to public safety.

Sincerely,

Brad Wise  
Sheriff



## Blaine Police Department

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10801 Town Square Drive NE  
Blaine, MN 55449-8100  
Main 763-785-6168 | [BlaineMN.gov](http://BlaineMN.gov)

December 8, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Blaine Police Department, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed training facility as part of the Coon Rapids Police Department's remodel and expansion project. This initiative represents a meaningful investment not only in the safety and preparedness of Coon Rapids officers but also in the broader law enforcement community across our region.

Our agency would greatly benefit from access to the proposed training facility, which includes an indoor pistol range, classroom space for hosting external training courses, a mats room, simulator and virtual reality training rooms, and a configurable training area. These resources would significantly enhance our ability to maintain high standards of readiness and professionalism.

We currently have officers assigned to regional units such as the Drug Task Force (DTF) and SWAT, and the availability of a centralized, modern training space would directly support their operational effectiveness. Additionally, our community is served by these specialized units, and their ability to train locally and consistently is critical to ensuring public safety.

As training requirements continue to evolve and intensify, having access to a facility that supports advanced and scenario-based instruction is increasingly important. The thoughtful design of the training area — including controlled access and a separate entrance for non-CRPD personnel — demonstrates a commitment to regional collaboration and accessibility.

We understand that any fees associated with use of the facility would be nominal and intended only to offset maintenance costs. We appreciate this approach and recognize the spirit of partnership it reflects.

We urge legislative approval of this project and commend the Coon Rapids Police Department for its vision and leadership in developing a resource that will benefit law enforcement agencies and communities throughout the region.

Sincerely,

Brian Podany  
Safety Services Director/Chief of Police

cc: Bill Steiner, Chief of Police Coon Rapids PD



Chief James Mork  
Centennial Lakes Police Department  
54 North Road | Circle Pines MN 55014  
Ph: 763-784-2501 | Fax: 763-784-0082  
[jmork@clpdmn.com](mailto:jmork@clpdmn.com)

12/09/2025

Chief Bill Steiner,

I recently learned of a remodeling/expansion project that is being considered at the Coon Rapids Police Department. What particularly interests me in this project is the inclusion of training space that can be utilized by officers of other agencies, and not just Coon Rapids Police Department Officers.

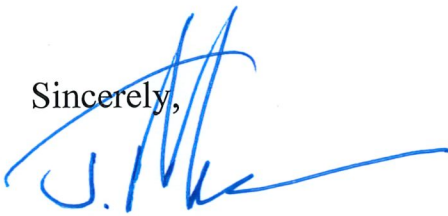
Having been a police officer in this county for nearly 29 years, I've seen firsthand the benefit of departments training and learning together. As the chief of one of the smaller departments in the county, we constantly struggle with finding space that is conducive to firearms and use of force training as our current facilities were not built to accommodate that. We currently have a member of our department on the Anoka County-wide SWAT team and other members that are on the county-wide mobile field force unit. Having a space in the county where all these various county-wide assets could train together doesn't just benefit my department or my community but instead benefits the much larger metro region/state as a whole. This was demonstrated by the Anoka County SWAT Team's involvement in the coordinated response to search for and arrest the individual responsible for shooting John and Yvette Hoffman and killing Melissa and Mark Hortman.

With the proper training and classroom facilities proposed to be built at the Coon Rapid Police Department, and with the idea that this will be a shared asset to agencies throughout our region, this marks a

significant milestone in the continued pursuit of excellence in policing.

I'm proud to be a member of the law enforcement community in Anoka County, and I place my full support behind the effort to build this regional training facility that will benefit all of us for decades to come. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to support this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Mork", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chief James Mork



# Columbia Heights Police Department

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December 8, 2025

Chief of Police Bill Steiner  
Coon Rapids Police Department  
11155 Robinson Dr.  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

## **Re: Support for Local Option Sales Tax Request – Regional Law Enforcement Training Facility**

Dear Chief Steiner,

I am writing on behalf of the Columbia Heights Police Department to express our strong support for the City of Coon Rapids' request to secure legislative approval for a Local Option Sales Tax to fund the remodel and expansion of the police department, including the development of a regional training facility.

While the project will be located within the Coon Rapids Police Department, its benefits extend well beyond city limits. The proposed training enhancements—including an indoor pistol range, classroom space for hosted courses, a mat room, simulator room, virtual reality training room, and a configurable training area—would provide substantial value to law enforcement agencies across the county and region.

Our agency would make regular use of this facility for both essential and advanced training needs. Access to high-quality, conveniently located training opportunities would reduce travel demands, increase training frequency, and support compliance with continually evolving training expectations and state requirements. The ability to attend hosted courses onsite would further expand opportunities for our personnel to receive specialized instruction that is often difficult to obtain elsewhere.

Additionally, because our agency has personnel serving on regional teams such as SWAT and the DTF, the proposed facility would significantly enhance the preparedness and operational proficiency of those units. Even communities without assigned team members will benefit, as DTF and SWAT provide critical services across the county. Improved and consistent training for these specialized teams directly contributes to safer outcomes for all jurisdictions they serve.

We also appreciate the thoughtful design elements—including controlled and separate access for non-CRPD personnel—which demonstrate a clear commitment to regional collaboration while maintaining security and operational efficiency. Your assurance that any usage fees would remain nominal and maintenance-based reinforces the intent to support partner agencies rather than create barriers.

For these reasons, I respectfully submit this letter in strong support of the proposed training facility and the City of Coon Rapids' request for Local Option Sales Tax authorization. This project represents a meaningful and forward-looking investment in regional public safety and interagency cooperation.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing this initiative, and please do not hesitate to reach out if further information or support is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Markham', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Matt Markham  
Chief of Police  
Columbia Heights Police Department  
763-706-8109



# Fridley Public Safety

Coon Rapids Police Department  
Attention: Chief Bill Steiner  
11155 Robinson Dr NW  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

December 23, 2025

Chief Steiner,

I am writing to express my support for a new training facility at the Coon Rapids Police Department. Despite having a newer facility that opened in 2018, the Fridley Police Department regularly has a need for collaborative training opportunities with neighboring agencies. The eleven law enforcement agencies across Anoka County work very closely with one another, and the sharing of resources and response capabilities is critical to the safety of our community.

Members of the Fridley Police Department are represented on several county-wide teams that have far-reaching impacts, such as the Anoka County SWAT Team, the Anoka County Tactical EMS Team, and the North Command Mobile Field Force. We are also active in planning for and responding to all types of hazards as part of a county-wide team of emergency management professionals.

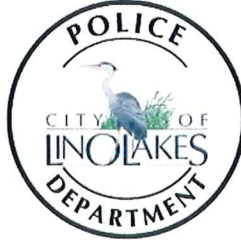
Our history of collaborating with the Coon Rapids Police Department will grow with the addition of a modern training facility. The opportunity to attend classes, hold meetings, and train for the types of challenges that public safety professionals face today will be beneficial to communities beyond the borders of the City of Coon Rapids.

Sincerely,

Ryan George

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ryan George', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Director of Public Safety



12/22/2025

Chief Bill Steiner,

I am writing to express my support for the Coon Rapids Police Department's initiative to remodel and expand its current facility to include a dedicated training center.

The proposed improvements, including an indoor pistol range, a simulator and virtual reality training room, and a modular moveable wall room, would provide valuable resources not only to your department but also to the Lino Lakes Police Department and other surrounding agencies that would have access to your facility.

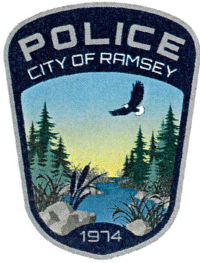
These enhancements would give Lino Lakes officers access to advanced training tools that will enhance their preparedness and proficiency in a variety of critical officer safety skills and help us exceed training requirements.

Additionally, we currently have a team member serving on the multi-agency Anoka County SWAT team. Access to a comprehensive and modern training facility such as the one you are proposing would significantly contribute to their ongoing development and effectiveness in high-risk operations.

We commend your department's commitment to advancing law enforcement training and readiness, and we look forward to the opportunity to utilize this facility to better serve our communities.

Sincerely,

Curt Boehme  
Chief of Police



# RAMSEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brad Bluml, Chief of Police

7550 Sunwood Drive NW • Ramsey, MN 55303

Administrative: 763.427.6812 • Fax: 763.427.2361 • Dispatch: 763.427.1212

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September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Coon Rapids Police Department  
11155 Robinson Dr  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Dear Chief Steiner,

We wanted to extend our support in your request for an expansion of your police department. We truly value that the agencies within Anoka County work so closely together and we look forward to the possibility of being able to use your new training facility in the future. The Ramsey Police Department does not have a simulator room, virtual reality training room or an indoor pistol range and would appreciate having access to training facilities like these so close to our own city.

We hope your department is able to move forward with the requested remodel; for both your own agency's benefit and that of your partners in the City of Ramsey.

Sincerely,

Brad Bluml  
Chief  
Ramsey Police Department



Spring Lake Park Police Department

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1301 81<sup>st</sup> Ave Ne  
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432  
Main: 763-792-7221 SLP MN.ORG

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Spring Lake Park Police Department, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed training facility as part of the remodel and expansion of the Coon Rapids Police Department. This initiative represents a significant opportunity to enhance law enforcement capabilities not only within the host city but across Anoka County and the surrounding region.

While our department does not have direct members assigned to the Anoka County SWAT or Drug Task Force (DTF), our community is actively served by these specialized units. Their effectiveness and readiness are critical to our public safety operations, and we recognize that access to high-quality training facilities directly contributes to their continued success.

The proposed training facility—with its indoor pistol range, classroom space for hosting external courses, mats room, simulator and virtual reality training rooms, and configurable training areas—would be a tremendous asset. The inclusion of hands-on training environments such as the mats room and simulator spaces is especially valuable, as they allow for realistic scenario-based training that is increasingly vital in modern policing.

Our department would actively utilize this facility for both internal training and participation in hosted courses. The ability to train locally in a controlled, professional environment would reduce logistical challenges and improve the frequency and quality of our training efforts. Additionally, the thoughtful design of the facility, including separate access for non-host personnel, reflects a commitment to regional collaboration and accessibility.

In an era where training standards and expectations continue to rise, the development of this facility would be a forward-thinking investment in public safety. We fully support this initiative and encourage legislative approval of a Local Option Sales Tax, which is essential in moving this project forward.

Sincerely,

Josh Antoine  
Chief of Police  
Spring Lake Park Police Department



# St. Francis Police Department

*Todd Schwieger, Chief of Police*

December 8, 2025

Bill Steiner  
Chief of Police  
Coon Rapids Police Department  
11155 Robinson Drive NW  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Dear Chief Steiner,

I am writing to express my strong support for the development of the proposed law enforcement training facility as part of the Coon Rapids Police Department expansion. The project represents an important and timely investment in public safety, officer training, and continued law enforcement collaboration across Anoka County. The proposed facility would provide modern, purpose-built space for scenario-based training, joint exercises, and specialized instruction that many departments in Anoka County currently cannot deliver in-house due to cost and infrastructure limitations. The training facility would also allow modernized training for Anoka County specialty units including The Anoka-Hennepin Narcotics and Violent Crimes Task Force and Anoka County SWAT. These units are primarily comprised of Anoka County Law Enforcement members and serve all Anoka County jurisdictions.

This project is an investment not only in Anoka County Law Enforcement but in the safety, resilience, and well-being of the communities they serve. The long-term benefits—improved public safety outcomes, better-trained personnel, and stronger regional coordination—will be felt across Anoka County and every jurisdiction that participates.

I fully endorse the creation of the Coon Rapids Police Department Law Enforcement Training Facility and encourage all stakeholders to support its development. Thank you for your commitment to strengthening public safety in Anoka County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Schwieger".

Todd Schwieger  
Chief of Police  
St. Francis Police Department