

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



Governor Tim Walz

Executive Order 21-34

Establishing the Governor's Council on Justice Reinvestment

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

Like states across the country, Minnesota is engaging in critical and difficult conversations about the efficiency and effectiveness of criminal justice system interventions, our performance in preventing and detecting crime, and our ability to provide responsive services to crime victims. These complex challenges have no easy answers, but we know that state investments in the criminal justice system must reflect effective stewardship of limited public resources to achieve our shared justice objectives. To successfully protect and enhance community safety, we must focus on effective crime reduction efforts, the efficient operation of our court systems, and the provision of intervention services that aid those reentering society and reduce recidivism and victimization.

Minnesotans involved in the correctional system currently experience inconsistent treatment, varied levels of accountability on supervision, and widely different potential for success based on where they happen to live in Minnesota. These inconsistencies make our communities less safe. We must support statewide equity in supervision standards, funding, and community resources, and prioritize the safety of all people in Minnesota. Through collaborative efforts, we aim to ensure that tribal, state, and local governments and our justice partners take all reasonable steps to protect and strengthen the safety and connectedness of communities in every part of our state.

As budgets have grown and complex funding formulas have evolved, Minnesota has not yet completed a holistic assessment of how we fund the community supervision system. We must deepen our commitment to establishing a correctional system that is grounded in evidence-based practices and boldly assesses the impact of our correctional service delivery efforts. Achieving equitable access to correctional supervision and services requires thoughtful review of State and county investments in the system. Our partnership with the Council of State Governments ("CSG") Justice Center will assist us in accomplishing this objective by convening a range of critical system stakeholders to assist in this analysis.

Today we join with over 30 states that are already using a Justice Reinvestment approach. We will do this important work through a bipartisan partnership across the co-equal branches—

Legislative, Judicial, and Executive—and with tribal and county-level elected and appointed leaders. The State’s engagement in these outcome-focused discussions around effective public safety interventions, efficient and sustainable application of taxpayer resources, and meaningful coordination of our correctional system responses will help ensure that our courts, law enforcement, correctional facilities, community supervision systems, and victim services are all reasonably resourced to effectuate accountability and increase community safety.

For these reasons, I order as follows:

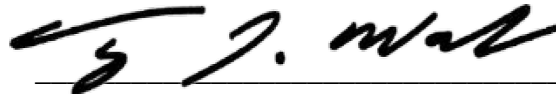
1. The Governor’s Council on Justice Reinvestment (“Justice Reinvestment Council”) is established.
2. Senator Julie Rosen, the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, and Kevin Reese, Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of Until We Are All Free, will Co-Chair the Council.
3. In addition to the Co-Chairs, the Justice Reinvestment Council will be comprised of 13 members appointed by the Governor. These members include:
 - a. Commissioner Paul Schnell
 - b. Senator John Marty
 - c. Representative Rena Moran
 - d. Representative Paul Novotny
 - e. Jason Anderson, Probation Director, Itasca County
 - f. Catherine Johnson, Community Corrections and Rehabilitation Department Director, Hennepin County
 - g. John Choi, Ramsey County Attorney
 - h. Judge Jennifer Frisch, Minnesota Court of Appeals
 - i. Tim Leslie, Dakota County Sheriff
 - j. Kelly Lyn Mitchell, Public Member, Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission and Executive Director of the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice
 - k. Jack Swanson, Roseau County Commissioner and Association of Minnesota Counties Public Safety Chair
 - l. Dr. Yohuru Williams, Distinguished University Chair, Professor of History, and Founding Director of the Racial Justice Initiative at the University of St. Thomas

- m. Chairman Kevin DuPuis, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
4. Vacancies on the Justice Reinvestment Council will be filled by the Governor.
 5. The Council on State Governments will provide staffing and administrative support to the Justice Reinvestment Council.
 6. The Justice Reinvestment Council, in collaboration with the CSG Justice Center and the legislatively established Delivery System Working Group, will prepare a report to the Governor on or before February 1, 2022. The report will provide recommendations based on the findings from the Justice Reinvestment process.

This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State. It will remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or until it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2021, section 4.035, subdivision 3.

A determination that any provision of this Executive Order is invalid will not affect the enforceability of any other provision of this Executive Order. Rather, the invalid provision will be modified to the extent necessary so that it is enforceable.

Signed on December 21, 2021.



Tim Walz
Governor

Filed According to Law:



Steve Simon
Secretary of State

Filed December 21, 2021
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State
Steve Simon