


**John M. Kysylyczyn**

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March 31, 2025

Minnesota Senate State and Local Government Committee  
SF2521, Ramsey County EDA established / Waiver of Minnesota Statutes 469.1082

Chair and committee members,

I am a lifelong resident of Ramsey County, employed by the Minnesota Senate (1995 to 2002) and served as mayor of the City of Roseville (2000-2004).

The British sometimes say, "A bad penny always turns up". The saying refers to undesirable things that keep reappearing over and over again.

This Ramsey County Economic Development Authority (EDA) bill certainly fits the definition of what the British would call a "bad penny."

In addition to SF2521, this bad penny has previously appeared as SF4655, SF2774 and possibly other file numbers stretching back at least to 2016, with past authors including Chamberlain (later stricken), Pappas, Scalze, and perhaps others.

In 2016, I led the effort to defeat this bill. Ramsey County grossly misrepresented the intention of this bill to legislators. I wrote a column about the ordeal in the April 12, 2016 edition of the Anoka County Record (*see attached newspaper article*).

In 2024, I, as a private citizen, was the first to inform the Roseville City Council and city manager that this bill was scheduled for a hearing and vote, right before committee deadlines. Ramsey County failed to notify any city leaders. After I sounded the alarm, the county was forced to walk back the provision granting them new taxing authority.

There are at least three sound reasons to vote NO on this bill:

1. Existing law already allows for the county to create an EDA, with support from school officials, non-profit leaders, labor organizations, and citizens.
2. Ramsey County Charter allows voters to create an EDA.
3. Prevent the county from diverting affordable housing \$\$\$ to business subsidies.

**Reason 1:** Current law provides a simple and easy framework for the county to create an EDA under Minnesota Statutes 469.1082. All the county board has to do is appoint a broad based committee made up of local stakeholders that would include city officials, school officials, non-profit leaders, and labor organizations. This committee would have up to 90-days, with one optional 60-day extension, to provide one of four recommendations to move forward as outlined by statute (*see attached statute*).

After having spent nine years attempting to obtain the legislature's assistance to circumvent existing law, I do not believe Ramsey County can reasonably complain about a process that may take up to six months.

Current law requires citizen and stakeholder involvement. Passage of this bill will strip away mandated involvement from cities, schools, non-profits, and labor organizations.

**Reason 2:** Ramsey County is the only home rule charter county in Minnesota, created by legislation in 1987. At the time, one reason cited by advocates was that a charter would eliminate the need for the county to continually seek special legislation (*see attached Ramsey County Charter, Chapter 11*).

Ramsey County has had the authority to place the creation of an EDA on the ballot for 35 years. Perhaps there is concern that residents would vote NO on a county EDA when they learned that it would divert affordable housing dollars to business subsidies.

**Reason 3:** The legislature passed the housing sales tax in 2023 to add new additional money to affordable housing programs, not to see Ramsey County use it to backfill funding stripped and redirected away from existing housing programs.

Ramsey County clearly states that they would divert millions of dollars from current Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) programs to fund their new EDA business subsidy programs. New proceeds from the 2023 0.25% housing sales tax would be used to backfill the diverted funds (*see middle of page 3 of Ramsey County's handout*).

By voting no, legislators will assure that funding for affordable housing programs in Ramsey County will double to \$25+ million per year with the new housing sales tax, and that ALL of these funds will actually go towards affordable housing programs and goals.

Ramsey County should not be allowed to take millions in funds clearly meant for affordable housing programs, to fund new business subsidy programs.

TUESDAY • APRIL 12, 2016

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## Turnout for School Board Special Election increases by 250% *Asamarai wins Col Hts school board seat*

Hala Asamarai won the last of two Columbia Heights ISD 13 school board seats that were put to special election after resignations in July and October of last year. Naty Severson won the first seat at a Jan. 26, 2016 special election.

What made the April 5 election of Asamarai significant was the surge in voter turnout. 1,343 voters came out, but this was still short of a 10% turnout. The three special elections prior (a primary and a general election was required for each seat) barely got above a 3% turnout. Shortly before the April 5 special election the *Star Tribune* reported a rift between Muslims in the area. There were predictions of a closer race and higher turnout, both of which turned out to be accurate.

Asamarai had 740 votes to Tim Utz's 599.

### Legislation addressing school board member removal

A bill taking away a school board's ability to remove one of its own elected members has been introduced in the state House of Representatives by Rep. Linda Runbeck (R-Circle Pines). House File 1962 was sent to the Government Operations and Elections Policy Committee, chaired by Rep. Tim Sanders (R-Blaine) and Rep. Cindy Pugh (R-Chanhassen). The bill has not yet had a hearing. It modifies statutes 351.14 and 351.16, which currently provides for the removal of a county elected official. The new bill strikes out county and replaces it with "local official".

A citizens' petition would be required for the removal process to begin. The petition would have to specify charges of "malfeasance or nonfeasance in the performance of official duties..." The number of signatures required is presently 25% of those who voted in the last

## After Gross Misrepresentations, Anoka Legislators Pull Support of Bill Runbeck and Chamberlain Abandon Ramsey County EDA Proposal

April 12, 2016 - Yesterday morning, Ramsey County Commissioner Blake Huffman and staff lobbyist Nicholas Riley were walking the halls of the state capitol complex. Huffman was trying to save Ramsey County's proposal to create a County Economic Development Authority (EDA). It was too late.

The chief author in the Minnesota House, Rep. Linda Runbeck (R-Circle Pines), was permanently withdrawing her Ramsey County EDA bill, HF2957. It would not receive its final hearing at tomorrow's House Property Tax and Local Government Finance Division meeting. Had the bill passed out of this committee, it most likely would have become law. Sen. Roger Chamberlain (R-Lino Lakes) also withdrew his support from the Senate bill.

Rep. Runbeck and Sen. Chamberlain made their decision after learning of the gross misrepresentations made by Ramsey County officials. Whether they were intentionally made or not, is a matter of debate.

### EDA: Current Law vs. County's Request

With a County EDA, Ramsey County Commissioners, regardless of intent, would be able to more easily give away taxpayer dollars for what many would consider corporate welfare. Subsidies could include free streets, utilities, parking ramps, transit stops, training, flat-out cash subsidies, or forgivable loans, all under the guise of retaining or bringing businesses into the county.

County Commissioners had the option of creating this EDA under current law without involving legislators. Minnesota Statutes 469.1082 allows for the appointment of a citizen committee of 11 to 15 local stakeholders who would represent local government, business, labor, etc. Only two members of the committee could be county

Publisher's Column



John Kysylczyn

begin. The petition would have to specify charges of malfeasance or nonfeasance in the performance of official duties..." The number of signatures required is presently 25% of those who voted in the last election for the office in question and petition signatures must be that of registered voters who reside in the jurisdiction.

Among the authors of the Senate version is Sen. Michelle Benson (R-Ham Lake).

Removals of and threatened removals against school board members have taken place in Saint Francis, Cambridge, Duluth and Farmington among others in recent years.

Grant Nichols was the subject of a removal process from the Columbia Heights ISD 13 school board last fall, but the board lacked one vote to carry it through. Nichols was then pressured into resigning, although he had not been charged with malfeasance or nonfeasance in his official duties. (See *Anoka County Record*, Sept. 18, Sept. 25, Oct. 16, 2015).

#### DFL endorses candidates for Senate District 41 and House seats

Rep. Carolyn Laine of Columbia Heights was endorsed April 2 as the DFL candidate for Senate District 41 in the fall elections. Sen. Barb Goodwin is retiring, creating an open seat.

Mary Kunes-Podein was endorsed for Laine's 41B House seat. She has been a past candidate for New Brighton City Council.

Rep. Connie Bernardy, who challenged Laine for the SD 41 endorsement, was endorsed to run for re-election to the 41A House seat.

— *Bryan Olson for ACR*

General SPECIAL ELECTION SEAT “B” ISD 13 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS SCHOOL BOARD APRIL 5, 2016	Hala ASAMARAI	Tim UTZ		Registered Voters at 7 AM	Election Day Registrations	Spoiled	Signatures on Roster	# Ballots Counted	Rejected Absentee Ballots	Regular/Military/Overseas Absentee Ballots	Total Accepted Absentee Ballots	Total Persons Voting	Turnout
	298	287	7212	42	4	568	568	1	19	19	587	587	8.14%
	442	312	6773	16	3	734	734	0	22	22	756	756	11.16%
	740	599	13,985	58	7	1302	1302	1	41	41	1343	1343	9.60%
ISD 13 P-1 *													
ISD 13 P-2 **													
TOTALS													

\* Consolidated polling place, Valley View Elementary School, Columbia Heights

\*\* Consolidated polling place, Highland Elementary School, Columbia Heights  
There were 2 write-in votes cast in P-1.

involving legislators. Minnesota Statutes 469.1082 allows for the appointment of a citizen committee of 11 to 15 local stakeholders who would represent local government, business, labor, etc. Only two members of the committee could be county commissioners, preventing them from easily controlling the outcome. The committee could recommend that a County EDA be created or that none was necessary. That decision would be binding on the county commissioners. If the County EDA was created, every city would have a choice to determine for themselves whether they wanted to contribute tax base to the County EDA or not.

Instead of following current law, County Commissioners asked legislators to pass a special law to create their County EDA... without the public committee... and without the ability of cities to independently decide whether they wanted to contribute tax base. They also included language that allowed the commissioners to appoint themselves to every seat on the County EDA.

Commissioner Huffman defended this decision by stating, "The County's proposal makes the process more streamlined." He also felt it would be unfair if Ramsey County had to go through the citizen committee process when other counties in the past didn't have to. Huffman indicated that time was short and action needed to be taken now.

Assistant Ramsey County Administrator Heather Worthington echoed similar comments. She stated, "The legislation was written to achieve flexibility", implying that the citizen committee process was cumbersome. Worthington indicated that staff has been discussing economic development issues for several years.

#### Gross Misrepresentation – No City Support

Rep. Runbeck and Sen. Chamberlain were given the impression that city elected officials were fully informed and supportive of the County EDA. Lobbyist Riley told the *Record* that all city elected officials in the county were aware of the County EDA proposal and were supportive. That claim directly conflicted with the *Record's* findings.

The *Record* contacted local elected officials in the county, some of them very well connected in the political system, and not one had even heard of the County EDA proposal. One participated in several county-hosted economic development meetings and still never heard of it. The *Record* spoke with North St. Paul councilmember Jan

**Runbeck-Chamberlain** *continued on back page*



## PUBLIC NOTICES

*continued from page 5*

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-2-1, Council Meetings – Time and Place

THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS ORDAINS:

Section 1. Code Adopted: That Section 2-2-1 entitled "Council Meetings – Time and Place" shall hereby be amended to read as follows:

2-2-1: COUNCIL MEETINGS – TIME AND PLACE. Regular meetings of the Council shall be held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 6:00 PM except when the Council adopts a resolution changing the date, time or cancelling such regular meeting. In the event the Council adopts a resolution changing the date or time of a regular meeting, the meeting will be held as noted in the resolution. Special and adjourned meetings shall also be held in the Council Chambers. In the event that any regular meeting falls on a holiday, then the meeting shall be held on the next business day at the same time. The place of such meeting shall be in the Council Chambers in the City Hall unless otherwise designated by action of the Council. (Ord 87, SS. 3-7-2005; Ord 61, SS. 2-22-2000, Ord 218, SS.)

until the contract has been awarded and executed, but no longer than 60 days from the date of opening bids. All other deposits will be refunded promptly.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to adjourn the meeting to a later date for the purpose of further consideration of the bids and taking action thereon. No bid may be withdrawn within 60 days from the date of opening of bids.

The City Council will consider award of contract at their regular meeting held on Monday, April 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at 590 40th Avenue NE.

Kevin Hansen, Public Works Director/City Engineer

## COON RAPIDS HRA PUBLIC HEARING

Please take notice that the Coon Rapids Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 6:50 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 11155 Robinson Drive, The purpose of this hearing is to take public comments regarding the HRA's conveyance of land located at 90xx East River Road located at 16319 Kettle River Blvd. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property heard are invited to speak in the jurisdiction has at this meeting. Questions may be directed to Matt Brown at 763-767-6430.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Columbus in Anoka County shall meet on April 25, 2016 7:00 p.m. at Columbus City Hall located at 16319 Kettle River Blvd. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property heard are invited to speak in the jurisdiction has at this meeting. Questions may be directed to Matt Brown at 763-767-6430.

JOAN LENZMEIER  
City Clerk

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## RUNBECK-CHAMBERLAIN

*continued from front page*

Walczak, White Bear Lake councilmember Bill Walsh, Roseville councilmember Lisa Labiberte, Vadnais Heights councilmember Craig Johnson, Falcon Heights councilmember Randy Gustafson, and Roseville Mayor Dan Roe.

When confronted with the *Record's* findings, lobbyist Riley said that I needed to talk to Administrator Worthington. He said, "She was the one responsible for talking to all the city elected officials and she told me that they were all fine with this."

When the *Record* spoke with Administrator Worthington about lobbyist Riley's comments, she said, "Nick had the wrong information. We informed city economic development staff, not elected officials."

The *Record* spoke with the Roseville Economic Development Authority Executive Director Jeanne Kelsey, Community Development Director Kari Collins, and City Manager Pat Trudgeon concerning Worthington's comments. None of them were aware of the County EDA proposal. Trudgeon stated, "Only council can support policy issues." Trudgeon further stated that he had concerns about the County EDA proposal, as he learned about some of the details yesterday afternoon.

Commissioner Huffman informed the *Record* that he knew of several local elected officials that were aware of the County EDA and stated that maybe the *Record* did not make enough phone calls. He began to offer, but then declined to provide the *Record* with a list of names. When asked how many of these local elected officials testified in support of his bill at the capitol, he said none, which was confirmed by the committee meeting minutes.

not create an EDA by means already available in state law, Administrator Worthington stated, "They felt that this would not meet their goals." She also said if they could not do this by special legislation, they would probably not pursue this.

Commissioner Huffman sidestepped the question numerous times. He said, "The board didn't reject the citizen committee process. We believe that pursuing special legislation to create a County EDA is the best option." He didn't oppose the citizen committee; he just didn't have any interest in it. Huffman was adamant that there was a significant difference between these two positions.

## A Public Process? That Depends...

Administrator Worthington claimed that by seeking special legislation at the capitol, this proves that the county was being very open to the public with their efforts. She stated, "County staff determined they could have expanded their authority on their own, but felt it was more transparent to seek special legislation." The county narrowed the choices to notifying no one vs. notifying capitol lobbyists. The third option of appointing a stakeholder committee and hold public meetings, would have notified thousands of regular citizens, but apparently was not a desirable option in the minds of County Commissioners.

## County Continues To Push Ahead Cities Beware

Administrator Worthington informed the *Record* that county staff and attorneys spent months determining the best and most efficient way to create a County EDA. The *Record* requested a copy of the legal analysis which supported their decision to eliminate the citizens committee, force cities to contribute tax base, and allow commissioners to appoint themselves

Gross Misrepresentation

supported their decision to eliminate the citizens committee, force cities to contribute tax base, and allow commissioners to appoint themselves to all of the seats. Worthington stated that no documentation existed as the legal analysis was only a series of verbal discussions.

What Administrator Worthington made very clear to the *Record*, and city officials beware, is that county staff will continue to pursue the County EDA they want regardless of what any city elected officials or staff have to say about it. The County Board has told staff how they want this job done and staff is obligated to follow through until the County Board changes their mind.

Expect county staff to make attempts to sneak this County EDA onto some other bill as an amendment this session. As a last resort, they will find different legislators that did not read this article, and hope they will carry this same bill in the 2017 Legislative Session. - *ACR*

by the committee meeting minutes.

**Gross Misrepresentation**  
**No Citizen Committee & Mandatory Taxation**  
 The *Record* asked lobbyist Riley, Administrator Worthington, and Commissioner Huffman why they did not inform Rep. Runbeck and Sen. Chamberlain that the County EDA proposal eliminated the citizens committee, forced all cities to contribute tax base, and allowed the county commissioners to appoint themselves to every seat.

Lobbyist Riley informed the *Record* that he did not know any of these things, and had no understanding of the tax issues. He said, "I didn't do any research. I just asked the Revisor's office to draft something like Scott County has. I gave that to the administration. They gave it back to me to get it done."

When asked why the Ramsey County Board will



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**MINOR NAME CHANGE**  
 State of Minnesota  
 County of Anoka  
 In the matter of the application of:  
 Courtne Marie Cook  
 On Behalf of: Eleanora MaeLynn Kivelay  
 For a Change of Name to: Eleanora MaeLynn Cook  
 An Application for Name Change in Anoka County District Court for a change of name for the minor child from Eleanora Kivelay to Eleanora Cook will be heard on May 10, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Anoka County Courthouse, 325 East Main Street, Anoka, MN 55303.  
 /s/ Courtne Cook, Applicant, Dated March 18, 2016  
 /s/ Lawrence R. Johnson, Judge of District Court, Dated: March 22, 2016  
 (Published 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 2016 Anoka County Record) # 403

**ESTATE OF MICHAEL D. HALVORSEN**  
 State of Minnesota  
 County of Anoka  
 Estate of Michael D. Halvorsen  
 Notice of informal probate of will and appointment of personal representative and notice to creditors  
 Decedent.  
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:  
 Notice is hereby given that an application for informal probate of the above-named Decedent's last Will, dated May 8, 2015, has been filed with the Registrar herein, and the Application has been granted informally probating such Will. Any objections may be filed in the above named court and the same will be heard by the Court upon notice of hearing fixed for such purpose.

Notice is hereby further given that informal appointment of Bonita J. Long whose address is 10775 Kingsfield Lane, Woodbury, Minnesota, 55129, as personal representative of the estate of the above-named Decedent, has been made. Any heir, devisee, or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative, and the personal representative is empowered to fully administer the estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of her letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute real estate, unless objections thereto are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §524.3-607), and the Court otherwise orders.

Notice is hereby given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: March 8, 2016  
 /s/ Peggy Zdon, Registrar, /s/ Lori Meyer, Court Administrator  
 Attorney for Personal Representative:  
 Steven T. Hennek, Hennek Klienhammer Law, PLLC  
 2585 Hamline Avenue North, Suite A, Roseville, MN 55113  
 Attorney License No.: 238673, Telephone: 651.633.4400  
 Email: steveh@hklaw.com

(Published 4/5, 4/12, 2016 Anoka County Record) # 404

**469.1082 COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OR HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POWERS.**

Subdivision 1. **Authority to create.** A county may form a county economic development authority or grant a housing and redevelopment authority the powers specified in subdivision 4, clause (2), if it receives a recommendation to do so from a committee formed under subdivision 2. An economic development authority established under this section has all the powers and rights of an authority under sections 469.090 to 469.1081, except the authority granted under section 469.094 if so limited under subdivision 4. This section is in addition to any other authority to create a county economic development authority or service provider.

Nothing in this section shall alter or impair any grant of powers, or any other authority granted to a community development agency, a county housing and redevelopment authority, or any county as provided in section 383D.41; Laws 1974, chapter 473, as amended; or Laws 1980, chapter 482, as amended. Any county that has granted economic development powers to a community development agency or a county housing and redevelopment authority under any of these provisions may not form a county economic development authority or grant a housing and redevelopment authority the powers specified in subdivision 4, clause (2).

Subd. 2. **Local committees.** Upon notice to all local government units and development agencies within the county, a county may adopt a resolution to create a committee to recommend options for a county economic development service provider.

The committee shall consist of no fewer than 11 and no more than 15 members appointed by the county board. At least one city official, at least one housing and redevelopment official, and at least one township official from the county to be served by the county economic service provider shall be included on the committee. Members may also represent school districts, political subdivisions that currently provide services under sections 469.001 to 469.047 and 469.090 to 469.1081, nonprofit or for-profit housing and economic development organizations, business, and labor organizations located within the county. Political subdivision representatives must be selected by their local governments and must constitute at least 50 percent of the total committee membership. The county may appoint no more than two county commissioners. The committee shall select a chair at its initial meeting.

Subd. 3. **Committee report.** The committee shall issue its report within 90 days of its initial meeting. The committee may request one 60-day extension from the county board. The report must contain the committee's recommendation for the preferred organizational option for a county economic development service provider, including the distance from the boundary of the city that may be controlled by each affected city in subdivision 5. The distance may not exceed two miles from the city boundary. The report must contain written findings on issues considered by the committee including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) identification of the current level of economic development, housing, and community development programs and services provided by existing agencies, any existing gaps in programs and services, and the capacity and ability of those agencies to expand their activities; and

(2) the recommended organizational option for providing needed economic development, housing, and community development services in the most efficient, effective manner.

Subd. 4. **Organizational options.** The committee may only recommend:

(1) establishment of a county economic development authority to operate under sections 469.090 to 469.1081, except that the county shall not have the powers of section 469.094 without the consent of an

existing county housing and redevelopment authority operating within that county. For the purposes of a county economic development authority's operation, the county is considered to be the city and the county board is considered to be the city council;

(2) requiring an existing county housing and redevelopment authority or multicounty housing and redevelopment authority to operate under sections 469.090 to 469.1081;

(3) that the county pursue special legislation; or

(4) no change in the existing structure.

**Subd. 5. Area of operation.** The area of operation of a county economic development service provider created under this section shall include all cities and townships within a county that have adopted resolutions electing to participate. A city or township may adopt a resolution electing to withdraw participation. The withdrawal election may be made every fifth year following adoption of the resolution electing participation. The withdrawal election is effective on the anniversary date of the original resolution provided notice is given to the county economic development authority not less than 90 nor more than 180 days prior to that anniversary date. The city or township electing to withdraw retains any rights, obligations, and liabilities it obtained or incurred during its participation. Any city or township within the county shall have the option to adopt a resolution to prohibit the county economic development service provider created under this section from operating within its boundaries and (1) within an agreed-upon urban service area, or (2) within the distance approved in the committee report referenced in subdivision 3. If a city or township prohibits a county economic development service provider created under this section from operating within its boundaries, the city's or township's property taxpayers shall not be subject to the property tax levied for the county economic development service provider.

**Subd. 6. City economic development authorities.** If a county economic development service provider has been established under this section, existing city economic development authorities shall continue to function and operate under sections 469.090 to 469.1081. Additional city economic development authorities may be created within the area of operation of the county economic development service provider created under this section without the explicit concurrence of the county economic development service provider.

**Subd. 7. Continuation of existing county and multicounty housing and redevelopment authorities.** Existing county and multicounty housing and redevelopment authorities shall continue to function and operate under the provisions of sections 469.001 to 469.047.

**Subd. 8. Nine-member boards authorized.** In addition to the board options under section 469.095, a county economic development authority may have a nine-member board. If the authority has a nine-member board, at least two members must be county commissioners appointed by the county board. Of the county economic development authority board members initially appointed, two each shall be appointed for terms of one, two, or three years, respectively, and one each for terms of four, five, or six years, respectively. Thereafter, all authority members shall be appointed for six-year terms.

**History:** 2000 c 484 art 1 s 4; 1Sp2005 c 1 art 4 s 106; 1Sp2005 c 3 art 7 s 10; 2010 c 347 art 1 s 25



## **CHAPTER 11 CHARTER PROVISIONS**

### **Sec. 11.01 Charter Provisions**

An annotated version of this charter, which notes any provisions superseded by law, shall be maintained by the Ramsey County Attorney.

If any provision of this charter is held invalid, the other provisions of this charter shall not be affected thereby. If the application of the charter, or any of its provisions, to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the application of the charter and its provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Any citations to particular laws or statutes contained in this charter shall be deemed to include amendments to such laws or statutes which may be adopted subsequent to the effective date of this charter.

### **Sec. 11.02 Amendment of the Charter**

#### **A. Proposal of Amendments:**

Home rule charter amendments may be proposed by a charter commission or by a sufficient petition of five percent of the number of voters registered as of the last previous state general election in the county.

The county manager shall verify the sufficiency of the petition to the Ramsey County Charter Commission which shall declare the sufficiency of the petition.

The county board may, by ordinance, propose charter amendments to the Ramsey County Charter Commission. Within 60 days the commission shall review the proposed amendment and may extend the time for 90 days by filing with the county manager the resolution determining that an additional time for review is needed. After reviewing the proposed amendment, the charter commission shall approve or reject the proposed amendment or suggest a substitute amendment. The county board shall submit the amendment approved by the charter commission, either as originally proposed or the substituted amendment, to a vote of the electorate.

#### **B. Adoption of Amendments:**

A proposed amendment shall be submitted to a vote in the county at the next general election. The amendment shall be adopted if it is passed by the same majority required for adoption of the charter. It will take effect in 30 days after the election has been certified or at such other time as is fixed in the amendment.

Upon recommendation of the charter commission, the county board may enact a charter amendment by ordinance by an affirmative vote of all its members after a public hearing upon two weeks published notice containing the text of the proposed amendment. An ordinance amending the charter shall not become effective until 90 days after passage and is subject to referendum.

C. Abandonment of Home Rule Charter

A proposal to abandon the charter shall be presented, adopted, and become effective in the same manner as a charter amendment. The proposal shall include provisions for transition to a statutory county form of government.

**Sec. 11.03 Charter Commission**

A seventeen member standing Ramsey County Charter Commission shall be appointed by the District Court. Of the seventeen members appointed, one from each commissioner district shall be appointed for a two year term, and one from each district for a four year term. Two of the at-large members shall be appointed for two-year terms and one for a four-year term. All subsequent terms shall be four year terms. No person shall be appointed to more than two successive terms as a commission member.

The county board shall provide the necessary funds for the charter commission to operate.

The county attorney shall be the attorney for the charter commission.

The charter commission members shall periodically review the charter and propose any necessary amendments. The commission shall review any proposed amendments, declare the sufficiency of a petition, prepare a summary of any proposed amendment, recommend any revisions to proposed amendments, and submit proposed amendments to an election.