



## Hennepin County Office Budget & Finance

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January 15, 2021

**Transmitted via email**

Hon. Roger C. Chamberlain, Chair  
Senate Education Finance & Policy Committee  
95 University Avenue W., Room 3225  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Hon. Jim Davnie, Chair  
House Education Finance Division  
443 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Hon. David J. Tomassoni, Chair  
Senate Higher Ed. Finance & Policy Committee  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.,  
Room 328  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Hon. Ruth Richardson, Chair  
House Education Policy Committee  
403 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Hon. Dave Pinto, Chair  
House Early Childhood Finance & Policy  
503 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Hon. Connie Bernardy, Chair  
House Higher Ed. Policy & Finance  
563 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senate and House Education Committee Chairs:

Enclosed please find the report required to be sent to you pursuant to Minnesota Statute section 473.757, subdivision 2, relating to the uses of excess sales tax revenues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Lawless'.

David Lawless,  
Director of Budget and Finance

Cc: Hennepin County Board of Commissioners  
David Hough, Hennepin County Administrator  
Kareem Murphy, Hennepin County Intergovernmental Relations Director

Attachment

REPORT TO LEGISLATURE PURSUANT  
TO MINN. STAT. SECTION 473.757, SUBD. 2

**Background**

Minn. Stat. section 473.757, subd. 2 authorizes Hennepin County, by resolution, to make certain expenditures for increased library hours and youth activities and youth and amateur sports from excess revenues, if any, from the sales tax enacted for the Twins ballpark. The same legislation also requires Hennepin County to make a report every two years thereafter describing any such uses of the money. The report must be made to the chairs of the committees and budget divisions in the Senate and House of Representatives that have jurisdiction over education policy and funding.

**Report on the Use of Excess Sales Tax Funds in 2019 and 2020**

This report describes the use of excess sales tax revenues for increased library hours, youth activities, and youth and amateur sports during the 2019-2020 reporting period. This period covers the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, which reduced economic activity across the county, resulting in lower sales tax collections. Sales tax revenue in 2020 was sufficient to pay the county’s debt and contractual obligations. There was, however, less excess revenues available to fund the library and youth sports programs. The county anticipates there will be adequate excess sales tax revenues available to fund both programs in 2021.

Overall, Hennepin County operates 41 library locations. In 2019, \$2.3 million of sales tax funds were used to provide 100 additional hours per week at 17 libraries across the county, named in Table 1 below. In 2020, no sales tax funds were used to fund supplemental library hours. The county expects to resume this program in 2021.

*Table 1*

2019 Libraries with Additional Hours		
Augsburg Park	Golden Valley	Penn Lake
Brookdale	Hopkins	Plymouth
Brooklyn Park	Hosmer	Rockford Road
East Lake	Maple Grove	Rogers
Eden Prairie	Minneapolis Central	Saint Louis Park
Edina	North Regional	

Sales tax funds were also used to provide grants to supplement youth activities and amateur sports. In 2019, the county awarded \$2.3 million in grants to 27 project sponsors, named in Table 2 below. In 2020, the county delayed grant awards due to uncertainty about the impact of the pandemic on sales tax revenues. The county expects to resume this grant program in 2021.

*Table 2*

2019 Youth Activities and Amateur Sports Grant Awards		
Brooklyn Center ISD 286	City of Loretto	Minneapolis Public Schools District 1
City of Bloomington	City of Minnetonka	Minneapolis Public Schools
City of Brooklyn Park	City of New Hope	Minneapolis Park and Rec. Board
City of Champlin	City of Orono	Orono ISD 278
City of Crystal	City of Robbinsdale	Richfield Public Schools
City of Dayton	City of Rogers	Rockford ISD 833
City of Eden Prairie	City of Tonka Bay	St. Louis Park ISD 283
City of Golden Valley	Hopkins ISD 270	Three Rivers Park District
City of Greenfield	Intermediate School District 287	USA Swimming Foundation