2026 Legislative Session

May 27, 2026

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Judd Schetnan, Government Affairs Director

Hannah Pallmeyer, Government Affairs Manager

2026 legislative session

2026 overview

- February 17 to May 18
- Not a “budget year”
- House: 67 Republicans, 67 Democrats
  - Most committees have bipartisan co-chairs
- Senate: 34 Democrats, 33 Republicans

Transportation

Transportation funding

Forecasting budget adjustments

- Special transportation services (Metro Mobility and Metro Move) are forecasted programs of the state, beginning in state FY26
- The February 2026 budget forecast determined that additional funds were needed for Metro Mobility and Metro Move
- The legislature allocated an additional $8.923 million in FY26 and $10.92 million in FY27 for these programs.

Community Development

Parks funding

Regional Parks and Trails investment

- $10 million in general obligation bonds for regional parks and trails
    - Will be matched with $6.667 million in regional funds for a total of $16.667 million
- The Metropolitan Council passes every dollar of bonding to the 10 regional park implementing agencies that own and operate the regional parks and trails.
- Examples of how these funds could be used:
    - Improve or replace trails, boardwalks, and connectors
    - Develop, rehabilitate, and renovate parks, facilities, and features
    - Increase accessibility to parks, trails, and gathering spaces
    - Increase interpretation and education opportunities for all park users
    - Enhance playgrounds, water activities, and recreation areas
    - Restore natural resources

Parks funding

Regional Parks and Trails investment

- $2.414 million from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for metro regional parks land acquisition
  - Matched with $1.609 million in regional funds, and an additional $1.341 million in implementing agency funds for a total project budget of $5.364 million

Tree planting grants

Investments in the regional canopy

- $5 million in general obligation bonds for community tree planting grants
- Grants may be provided to:
  - Cities
  - Counties
  - Townships
  - Regional parks implementing agencies

Environmental Services

Environment Funding

Investments in inflow and infiltration

- $15 million for inflow and infiltration grants to metro-area cities
  - Repairs sewer infrastructure that connect to the regional wastewater system.
- Protects public and environmental health by preventing sewer overflows to basements and waterways
- Allows our economy to grow and prosper without the cost of building larger infrastructure
- Saves money by reducing the amount of water that needs to be transported and treated.

What did not happen?

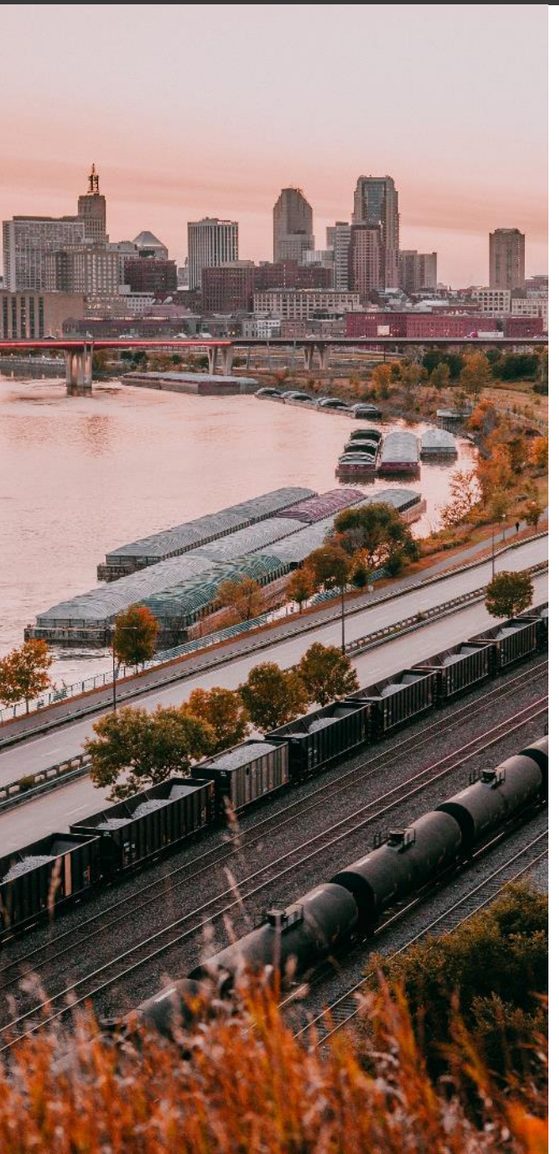
2026 legislative session

Many initiatives did not become law

- Transit consolidation bill
- Housing and zoning reform efforts
- Met Council policy proposals

What comes next?

2027 legislative session



What are we anticipating in the next year?

- The next session begins Tuesday, January 12, 2027, and is scheduled to end on Monday, May 17, 2027
- January 2027: new governor and new legislature will be sworn in
  - At least 40 legislators (out of 201) have indicated they will not run again for their current seat
  - All 201 legislative seats are on the ballot in November along with statewide races
- 2027 is a “budget year” and the legislature will set the budget for the upcoming state FY28-29 (begins July 1, 2027)
  - November 2026 state budget forecast
  - February 2027 state budget forecast
- Potential reintroduction of previous policy proposals that did not pass
- Development of additional policy proposals
- Early 2027: Met Council member appointments

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