

MINNESOTA



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

WITH SONNIE ELLIOTT

The legislature is quickly moving through the session hearing policy bills and passing bills to the floor of the house and senate for further debate. With a trifecta of power, the democrats are able to pass their priority initiatives without out relying on Republican votes. BOMA is tracking initiatives related to property conversion tax credits, any increases in taxes, economic development assistance and commercial building mandates.

In 2023, the Minnesota legislature passed a \$70 billion two-year budget, which was a nearly \$20B or 40% increase over the previous budget. Because the state budgets on a biennial basis in the odd year, the 2024 session is not a budget setting year. However, they will be considering “supplemental” spending in addition to the already passed budget. The Legislative Leadership and Governor Walz released joint budget targets for supplemental spending of close to \$500 million.

A key spending priority to BOMA St. Paul is the continued push by Ramsey County to fund the county’s efforts relating to homeless response infrastructure and services. These initiatives may include funding emergency shelters, day shelters, conducting outreach and diversion programs. The Heading Home Ramsey Continuum of Care initiative will be receiving hearings this week in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and the House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee. BOMA will be supporting H.F. 4583/S.F. 4779. The request is for \$15,000,000.

In the next few weeks, it is important for lawmakers to hear from their constituents. Please send a note to your legislator explaining your experience with the homeless population in St. Paul and why this investment in Heading Home Ramsey is important.

The legislature must complete its work and adjourn before May 20, 2024.