



RCLLG

RAMSEY COUNTY LEAGUE
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

RCLLG December Newsletter

Read our past newsletters!

Newsletter Content:

1. Save the Date: January Legislative Update
 2. Annual Meeting - Congratulations New Board Officers
 3. Thank You 2021 RCLLG Board Officers
 4. December 9 Presentation Recap
 5. Membership Renewal Heads-Up
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Save the Date!

Legislative Priorities & Update
Friday, January 21st | 7:30 - 9:00 AM

Save the Date

January Legislative Update



Friday, January 21st | 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
Virtual Meeting

Updates and Discussion with
Ramsey County's State Legislators

**Legislative priorities and updates with Minnesota state
legislators**

RCLLG Annual Meeting Thursday, December 9

Last Thursday, December 9, we were delighted to hold our annual meeting in-person at the Maplewood Community YMCA. The evening began with a social, followed by dinner and our annual meeting, in which 2021 Board Officers were elected and plans for 2021 were discussed.

Collective Action Workgroup Initiatives include:

Primary Legislative Priority: Advocate for Housing Infrastructure Bond (HIB) money to expand the affordable housing stock in our communities.

Secondary Legislative Priority: Request state funding for Ramsey County in support of the Voluntary Engagement law that was passed by the legislature in 2021. More information about that law can be found [here](#).

Email RCLLG@fusionLP.org if you are interested in joining the workgroup! The group meets once a month.

Read the strategic plan [here](#).

Congratulations to our newly-elected 2022 RCLLG Board Officers!



**Scott Arcand, RCLLG
President**
School Board Member,
White Bear Lake Area
Schools



**Marylee Abrams,
RCLLG Vice President**
Mayor, Maplewood



**Teresa Miller, RCLLG
Treasurer**
City Council Member,
City of Little Canada

THANK YOU!



A special thank you to our exiting Board Officers Jan Jenson, 2021 President, Jessica Kopp, 2021 Treasurer, and Sue Denkinger, Past President.

Thank you for your work and efforts in making RCLLG everything it has become this year. You will be missed!

RCLLG Annual Program

Thursday, December 9

Closing Minnesota's Achievement Gaps: A Look at Ramsey County

Guest Speakers: Alene Tchourumoff & Justice Alan C. Page



Following the annual meeting was a presentation given by Justice Alan Page, former Minnesota Viking and former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice, and Alene Tchourumoff, current Senior VP at the Minneapolis Federal Reserve & former Met Council Chair.

Program Summary

About 15 years ago, the Federal Reserve began to research early childhood development, as these years have shown to critically affect a person's future and, therefore, their participation in the economy.

Compared nationally, there are high percentage proficiency gaps with Minnesota students. Some gaps include:

- Graduation rates, comparatively, between indigenous students, students of color, and white students.

- Proficiencies between those eligible for free & reduced lunches and those not eligible.

Public Education Profiles Data Tool

Why a Constitutional Amendment?

Education is an economical opportunity - simply stated, people who have hope want to build up a community. Those left behind lose hope.

If racial gaps were closed, the GDP from 2005 to 2019 would increase \$6.6B. The GDP would also increase if the racial gaps in educational attainment were closed.

Article 13

Justice Page was tasked by the President of the Federal Reserve of Minneapolis, Neel Kashkari, to examine Article 13 of the Constitution, which was drafted in 1857.

Proposed Changes

- To include a focus on children. “*All children have a fundamental right to a quality public education*” – not private, not home-school, public.
- “*An education that fully prepares them with the skills necessary for participation in the economy, our democracy, and society, as measured against uniform achievement standards set forth by the state.*”
- “*It is a paramount duty of the state to ensure quality public schools that fulfill this fundamental right*” – the state would have no higher duty. It is the responsibility of the state.

Why these changes?

- Can be catalyst for real change. Will require us to meet children where they are.
- Challenges the idea that children of poverty can't learn.
- The new language involves more than just the legislature. It involved the courts and others.
- Case Study: Florida. Since they amended their constitution, Florida moved their national rank to 6th in the state, moving up 27 positions.

Want to learn more? Contact [Nevada Littlewolf](#), Campaign Director.

Read the full notes

Download the Presentation Slide Deck



Thank you to those who attended!

Stay tuned - 2021 Membership Renewal

Can you believe it's almost 2022!? A new year means new membership renewal for RCLLG members. Those registration forms will be going out the week of December 20 and due January 31, 2022.

Thank you for reading! It's been a great year for RCLLG, and we thank you for your participation, ideas, and more.

Have a Happy Holidays (stay warm and safe!)



If you have any questions about RCLLG, your membership, or news listed above, please email RCLLG@mngts.org.

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