



AFSCME Legislative Agenda 2017 Bonding for Public Infrastructure

Support Gov. Dayton's Proposal for Construction Projects

We support Governor Dayton's proposal to borrow \$1.5 billion to pay for construction projects that will improve public facilities where AFSCME members work. His bonding package includes 240 projects and 22,950 union construction jobs spread evenly around the state.

Governor Dayton is renewing his proposal to improve safety at DHS facilities: a \$70 million renovation for the Security Hospital in St. Peter to separate vulnerable adults from predatory patients, and to eliminate blind spots that make it difficult for staff to account for patients; plus \$2.25 million for the Anoka Regional Treatment Center to install security cameras, upgrade alarms and improve safety at nursing stations. Improvements for the Minnesota Sex Offender Program at Moose Lake and St. Peter would get another \$27 million. The Governor's proposal would save the Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services (CABHS) program by constructing a new \$7.5 million facility in Willmar.

In addition, state spending on public facilities has not kept pace with needed upkeep. Repairs on higher education campuses and at state correctional facilities repeatedly have been delayed. Visitor spaces at the Minnesota Zoo, Fort Snelling and Itasca State Park have become timeworn.

Bonding bills require a three-fifths supermajority vote from the House and Senate, requiring bipartisan cooperation. Gov. Dayton says the state's budget surplus makes it a good time to borrow. Several leading Republican legislators say the governor's proposal is too pricey and they want him to trim the wish list.

Some key projects:

- St. Peter Security Hospital expansion: \$70M
- Moose Lake and St. Peter Sex Offender Program housing and treatment: \$27M
- Anoka Regional Treatment Center safety upgrades: \$2.25M
- St. Cloud Correctional Facility intake unit: \$19M
- Lino Lakes Correctional Facility add 60 medical beds: \$5M
- Construction at public college campuses: \$343M
- Renovation at Fort Snelling Visitor Center and Itasca State Park: \$34M
- Minnesota Zoo: \$21M

Action – Ask your legislators to:

- **Support Governor Dayton's \$1.5 billion bonding proposal.**