



The Olmsted County Board proposes another round of cuts to the History Center

Since 2022, the County Board has cut the History Center's annual allocation by nearly 31%

\$289,515 to \$239,515 in 2022, and a further reduction to \$200,000 in 2024 if the county administrator's recommendations are enacted. Cumulatively, that would be a 15% cut in our total operating revenue.

Meanwhile, compensation rates (labor) alone increased by **more than 9%** in 2022 and 2023, putting increased pressure on the History Center's operating budget. Even with these raises, HCOC staff compensation lags behind our peers, according to the 2022 MN Council on Nonprofits Survey.

Olmsted County is falling far behind its Greater Minnesota peers

In 2022, **St. Louis County (Duluth) increased its allocation** to the St. Louis County Historical Society from \$533,352 to \$544,998.

Between 2019 and 2022, **Stearns County (St. Cloud) increased its allocation** from \$600,000 to \$638,600.

Meanwhile, Olmsted County, which is larger in population than Stearns County and projected to outgrow St. Louis County in the coming years, cut the History Center's allocation from \$289,515 in 2020 to \$200,000 in 2024.

You understand the History Center's positive impact in Olmsted County.

- **Shared past, better future.** History educates Olmsted County's children and adults, adds value to our tourism economy, preserves our heritage for present and future generations, and helps long-time and new residents make connections to our shared past.
- **There is only one History Center for Olmsted County.** Through our collections, archives, exhibits, and programs, the History Center reaches every corner of the county.
- **The History Center supports Olmsted County's economy.** In August 2022, the *University of Minnesota Extension Service: Center for Community Vitality* conducted an economic impact study of the History Center's Stoppel Farmstead Historic Rehabilitation Project. Based on the study, and after updating cost estimates (particularly due to inflation), we expect the total project to have a total economic impact of \$4.5 million, creating 24 jobs.
 - The History Center has already invested nearly \$350,000 in restoring the historic George Stoppel smokehouse, using state and private funding.
 - In 2024, the History Center will begin at least \$500,000 in improvements to the historic George Stoppel barn.

Contact your elected County Board representative and share your personal connection to Olmsted History.

Find yours here:

<https://www.olmstedcounty.gov/government/county-boards-commissions/board-of-commissioners>

Need help locating your elected county board representative? Call us at 507-282-9447 or email us at services@olmstedhistory.com.