

## Committee of the Whole

Meeting date: July 22, 2020

**Subject:** A Decade of Growth: 2019 Population Estimates

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** *Minnesota Statutes* 473.24

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Matt Schroeder (651-602-1513)

**Division/Department:** Community Development/ Regional Policy and Research

### Proposed Action

None. Information only.

### Background

Under *Minnesota Statutes* 473.24, the Metropolitan Council is responsible for preparing local population and household estimates for the cities and townships in the seven-county Twin Cities region. These are the official estimates used by other government agencies to determine local government aid and local street aid allocations. (For additional background, see [metro council.org/populationestimates](http://metro council.org/populationestimates)).

Key findings based on the population estimates for April 1, 2019 include:

- The region's population stood at 3.153 million residents, a 10.6% increase from 2010. While Minneapolis and Saint Paul have captured nearly 30% of the region's growth since 2010, most areas of the region are adding people.
- Single-person and empty-nest households are an increasing share of the region's households, which will continue to influence the housing market.

This presentation will also discuss the status of the 2020 Census and how it affects the Council's work.

### Rationale

Under *Minnesota Statutes* 473.24, the Metropolitan Council is responsible for preparing local population and household estimates for the cities and townships in the Twin Cities seven-county area.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

Population estimates assist planners across the region in evaluating the need for future investments in transportation, wastewater infrastructure, and housing, aiding progress toward all five Thrive outcomes. The estimates are also a collaborative product of the Council and communities.

### Funding

Developing the population estimates is a regular part of the Community Development Division budget.

### Known Support / Opposition

During the statutory comment period, 15 communities communicated with the Council about the preliminary estimates. Five communities indicated their agreement, and we addressed the concerns of five others by providing more information. The remaining five communities corrected the Council's estimate of the city's housing stock or requested revisions to occupancy rates and/or average household sizes. Council staff revised the preliminary estimates for these five communities, raising the estimated regional population by 247 people relative to the preliminary estimates.