

## MINNESOTA'S 87 COUNTY GOVERNMENTS PROVIDE THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES THAT CREATE HEALTHY, VIBRANT, AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Counties play an integral role in America's system of federal, state, and local governments. Minnesotans depend on counties to provide services that build, maintain, and protect their communities.

Counties implement a broad array of programs in a cost-effective and efficient manner in order to support and maintain public infrastructure, transportation and economic development assets; promote and protect environmental health and natural resources; ensure public safety to protect citizens; maintain public records, information and coordinate elections; and much more that impacts the lives of Minnesotans every day.

 Association of  
Minnesota Counties

# COUNTIES WORK FOR MINNESOTA



## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Minnesota counties directly serve their residents by providing essential public services, often mandated by federal and state laws and regulations.

County services include record keeping of vital documents such as birth certificates, marriage licenses, and vehicle registrations, conducting tax assessments on property, storing and securing confidential data, protecting county systems from cyberattacks, and administering the state's property tax system. County commissioners oversee the management and administration of these services to ensure that they run smoothly.

SHERBURNE COUNTY ASSISTED RESIDENTS IN RECORDING MORE THAN 28,000 DOCUMENTS AND PROCESSED MORE THAN 5,000 PASSPORT APPLICATIONS, BIRTH, DEATH, AND MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES IN 2021.

MINNESOTA COUNTIES HAVE 447 COMMISSIONERS SERVING ON 87 COUNTY BOARDS.

SWIFT COUNTY USED \$1 MILLION IN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS TO INCREASE LOCAL TOURISM BY IMPROVING THEIR OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE PARK, LEADING TO MORE BUSINESS ATTRACTIONS AND JOBS.



## ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Minnesota counties provide economic development activities through workforce training, business attraction, and COVID-19 relief grants for local businesses and non-profits. Collaboration with public, private, and non-profit partners are key to a county's economic development initiatives.

COUNTIES PROVIDED OVER \$125 MILLION IN GRANTS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES TO HELP THEM SURVIVE THE ENORMOUS CHALLENGES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

FROM PUBLIC OUTREACH TO PROVIDING FREE TESTING AND VACCINATIONS, THE WORK OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS WAS VITAL TO MANAGING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.



## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Minnesota counties deliver health and human services programming through a county-based system.

Investing in these services encourages supportive, prevention-based programming that can strengthen families and reduce the need for services like child protection. Directing resources at the county level establishes and sustains mental health and substance-use programming, increases home visits and vaccinations, and maintains access to affordable housing and childcare.

MINNESOTA IS ONE OF 12 STATES WHERE COUNTIES ARE REQUIRED BY THE STATE TO PROVIDE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO CITIZENS.

MINNESOTA COUNTIES SUPERVISED VOTING AT MORE THAN 2,700 POLLING PLACES AND WORKED WITH 30,949 ELECTION JUDGES IN 2020.



## ELECTIONS

Minnesota counties work in coordination with the state, cities, towns, and school districts to provide safe and secure elections.

Counties process voter registration applications, maintain election equipment, train and certify election officials, issue absentee ballots, compile election results, and conduct post-election audits.

MORE THAN 1.9 MILLION ABSENTEE AND MAIL-IN BALLOTS WERE PROCESSED BY COUNTIES IN THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION.

BLUE EARTH COUNTY'S YELLOW LINE PROJECT WORKS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT TO ENSURE THAT RESIDENTS RECEIVE APPROPRIATE HEALTH SERVICES IN ORDER TO REDUCE INCARCERATION RATES, LOWER JAIL POPULATIONS, AND DECREASE FUTURE INCIDENTS.



## PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS

Minnesota counties provide law enforcement, operate county detention facilities and provide emergency management.

The county criminal justice system also includes sheriffs, county attorneys, jail directors, probation officers, and emergency managers.

MINNESOTA COUNTIES SUPERVISE 81% OF PROBATION CASES IN THE STATE.

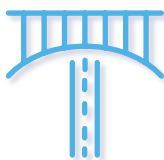


## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Minnesota counties are responsible for maintaining and improving their respective environment and natural resources for residents. This work includes combatting plant, pest and aquatic invasive species, water planning for quantity and quality control, drainage system management, land use management, solid waste management and waste reduction, and enforcement of the Wetland Conservation Act, feedlot, floodplain, and shoreland rules.

POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE PROCESSES 80,000 TONS OF TRASH FROM WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA, CREATES ELECTRICITY AND STEAM TO POWER 1,500 HOMES AND LOCAL BUSINESSES, AND COMPOSTS 1 MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD WASTE EACH YEAR.

RENVILLE COUNTY MANAGES AND MAINTAINS 122 DITCH SYSTEMS, NEARLY 2000 MILES OF OPEN DITCH AND TILE. ANNUAL DRAINAGE WORK INCLUDES ABOUT 30 PROCEEDINGS, 30 SYSTEM INSPECTIONS, 250-400 REPAIRS, AND SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS.



## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Minnesota counties invest in a variety of transportation and infrastructure systems to best serve citizens. Services provided by counties include roads, bridges, public transit, water and sewage systems, solid waste management, gas and electric utilities, and broadband internet.

County State Aid Highway (CSAH) roads receive state funding from the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund (HUTDF) from sources such as the motor vehicle sales tax, gas tax, license tab fees, and revenue from the auto parts sales tax. County roads are funded through local funding sources like property, wheelage, aggregate and local option sales taxes.

COUNTIES MANAGE 43% OF THE 19,690 BRIDGES ON PUBLIC ROADS/HIGHWAYS IN MINNESOTA.

COUNTIES OPERATE 38.9% OF THE 114,505 MILES OF PUBLIC ROADS/HIGHWAYS IN MINNESOTA, WITH AN ESTIMATED 14.7 BILLION MILES TRAVELLED ON THESE ROADS EACH YEAR.