

87 Counties

447 County Commissioners

40,371 County Employees

5,457,173 Citizens

From urban to rural  
and from large to small,  
Minnesota's 87 counties  
are diverse communities  
that serve a  
wide variety of needs.

*AMC unites them all  
in achieving  
public service excellence.*

 Association of  
Minnesota Counties



Association of  
Minnesota Counties

# INTRODUCTION TO THE ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA COUNTIES

# What is AMC?



- A non-partisan, voluntary Association of Minnesota's 87 Counties Since 1909
- The Voice of County Government in Minnesota
- An Advocacy, Education, Training, Research, & Communication Resource for Counties and County Officials



# Our Mission



Association *of*  
Minnesota Counties

AMC unites  
Minnesota's counties  
to achieve public service  
excellence.

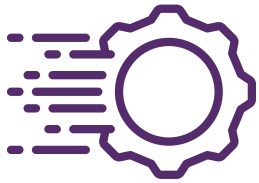
# Our Vision



Association *of*  
Minnesota Counties

Minnesota counties are  
trusted partners  
in strengthening communities.

# Our Values



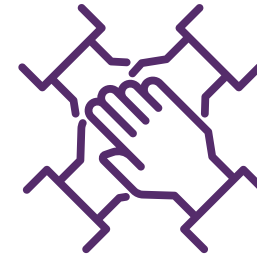
## **Responsiveness**

AMC adapts to meet member and staff needs as they arise. We are a reliable source of information for our members and other partners.



## **Leadership**

AMC and our members notice issues proactively and work to solve them before they have wider impact. We take first steps on a lot of big issues and organize the work of many members and partners. We prepare individual members to be a strong voice and advocate for the needs of their county.



## **Stronger Together**

AMC acts as a statewide voice for all of Minnesota's 87 counties. We are stronger together than we are alone as individual counties. We value collaboration among counties, affiliates, outside groups, state agencies, and other partners to get strong results and outcomes. We demonstrate respect for all perspectives.

# Our Goals

## **The goals for AMC are broadly outlined in the bylaws of the association:**

- To obtain appropriate policy responses from federal and state legislative and executive branches.
- To foster far sighted, innovative and responsive county service delivery, policy decisions and public resource utilization.
- To assure public understanding and support for the choices and decisions required to sustain good county governance.
- To develop resources to insure the vitality of AMC programs to county government.

# Governance Structure Association of Minnesota Counties

- AMC is a 501c4 non-profit association governed by a board of directors.
- AMC also has a 501c3 foundation called the Minnesota Counties Foundation.



# Board of Directors



- 5 Officers
- 16 District Directors representing 10 districts
- 4 National Association of Counties (NACo) representatives
- 5 Policy Committee chairs
- 3 Member Services Committee chairs
- Affiliate Representatives (ex-officio)





# 2023 Executive Committee



Association of  
Minnesota Counties



*(From left to right)*

Past President: Commissioner Todd Patzer, Lac qui Parle County

Second Vice President: Commissioner Mike Slavik, Dakota County

President: Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire, Ramsey County

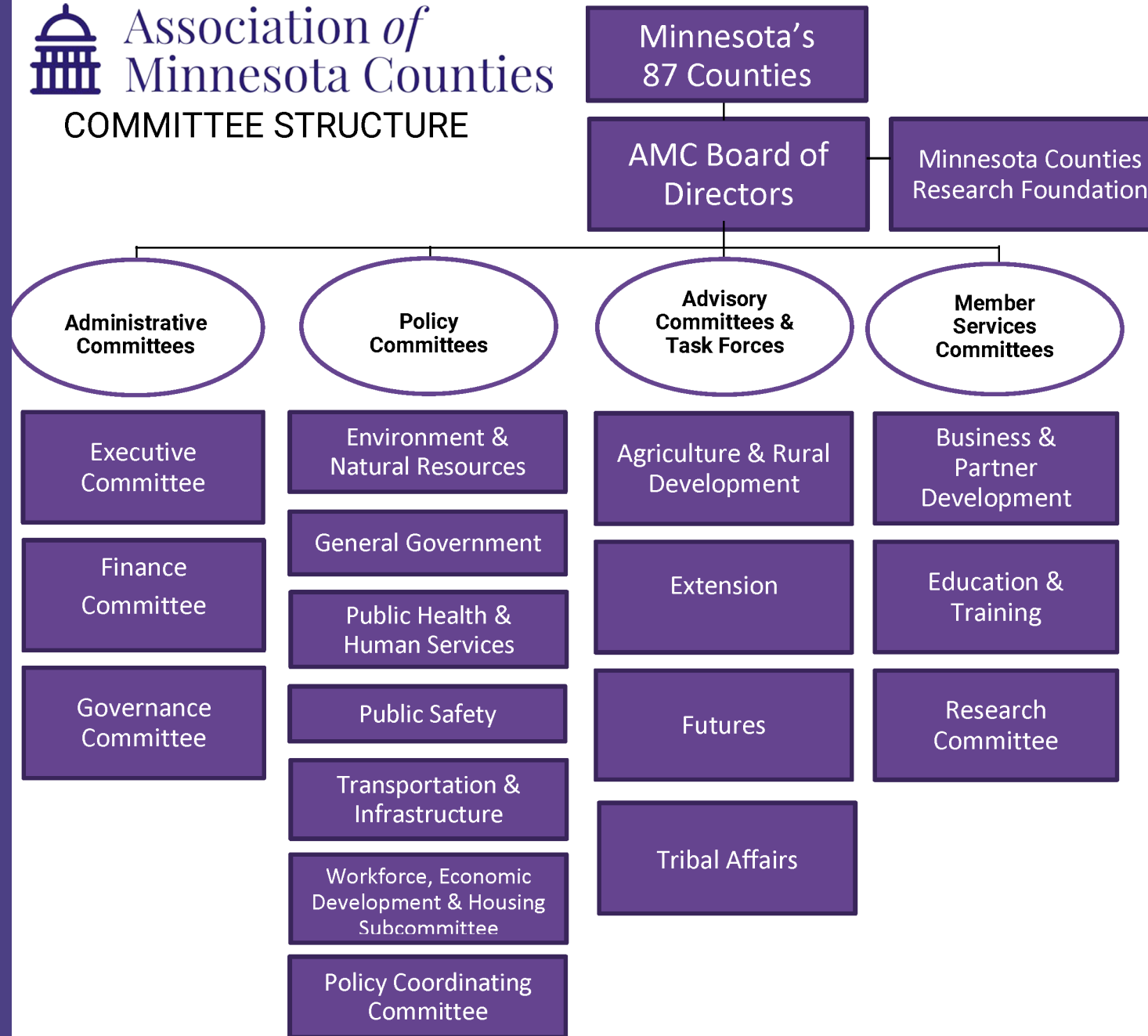
First Vice President: President: Commissioner Neal Gaalswyk, Cass County

Secretary/Treasurer: Commissioner Larry Lindor, Pope County



# Association of Minnesota Counties

## COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



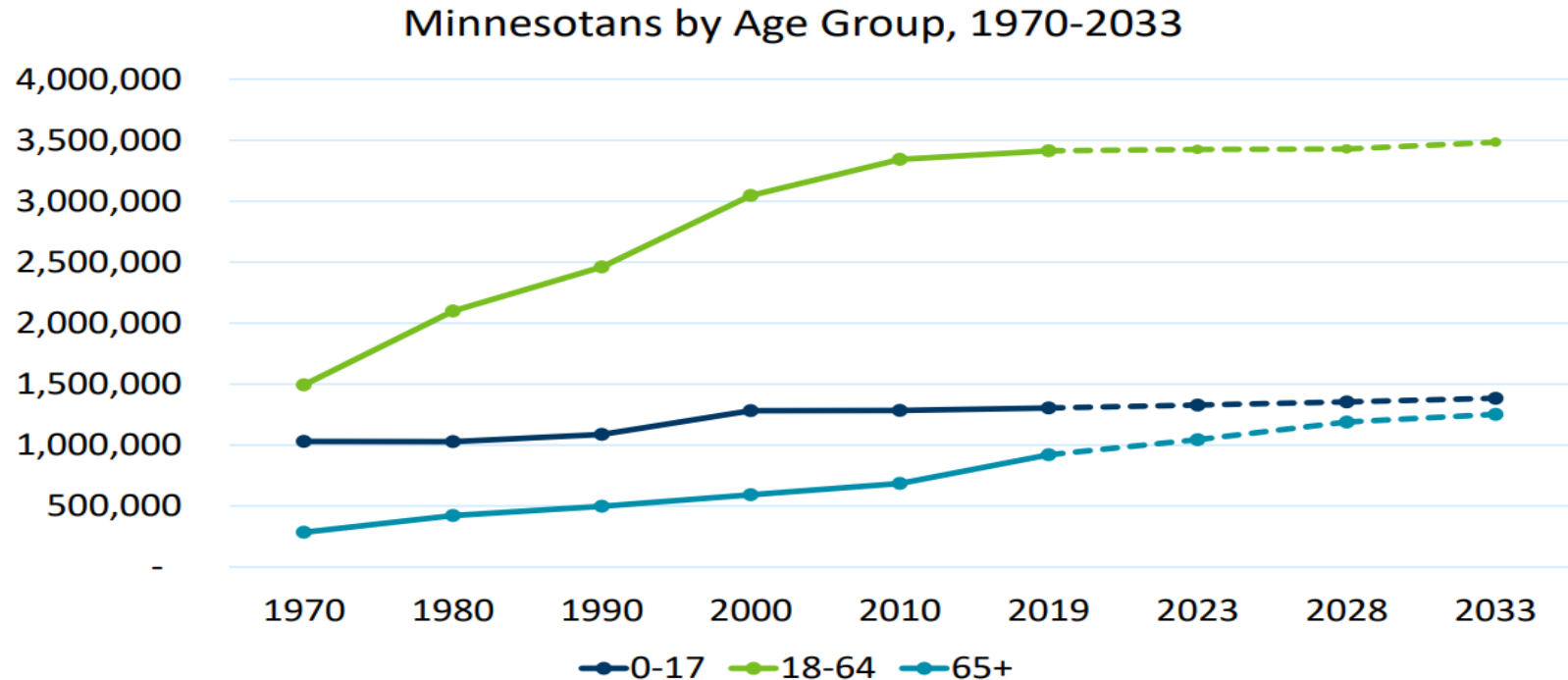
# Strategic Initiatives



- County Workforce Recruitment & Retention
- Bridging Divides
- Cybersecurity

# County Workforce Recruitment & Retention

Little-to -no growth in working-age population in MN  
over the next 15 years



# County Workforce Recruitment & Retention



- Human Resources Technical Assistance Program
- Pathways onboarding program for new county administrators & HR directors
- State demographer presentations
- Supervisor training
- AMC intern program
- Americorps



# Bridging Divides

- Since 2016, growing numbers of people in each party simply don't like people in the other party. They increasingly see people with differing political views as closed-minded, dishonest, unintelligent and even immoral.
- Among Democrats, 63% see Republicans as immoral, up from just 35% who said so in 2016. For Republicans' part, 72% see Democrats as immoral, up from 47% seven years ago.

*Pew Survey, Aug 9, 2022*



# Bridging Divides

- AMC is a non-partisan, statewide Association
- Partnerships with Braver Angels, Mitchell Hamline, and Office of Collaboration and Dispute Resolution
- Civil Mediation cohort
- Online public engagement tools
- 1:1 urban/rural conversations
- “Stay in your lane” resolutions







## **Cybersecurity Work Group**

- Purpose: Examine the current cybersecurity environment in county governments to assess existing and potential risks to county information systems.
- Developing tools, assessing policies.

# Government Relations

 Association of  
Minnesota Counties

- State Legislative and Administrative Lobbying
- Federal Lobbying
- Local Government Liaison with Cities, Schools, and Townships
- Member Inquiries and Research



# Legislative Principles



- AMC strives to preserve local control so that counties have the flexibility to address the most pressing needs of their communities.
- AMC supports state budget solutions that avoid adding or shifting a disproportionate burden to counties through cost shifts, cost shares and unfunded mandates.
- AMC believes that funding for county-administered services should be commensurate with the level of service or results deemed acceptable.

# 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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- County Program Aid/Property Tax Relief
- Mental Health
- Community Supervision
- Housing Investments
- Transportation Funding  
(Dedicated Funding and Bonding)
- SCORE/SWMT
- Local Public Health Funding
- Family First and Family Resource Centers
- Broadband
- Systems Modernization
- PILT Sustainability
- Changing Trends in Duty Disability Departures
- Response to Cannabis Legislation







# Education & Training

- Conferences
- Spring/Fall District Meetings
- FUTURES
- Workshops & Training
- MN Extension Partnership



# Research Resources



- Cybersecurity
- Joint Power Agreements
- Opioid Settlement
- Public Engagement
- Roadside Ditch Mowing



# What Do Counties Do? Association of Minnesota Counties

## 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**



# Communications



- *Minnesota Counties* Newspaper
- AMC Legislative UPDATE
- *Minnesota Counties* EXTRA!
- AMC website
- Press releases
- Twitter (@mncounties)
- Facebook



# County Solutions



- Budgeting Tools
- Cash Management
- Cooperative Purchasing
- Employee Deferred Compensation
- Human Resources Technical Assistance
- Onboarding Programs
- Surplus Property
- Worker's Compensation/ Property Casualty Coverage
- *And other business partners!*



**MCIT**

Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust



**DDA**

Human Resources, Inc.  
a David Drown Associates Company



**ClearGov®**

Public | Surplus®



**Nationwide®**  
is on your side



# Affiliate Services



Affiliate services coordinates the work of our 25 affiliates and connects them to each other, AMC programs and services, and the AMC board.

# AMC serves YOU!

 Association of  
Minnesota Counties

As your  
membership  
association,  
we are here to  
serve YOU!



# Thank You!



Julie Ring, Executive Director

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Twitter: [@mncounties](https://twitter.com/mncounties)

# Welcome!



**AMC President Mary Jo McGuire**

Ramsey County Commissioner

First Vice President National  
Association of Counties (NACo)

# Introductions



1. **Name?**
2. **Which county do you represent?**
3. **What elected office do you hold?**
4. **What is your primary occupation?**
5. **Why did you run for County Commissioner?**