

WHY Minnesota Counties MATTER!

A publication of the
 Association of
Minnesota Counties

in partnership with the National Association of Counties.

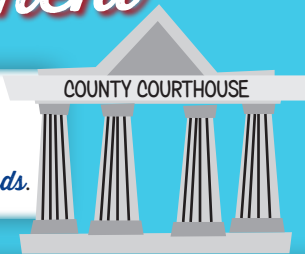
Minnesota's 87 county governments provide the essential services to create healthy, vibrant, and safe communities.

Counties support and maintain public infrastructure, transportation and economic development assets; keep residents healthy; ensure public safety to protect our citizens; maintain public information and coordinate elections; and implement a broad array of programs in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

Minnesotans depend on counties to provide services that build, maintain, and protect their homes, schools and neighborhoods. Counties are also an instrumental player in America's intergovernmental system of federal, state, and local governments.

General Government

447 commissioners serve on
Minnesota's **87** county boards.



Minnesota counties *manage vital records* and *operate licensing bureaus* where they handle thousands of marriage licenses, birth certificates, driver's licenses, and vehicle registrations every year.

Marriage License

Signature

Counties **EMPLOY** a wide variety of people in your community, including: *nurses, law enforcement, social workers, engineers, physicians, lifeguards and librarians.*



Economic & Community Development



Greater Minnesota counties distributed more than **\$140 MILLION** in COVID relief grants to local businesses, non-profits, and other economic support programs in 2020.

Health & Human Services

Minnesota counties provided **53%** or more than **\$300 MILLION** of the total statewide *funding for child welfare services* in 2019.



Minnesota is **1 of only 12 STATES** where *human services programs* such as those that protect vulnerable adults, register residents for financial assistance, and coordinate mental health services are *provided by the county* instead of the state.



Through their local public health boards, counties *run vaccine clinics, inspect restaurants, and support healthy community programming* such as farmers' markets.

DINER



Elections

Minnesota counties oversaw voting at more than

2,700 *polling places and coordinated*

30,949 *election judges* in 2020.



Minnesota counties processed

1,909,277

absentee and mail-in ballots in the 2020 general election.

Public Safety & Corrections

Minnesota counties operate the majority of

911 *call centers* in Minnesota, which handle over

2 MILLION *emergency calls* annually.



Minnesota counties employ

2,904 *deputy sheriffs.*



Environment & Natural Resources

118 MILLION POUNDS

of *household hazardous waste* and *e-waste* were recycled by counties in 2018.



Counties *inspected* more than **12,000 SEPTIC SYSTEMS** in 2019 and worked with over 9,000 property owners on septic system construction projects.

Minnesota counties *collected* **2.7 MILLION TONS** of *recyclable material* in 2018 and *diverted*

68% OF GARBAGE from landfills, finding ways to *reuse, recycle, compost, or process the waste.*



Transportation & Infrastructure

Counties maintain **44,552** *miles of roads* in Minnesota, which means that 24% of all vehicle miles traveled are on county-maintained roads.

Minnesota counties invested **\$449 MILLION** on *maintaining* existing roads and bridges in 2018.



Counties inspect and maintain **7,785** *bridges and culverts.*

Minnesota counties invested **\$1.45 BILLION** in *building* roads, bridges, and other public infrastructure in 2018.



Over the past decade, Minnesota counties have provided over **\$1 BILLION** in funding for *high-quality transit service.*



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"VMT by Route System for each County (1988 to 2019)." Minnesota Department of Transportation.

"Minnesota Bridges." Minnesota Department of Transportation, December 2019.



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