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.

Minnesota counties provided more than $300 million of the total statewide funding for child welfare services in 2019.

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.

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.

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

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.

Why Minnesota Counties Matter!

A publication of the Association of Minnesota Counties in partnership with the National Association of Counties.
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.

Minnesota counties oversaw voting at more than 2,700 polling places and coordinated 30,949 election judges in 2020.

Minnesota counties employed 2,904 deputy sheriffs.

Minnesota counties operate the majority of 911 call centers in Minnesota, which handle over 2 million emergency calls annually.

Minnesota counties invested $449 million on maintaining existing roads and bridges in 2018.

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

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 processed 1,909,277 absentee and mail-in ballots in the 2020 general election.

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

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

Counties inspect and maintain 7,785 bridges and culverts.

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

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