

# About the Association of Minnesota Counties

*A publication of the Association of Minnesota Counties.*

## Overview

For over 100 years, the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), a voluntary, non-partisan statewide organization, has assisted the state's 87 counties better serve their communities.

AMC offers a broad range of services to its members, including education, communications, and intergovernmental relations. AMC works closely with the legislative and administrative branches of government in seeing that legislation and policies favorable to counties are enacted.

AMC is governed by a **Board of Directors** composed of five officers, one representative from each of nine AMC districts, five representatives from the metropolitan district, one representative from each county with a population of 400,000 or more, National Association of Counties (NACo) representatives, and ex-officio representatives from organizations affiliated with AMC.

Each member county has eight delegates to AMC (10 delegates in counties with seven commissioners) and each county belongs to one of 10 **regional districts**. County delegates attend district meetings at least two times per year to refine policy positions and receive training on specific county concerns, e.g. personnel development, solid waste planning, tax policy, etc. In addition, delegates participate at the annual conference and legislative conference in the development of the platform and vote on other issues important to the Association.

AMC's five **policy committees**, Environment & Natural Resources, General Government & Taxes, Human Services, Public Safety, and Transportation & Infrastructure, draft the legislative policies for approval by the full Association. Every member county is represented by a delegate on at least one of the committees. The AMC policy development process is carefully constructed to ensure that county officials are actively involved in policy development and understand the issues facing county government. AMC policy statements are developed through a democratic process aimed at reflecting the collective opinion of county commissioners in Minnesota.

## Activities at the Legislature

More than 80 percent of all bills introduced to the Minnesota State Legislature have some sort of impact on counties; consequently, the legislative session proves to be an intense few months for AMC policy analysts. They work proactively to incorporate county concerns into legislation and reactively as they respond to proposed bills that would positively or negatively affect county government. The analysts attend House and Senate committees, talk with legislators and their staffs, and correspond regularly with other local government entities.

Policy analysts spend a good deal of time in communicating with counties, via the weekly AMC UPDATE e-newsletter, web site, and one-on-one. Because the county message is often best heard when delivered by commissioners in legislators' own areas, counties are often called upon to contact their own legislators to share their concerns directly.

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

## Working with State Agencies & Other Entities

Counties don't operate in a vacuum, and neither does AMC. Staff, committees and volunteer leaders meet often with state agencies and other local government entities on joint areas of concern. AMC is active on many intergovernmental organizations, where we work closely with representatives of state departments such as Human Services and Corrections. State officials are often invited to speak before AMC Policy Committees as delegates struggle with policies or gather background information. AMC works closely with other local government associations, such as the League of Minnesota Cities, since changes in legislation and/or policy often also affects them.

## Other Activities

AMC policy analysts also perform association management and related work for several county affiliate or staff organizations including the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC), Minnesota Association of Planning & Zoning Administrators (MACPZA), Metropolitan Energy Policy Coalition (MEPC), and Minnesota Association of County Administrators (MACA), among others. Policy analysts also manage special projects and serve on state agency workgroups throughout the year.

## Education & Communications

AMC member counties enjoy a myriad of benefits and services, ranging from solid communications to educational programs and research.

### Publications

To meet the information needs of counties in a variety of ways, AMC provides counties with the following publications:

- *Minnesota Counties*
- AMC UPDATE
- County Library & Information Center (CLIC)
- Salary Survey
- County Directory

### Conferences & Educational Programs

AMC offers a variety of events and educational programs designed to help county commissioners and staff keep up-to-speed on issues, trends and technology.

### Education & Training Programs

- AMC Regional Training Workshops
- AMC - Leading Edge Coaching & Development Online Leadership Training
- Meeting Facilitation Services/Strategic Planning
- and more!

### AMC Conferences & Meetings

- County Government 101: A conference for newly elected county officials
- Legislative Conference
- Leadership Development Summit
- Spring/Fall District Meetings
- Fall Policy Conference
- Annual Conference

### Other Services

AMC also offers several other services, including:

- Mailing Lists and Labels. Download the order form from [www.mncounties.org](http://www.mncounties.org) and customize your own mailing lists from our extensive database.
- Web Sites - Design, Maintenance, Hosting
- The Association of Minnesota Counties partners with a number of business and affiliate organizations to assist counties and develop a central repository of products and services for its member counties.

**AMC aims to improve the operations of Minnesota's county governments and the services counties provide to their citizens.**

### Preferred Business Partners (PBP) Program

The Association of Minnesota Counties' Preferred Business Partners (PBP) program fits the needs of today's county government by pairing them with companies who can help them provide the best products and services possible to their citizens and employees.

Through the PBP program, AMC brings together the public and private sectors in a mutually beneficial relationship. Counties benefit by identifying potential suppliers who have demonstrated interest in county business, and companies benefit by being directly connected to Minnesota's 87 counties through this program. There is no other program in the state that focuses on nurturing the critical and growing relationship between county government and business.

The PBP program offers two membership levels, depending on the company's needs and goals for expanding their presence in Minnesota counties. The program runs on the calendar year, but companies can join at any time. For more information on the PBP program, please contact Laurie Klupacs, AMC Deputy Director, at [lkupacs@mncounties.org](mailto:lkupacs@mncounties.org).



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Visit [www.mncounties.org](http://www.mncounties.org) for more information on issues that matter most to counties.