



Presentation to
Local Government Division
Minnesota House of Representatives

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Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA)

MICA is an independent, voluntary association of:

- 15 of Minnesota's larger, faster growing counties including suburban, exurban and Greater MN counties
- Member counties are home to over 1/3rd of Minnesotan's
- 4 of the 5 fastest growing counties; 9 of the top 15
- Urbanized and developing counties focused on participating in state policy-making to solve common problems, produce and share information and analysis, increase public understanding of county government, and promote innovation and cooperation among counties



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Member County Populations & Average Growth (*past 5-years*)

| | <u>2019 Pop</u> | <u>Ave Annual Past 5-years</u> |
|------------|------------------------|---|
| STATEWIDE | 5,680,337 | 0.82% |
| Dakota | 433,302 | 1.04% |
| Washington | 262,748 | 1.07% |
| St. Louis | 199,661 | -0.12% |
| Olmsted | 160,431 | 1.33% |
| Stearns | 160,211 | 0.88% |
| Scott | 148,458 | 1.37% |
| Carver | 107,179 | 1.98% |
| Sherburne | 97,520 | 1.34% |
| Blue Earth | 68,583 | 0.89% |
| Rice | 66,853 | 0.51% |
| Crow Wing | 65,274 | 0.59% |
| Otter Tail | 58,734 | 0.39% |
| Chisago | 56,613 | 0.90% |
| Winona | 50,830 | -0.11% |
| Benton | 40,895 | 0.69% |



Organizational Governance

- Our Board of Directors consists of two County Commissioners from each member county
- The Board of Directors sets our legislative priorities and platform, and meets monthly throughout the year to exchange information and guide advocacy and engagement



Strategic Organizational Structure

- Professional staff groups regularly meet to exchange up-to-date information, provide input into policy decisions, and collaborate to solve mutual issues.
 - Administrators
 - Fiscal Officers
 - Human Resource Directors
 - Engineers
 - Human Resource Directors, Risk Managers
 - Environmental Services, Public Safety/Corrections, Assessors, and Auditor/Treasurers



Guiding Principles

- Transparent, open communication and inter-governmental collaboration to address Minnesota's policy challenges
- Good policy is grounded in good-data, and evidence-based solutions
- County participation in state decisions impacting counties
- State funding covers the cost of mandated programs and processes
- Local control and alignment of funding accountability with the level government that sets program rules
- Optimal program outcomes are equitable, efficient
- Innovation, including through better use of technology



Selected Policy Priorities for 2021

- Adopt a state budget that does not shift costs on to local property taxpayers
 - Maintain CPA, avoid cost-shifts, address funding shortfalls for selected state mandates
- Pension fund sufficiency and sustainability
- Local control and flexibility to manage county workforce & benefits
 - Allow for separate insurance pooling of retirees & active employees
 - Repeal the bureaucratic salary cap for non-school employees
 - Require all insurance eligible employees determine whether all insurance eligible employees will join PEIP
 - Change (MS 471.6161, subd. 5) to meet and confer with exclusive representatives before changing aggregate value of group insurance
- Streamlining mandated processes and reporting
 - Allow for streamlined tax statement, financial and budget reporting and other public disclosures through transparent electronic means
 - Consider reducing the frequency of pay-equity reporting with consistent compliance



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