

Metropolitan Government

In the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area, the legislature created regional agencies to fulfill specific functions.

Metropolitan Council

- 16 members from districts and a chair from the metropolitan area at large, all appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the governor
- Plans and coordinates development of region; provides transit and wastewater collection and treatment services

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC)

- Eight members from districts and a chair, all appointed by Metropolitan Council
- Advises and assists council in planning the regional parks and open space system

Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

- 33 members, including local elected officials, citizens, and representatives of agencies and modes of transportation, with a chair appointed by the council from among the members
- Lead in the federal Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) transportation planning process that governs use of federal transportation funds in the metro area

Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC)

- Eight members from Twin Cities metropolitan area districts and four members from Greater Minnesota, serving staggered four-year terms, and a chair, all appointed by the governor; plus one member each from Minneapolis and St. Paul, appointed by the city's mayor
- Owns and operates Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and six other airports in region

Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission (MMCC)

- 18 members; all metropolitan area county commissioners appointed by their respective counties
- Monitors and controls mosquitoes, ticks, and black flies in the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District to protect the public from disease and annoyance

Metropolitan Agency Budgets, 2013

	Percent of Revenue Sources				
	Property Taxes*	User Fees	State	Federal	Other
Agency Expenditures (CY 2013 for operating, debt service, and passthrough)					
Metropolitan Council (\$828.4 million)					
Regional Admin., Community Development, and HRA Admin. (\$20.5 million)	52%		1%	33%	14%
Transportation Planning and Transit Operations (\$425.7 million)	5.4	24.1	56.6	10.4	3.5
Transit Debt Service (\$41.3 million)	100				
Sewer System (\$126.8 million)		98.5	0.5		1
Sewer System Debt Service (\$100.2 million)		100			
Parks and Open Space Debt Service (\$4.4 million)	98				2
Passthrough Grants and Loans – e.g., housing, parks, suburban transit providers, RALF, MLCA** (\$109.2 million)	17		35	47	1
MAC Operating Expenses (\$143.2 million)		100			
MAC Nonoperating Expenses (\$132 million)		100			
MMCC (\$17.4 million in 2012)	98				2

* Property taxes includes other local sources (Counties Transit Improvement Board, County Regional Railroad Authority).

** RALF stands for right-of-way acquisition loan fund; MLCA stands for Metropolitan Livable Communities Act.

Sources: Proposed or adopted 2013 agency budgets

Local Government

Counties, cities, and towns represent the three kinds of general purpose local units of government in Minnesota. School districts are the most significant kind of special purpose government unit. Minnesota has about 3,285 local government units.

87 Counties

- Governed by a five- or seven-member elected board of county commissioners
- Structures, powers, and duties are in law, except that Ramsey County is also governed by its county home rule charter

853 Cities

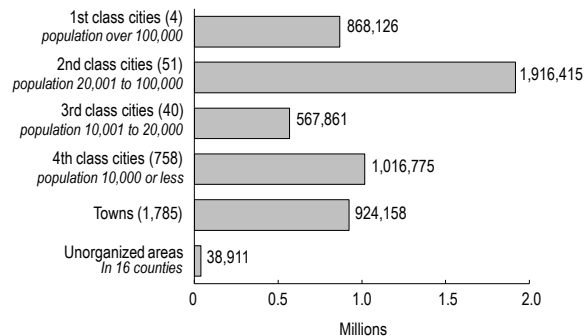
Statutory Cities (746) are organized and operate under the options provided in the statutory city code and other laws.

Home Rule Charter Cities (107) are organized and operate under their individual charters and other laws.

City boundaries may cross county lines. There are presently 46 cities whose boundaries extend into more than one county.

Cities are also classified based on population as a way for the legislature to provide powers or impose duties as appropriate to cities of a certain size.

Population by Type of Municipality, 2011 estimate



Note: Under statute, cities are classified based on the federal decennial census data, not estimates.

1,785 Towns

- Hold annual town meetings at which the electors exercise powers granted in law, such as setting the levy
- Governed by a three- or five-member elected board of supervisors
- May exercise “urban” town powers if population is at least 1,000 (217 towns are eligible) or within 20 miles of Minneapolis or St. Paul city hall

336 School Districts

- Consolidation has eliminated 99 districts since 1990
- Most governed by six- or seven-member elected boards
- Most districts elect at-large board members for four-year terms

Other Special Districts

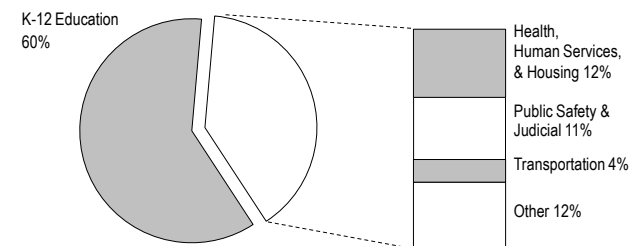
- Enabling law may be special or general, and determines financing
- Perform a single function (or several functions) as distinguished from general purpose governments
- Governance depends on the enabling law
- Examples are hospital, sanitary, and watershed districts, and housing redevelopment authorities (HRAs)

224 special taxing districts levied for taxes payable in 2011.

There are other special taxing districts that do not levy.

Examples of other special purpose districts that do not levy include subordinate service districts, special service districts, and districts established by joint powers agreements.

Local Government Employees by Function (197,507 full-time equivalent employees, March 2011)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, August 2012