

The background features abstract geometric shapes in shades of blue and orange. On the left, a solid blue vertical bar is partially visible. On the right, there are overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in various shades of blue and orange, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The text is centered in the white space between these elements.

Minnesota Association of Townships

Minnesota Association of Townships - What We Are:

- ▶ MAT is a nonprofit corporation representing 1,780 of Minnesota's 1,781 townships, about 9,000 town officers elected by the approximately 925,000 township residents.
- ▶ The Only Statewide-Township Organization

Minnesota Association of Townships - Why We Are:

- ▶ **Educational:** To instruct, train, and raise awareness about township government and township officers.
- ▶ **Charitable:** Reducing the burdens of government by assisting township governments acquire vital resources.

Minnesota Association of Townships - Services Provided:

- ▶ Training Town Officers
- ▶ Answering questions from town officers
- ▶ Bond program for clerks and treasurers
- ▶ MATIT Insurance Program
- ▶ Constituent Services to assist Legislators
- ▶ Be the Voice of Townships at Capitol, on committees, etc.

What are townships?

- ▶ Towns/Townships are units of local government with powers & duties usually aimed at managing rural areas
 - ▶ Annexation and boundary adjustments have altered or eliminated some townships.
- ▶ “Unorganized Township” = “Unorganized Territory” - Not a town at all
 - ▶ Unit of Measurement 6 miles x 6 miles

How are Townships Governed?

- ▶ Generally governed by 3 elected supervisors, an elected clerk, and an elected treasurer
- ▶ Voters can change this to:
 - ▶ 5 supervisors
 - ▶ Appointed Clerk and/or treasurer positions instead of elected officers
 - ▶ Combining clerk & treasurer into one position

How are Towns Officials Chosen?

- ▶ About 2/3 of all townships conduct annual elections in March
- ▶ About 1/3 moved to November elections in the even-numbered years

Annual Town Meeting

- ▶ Held on the second Tuesday in March
- ▶ Managed by the residents
- ▶ Reports on roads, finances, etc.
- ▶ Voters decide the tax levy and authorize the board to take certain powers or actions

MAT Legislative Priorities for 2021:

- ▶ Annexation Reform
 - ▶ Balance Power Between Townships and Cities
 - ▶ Protect Orderly Annexation Agreements from Third-Party Interference
- ▶ Develop New Detachment by Ordinance Process Modeled After Annexation by Ordinance Process
- ▶ Full Funding for Township Aid Formula

MAT Legislative Priorities for 2021:

- ▶ Transportation Funding which is Comprehensive, predictable, sustainable, adequate & dedicated
- ▶ Towns are responsible for
 - ▶ 56,000+ miles of roads
 - ▶ Over 6,200 bridges w/ avg. around 400 on annual priority deficiency list
 - ▶ #1 expenditure for townships
 - ▶ Towns approximately 75% property tax dependent
- ▶ Need additional \$20 million per year just to maintain status quo

MAT Legislative Priorities for 2021:

- ▶ Broadband Funding
 - ▶ Affordable and Dependable High-Speed Broadband Access to All Minnesotans
- ▶ \$120 million request for 2021-22 Biennium to Border-to-Border Fund.

Questions?



Grassroots
Government

Minnesota
Association of Townships