

# How AMC Works for Ramsey County



Association of  
Minnesota  
Counties

## How Ramsey County Shaped AMC in 2025

- **AMC Board:** Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner Garrison McMurtrey
- **Environment & Natural Resources Policy Committee:** Commissioners Garrison McMurtrey & Kelly Miller
- **General Government Policy Committee:** Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong
- **Public Health & Human Services Policy Committee:** Commissioners Tara Jebens-Singh & Rena Moran
- **Public Safety Policy Committee:** Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire
- **Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee:** Commissioner Rafael Ortega
- **Education & Training Committee:** Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire
- **Futures:** Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire

## 2025 Legislative Successes

The 2025 session will go down in history as one of the most unique and eventful years at the Minnesota Capitol. To counties' misfortune, a significant deficit meant significant and historic cost shifts in the health and human services realm were seriously considered in both the House and Senate to differing levels, each chamber putting some portion of the governor's proposal into place and resulting in AMC dialing up pressure. In addition, counties successfully unified over no cuts to County Program Aid (CPA) and the dire need to invest in child protection IT systems that have been so neglected they have resulted in staffing crises and universal, bipartisan discontent. Highlights of AMC's successes in areas that are high priorities for members include:

- No cuts to CPA despite a proposal to reduce the appropriation by \$20 million per year. Ramsey County receives \$26,195,141 annually, an increase of \$8,378,127 over the last five years.
- Despite the deficit environment, counties secured \$35 million in investments for modernization of SSIS, a human services data system.
- AMC successfully lobbied to avoid over \$400 million in human services cost shifts. By way of example, a single proposed cost share for Disability Waiver Residential Services would have cost Ramsey County \$8,400,120.
- In the areas of EMS funding, the legislature included \$16 million for an Ambulance Operating Deficit Grant Program, \$2 million for an Ambulance Service Training and Staffing Grant Program, and \$8 million for a Rural Uncompensated Care Pool.
- In the area of transportation and bonding, key county programs were funded. This includes: \$8 million for Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program, \$47 million for the Local Road Improvement Program, \$20 million for the Local Bridge Replacement Program, and \$11 million for the Major Local Bridge Replacement Program.

## Internal Operations & Communications

AMC strengthened its support for member counties through strategic partnerships and continued investment in modern, efficient internal operations.

- Through AMC's **Preferred Business Partners**, including Foundational Partners and **NACo Solutions (NACo Edge)**, counties gain access to trusted expertise, education, risk management resources, and nationally vetted, cost-saving programs that leverage the collective purchasing power of counties nationwide.
- AMC has also modernized its internal systems to improve service delivery and transparency. The transition to **Engagifii** streamlines member services such as event registration, communications, legislative tracking, training, and online engagement into a single, user-friendly platform. AMC also upgraded its financial operations to **Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central**, a secure, cloud-based system that strengthens financial transparency, reporting accuracy, and long-term reliability.

- AMC keeps member counties informed and equipped with timely publications, updates, and resources, including **AMC UPDATE, Minnesota Counties Quarterly**, guides, toolkits, and webinars on key topics like property taxes, elections, and cybersecurity. Members also have access to data, research, grant support, and specialized tools through the County Library & Information Center (CLIC). These communications help counties make informed decisions, stay current on emerging issues, and efficiently serve their communities.
- Together, these partnerships, system upgrades, and robust communications ensure AMC members have the tools, information, and support they need to operate efficiently and effectively. From streamlined member services and transparent financial management to timely updates, publications, guides, and webinars on critical county topics, AMC helps counties make informed decisions, reduce administrative burdens, and better serve their residents.

## Learning & Member Programs

Recognizing the strong connection between conference planning, education, and research, AMC restructured in 2025, creating Learning & Member Programs. The team supports the mission of AMC by equipping members and affiliates with research, education, and resources to achieve public service excellence. 2025 was a successful year for AMC with member participation and active engagement.

- **County Government 101** for newly elected county officials is valuable training for newly elected leaders to kick-off their new careers in county government. Experts and veteran county leaders provided insight into subjects like managing board meetings, a county commissioner's role with HR, and more.
- A new **Leadership Essentials** program was launched to help Board chairs, vice-chairs and administrators. The sessions focused on strong working relationships between board leadership and county staff, with virtual topics covering effective meeting management, collaboration between administrators and board chairs, and strategies for reframing conflict to promote understanding and teamwork.
- AMC held its third annual **Drainage Conference** for counties, joint counties, watershed districts, and other water management organizations. As drainage authorities, they are charged with the responsibility to manage and preserve the drainage infrastructure our agricultural economy depends upon to support modern advances in efficient farming practices.
- AMC's **Legislative Conference and County Day at the Capitol** brought hundreds of county officials to St. Paul. Attendees participated in policy committee meetings and met with their legislators to discuss issues affecting counties statewide.
- AMC **District Meetings** in the spring and the fall. Member counties gather with their district colleagues to collaborate and share knowledge on the most important issues facing their region. AMC delivers legislative session results in the spring and works with members to develop legislative priorities in the fall.
- The **Leadership Summit**, attended by county officials and key staff, focuses on leadership skills training to help them become better leaders by preparing them to meet the increasing demands and challenges facing counties today. The leadership examples set by county officials and staff is critical to creating a culture that attracts, retains, and motivates today's workforce.
- The **Fall Policy Conference** is where the legislative policy platform is created to guide the work of AMC's government relations team during the legislative session. General sessions addressed key issues facing counties, including strengthening partnerships with state legislators, solid waste management, and modernization of human services systems.
- AMC's **Annual Conference** hosted 591 attendees, 15 exhibitors, and 30+ educational workshops, which made 2025's AMC Annual Conference a huge success.
- In 2025, AMC delivered a broad range of leadership, communication, and technical training opportunities that reflected the diverse and evolving needs of county leaders. In response to member feedback, AMC offered many training. This included **Practical Leadership 1.0, Leading on Purpose, Managing Effective Communication** and many other topics.
- After being awarded a McKnight Foundation grant in 2024 to build capacity to assist Minnesota counties in successfully applying for state and federal funding, two **Grant Coordinators** met with counties from across the state in an effort to better understand the needs of counties and the barriers they face in applying for grants. Staff created resources to assist counties including a Capital Improvement Guide, Grant Resources Hub, Grant Writers Database, and a template Request For Proposal for grant writers.