



# Board Workshop / Discussion Agenda

15 West Kellogg Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
651-266-9200

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May 19, 2026 - 1:30 p.m.

Courthouse Room 220

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## WORKSHOP

1. **Association of Minnesota Counties Update**

[2026-180](#)

Sponsors: County Manager's Office



# Board of Commissioners

## Request for Board Action

15 West Kellogg Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
651-266-9200

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**Item Number:** 2026-180

**Meeting Date:** 5/19/2026

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**Sponsor:** County Manager's Office

**Title**

Association of Minnesota Counties Update

**Attachment**

1. Presentation
2. AMC's Support for County Budgets
3. How Ramsey County Shaped AMC in 2025

87 Counties

447 County Commissioners

40,371 County Employees

5.72 Million Residents

From urban to rural  
and from large to small,  
Minnesota's 87 counties  
are diverse communities  
that serve a  
wide variety of needs.

*AMC unites them all  
in achieving  
public service excellence.*

 Association of  
Minnesota Counties

[www.mncounties.org](http://www.mncounties.org)



Association *of*  
Minnesota Counties

# AMC Update

May 2026





# Our Values

## **Leading the Way**

We notice issues proactively and work to solve them before they have wider impact. We take first steps on big issues and organize the work of many members and partners. We prepare individual members to be a strong voice and advocate for the needs of their county.

## **Meeting Member Needs**

We adapt to meet member and staff needs as they arise. We are a reliable source of information for our members and other partners.

## **Stronger Together**

We are a statewide voice for all of Minnesota's counties. We are stronger together than we are alone as individual counties. We value collaboration among counties, affiliates, outside groups, state agencies, and other partners to get strong results and outcomes. We demonstrate respect for all perspectives.

# AMC Services



Association of  
Minnesota Counties



Government Relations



Education & Training



Research



Grant Services

Communications



Business Solutions



Affiliate Services



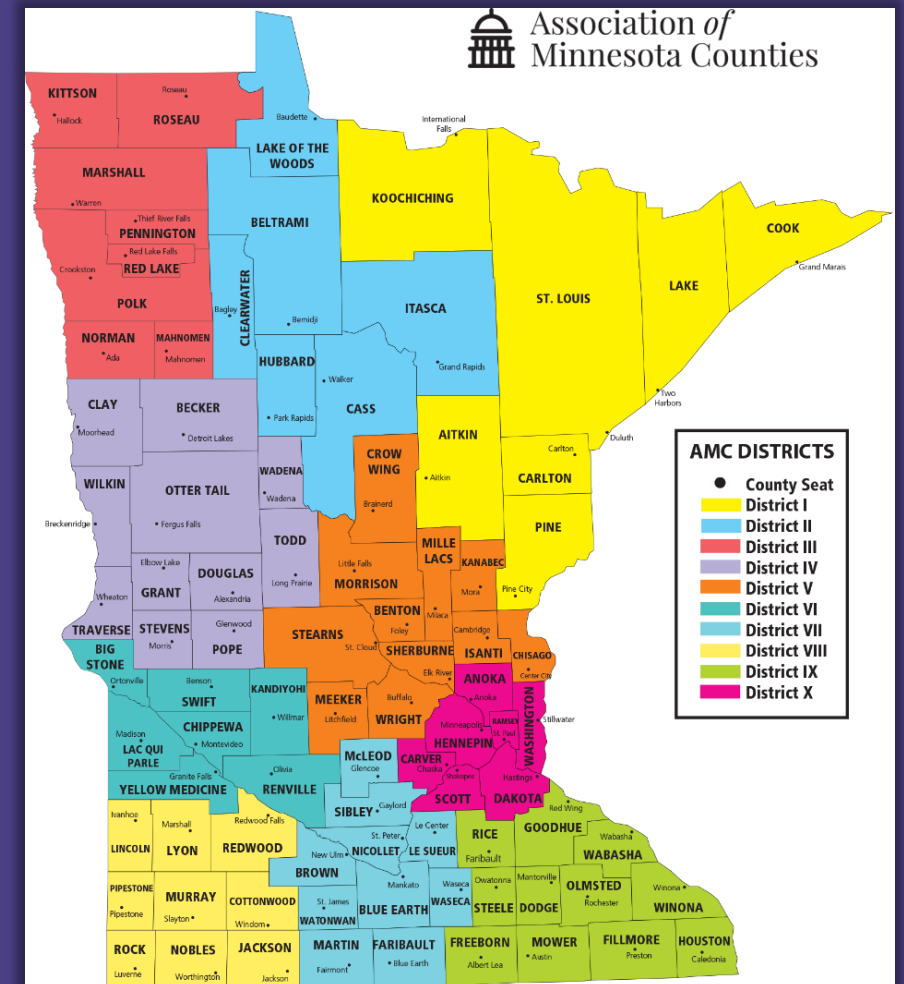
# AMC Governance



Association of  
Minnesota Counties

## Board of Directors

- 5 Officers
- 16 District Directors representing 10 districts
- 5 National Association of Counties (NACo) representatives
- 5 Policy Committee chairs
- 2 Member Services Committee chairs



# 2026 Executive Committee



Association of  
Minnesota Counties



**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

Jenny Mongeau  
*Clay County Commissioner*

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Barbara Weckman Brekke,  
*Scott County Commissioner*

**PRESIDENT**

Larry Lindor  
*Pope County Commissioner*

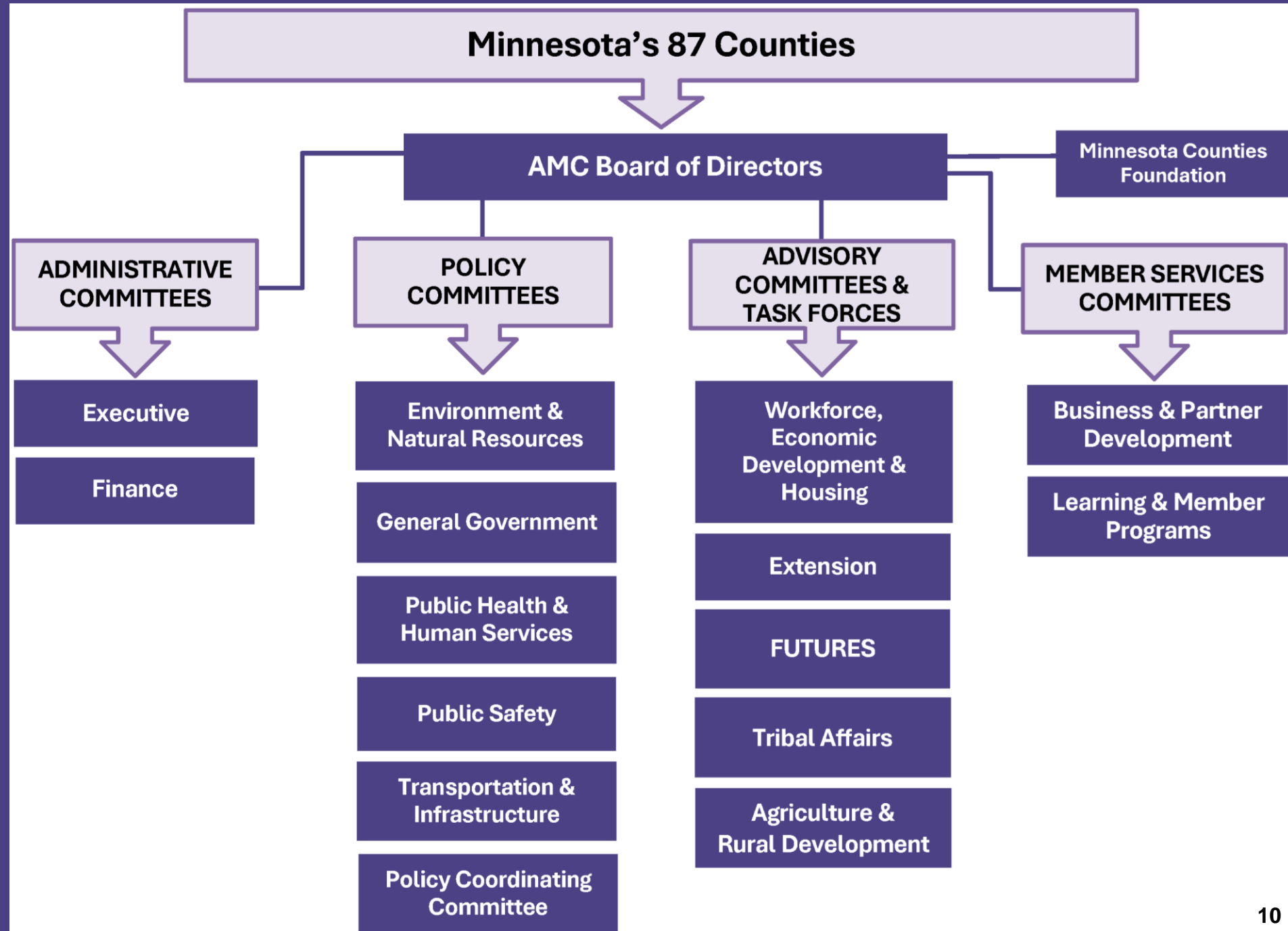
**PAST PRESIDENT**

Mike Slavik  
*Dakota County Commissioner*

**SECRETARY/TREASURER**

Steve Schmitt  
*Meeker County Commissioner*

# Committee Structure



# Ramsey County ROI

- County Program Aid for Ramsey County increased by \$2,151,812 in 2020 and \$6,226,315 in 2023 for a total increase of **\$8,378,127**. These increase are ongoing, not one-time, and are included in the total CPA allocation of \$26,195,141.
- The Legislature provided relief from the liability for tax forfeited property settlement, estimated to be **\$10,913,635** for Ramsey County.
- Across all categories of transportation funding, the increase to Ramsey County over the last several years was **\$17,212,423**.
- Community Corrections Act funding for the county has increased by **\$3,079,679**.
- AMC successfully lobbied to avoid over \$400 million in human services cost shifts in 2025. The estimated impact of these shifts on Ramsey County was more than **\$13,000,000**.

# Influence and Engagement in AMC

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Minnesota Counties

- Volunteer for committees, engage consistently, be a reliable source of information
- Participate in District 10 to grow metro area partnerships, participate in the AMC Board of Directors to grow statewide partnerships
- Attend statewide and national workshops to learn content and build relationships
- Build coalitions on issues before it's time for formal votes. Find points of commonality, clarify points of disagreement, seek compromise
- Participate in formal decision-making settings like policy committees and the annual business meeting

## AMC Standing Committee Appointments

- AMC Board of Directors: Commissioners McMurtrey & McGuire
- Environment and Natural Resources: Commissioner Miller & Jebens-Singh
- General Government: Commissioner Xiong
- Public Health and Human Services: Commissioners Moran & Jebens-Singh
- Public Safety: Commissioner McGuire
- Transportation and Infrastructure: Commissioner Ortega
- Workforce, Economic Development, and Housing: Commissioner Xiong & Manager Becker
- Tribal Affairs: Commissioner Miller (Chair)
- Futures: Commissioner McGuire
- Learning and Member Programs: Commissioner McGuire

*... and more!*

## Full Time Staff provided by AMC (5)

- Local Public Health Assn
- MN Assn of Corrections Act Counties
- MN Assn of County Social Services Administrators
- MN Assn of Workforce Boards
- MN County Information Technology Leadership Assn

## Part Time Staff provided by AMC (10)

- MN Assn of Assessing Officers
- MN Assn of City/County Facility Managers
- MN Assn of County Agricultural Inspectors
- MN Assn of County Feedlot Officers
- MN Assn of County Administrators
- MN Assn County Planning & Zoning Admins
- MN Assn of Professional County Economic Developers
- MN County Engineers Assn
- MN County Human Resource Mgmt Assn
- Solid Waste Administrators Assn

# Engagement through Affiliates

## **Staff provided by other organization (8)**

- Association of MN Emergency Managers
- MN Association of County Health Plans
- MN Association of County Officials
- MN Assn County Veterans' Services Officers
- MN County Attorneys Association
- MN County Computer Cooperative
- MN Rural Counties
- MN Sheriffs Association

## **No Staff (3)**

- MN Assn of County Land Commissioners
- MN Assn of County Surveyors
- MN County GIS Association

# Ramsey County Leadership in AMC 2026 Legislative Initiatives



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- HHS Steering Committee: **Commissioner McMurtrey**
- SNAP: **Commissioner Xiong & Ali Ali, Director of Financial Assistance**
- Medicaid: **Commissioner McMurtrey & Jason Hedin, Deputy Director of Financial Assistance**
- Long Term Care: **Alex Kotze, Deputy County Manager & Katy Molinare, Social Services Deputy Director**
- MAAFPCWDA: **Commissioner Moran & Christos Jensen, Assistant Ramsey County Attorney**
- Gov.'s proposal for Transformational HHS Systems Modernization and Roles: **Ling Becker, County Manager**
- Defeat of several bad tax shift/assessment proposals: **Patrick Chapman, County Assessor**

## Priority Funding

- HHS Technology Modernization
- SNAP Error Rate/  
Administrative Cost Shift
- Medicaid Work Requirements
- MAAFPCWDA
- Long Term Services & Supports
- HCMC /Uncompensated Care



## Priority Policies

- Human Services Transformation Study
- Battery Disposal
- Juvenile Age of Delinquency
- Workforce Development Fund
- LAHA/SAHA Admin Funding

**Actively  
Engaged &  
Monitoring**

- Probation & 911 Telecommunicator Pension
- Capital Project Replacement Accounts
- Foster Youth Policy
- Foster SSI
- Continuity of Care
- Contracted Case Management
- Local Homelessness Prevention Aid Extension
- Assessor Policy Defense
- Levy Limits Defense
- Local Govt Non-disclosure Agreements

*... and much more!*

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# AMC Update

May 2026

# How AMC Works for Ramsey County



## AMC's Support for County Budgets

Over the last five years, AMC has worked at the state and federal level to maximize the financial resources available to counties. These resources range from very flexible base support like County Program Aid, to specific funding streams that support county services like community supervision funding, to one-time funds to support a specific need like the federal COVID Recovery funds. Your dues, proposed to be \$83,124 for 2025, make up the largest part of the AMC budget that pays the staff to do this work. Below you will find some information on how this work has benefitted Ramsey County. The funding amounts below reflect either new funding streams or increases to existing sources since 2019, totaling \$269,154,027 for your county.

## Legislative Funding Successes

- County Program Aid increased by \$2,151,812 in 2020 and \$6,226,315 in 2023 for a total of \$8,378,127. These are ongoing increases.
- The legislature provided funds to counties for relief from potential liability in the tax forfeited property settlement, estimated to be \$10,913,635.
- Counties distributed state aid to businesses in response to the pandemic, \$11,017,324 in Ramsey County.
- Funding for community supervision will increase in all counties regardless of probation delivery system. For Ramsey County the increase will be \$3,079,679.
- Across all categories of transportation funding, the increase for Ramsey County will be \$17,212,423.
- Public health funding was increased by \$956,771 for your county in 2021 with additional statewide investments of \$19.2 million in 2023.
- The legislature created a new public safety aid fund and Ramsey County's allocation is \$6,029,011.
- In statewide housing aid, the allocation is \$802,161.
- SCORE grants for solid waste management increased by \$338,627.
- The allocation for Local Homelessness Prevention Aid is \$2,124,718.
- The new cannabis aid was recently certified for 2024 at \$2,114 for Ramsey County, but significant growth is expected as retail sales begin in 2025.
- One-time aid for Medical Assistance costs brought \$4,659,268 to Ramsey County.
- Funds were allocated to reimburse counties for the county share of DHS errors related to substance use disorder services within institutions of mental disease (IMDs). This relieves Ramsey County of the burden of repaying \$619,925.
- Between 2019 and 2023, the legislature allocated \$420 million to broadband infrastructure programs, primarily the Border-to-Border program, but also mapping projects, the low-density grant program, and others.
- The legislature has also created a \$5 million per year fund to help cover local costs of election administration.

## Federal Funding Successes

- The CARES Act brought \$96,026,771 into Ramsey County.
- An additional \$106,893,403 came from American Rescue Plan (ARPA).
- The Local Aid and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) allocated \$100,000 to help cover costs related to federal lands in your county.

# How AMC Works for Ramsey County



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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.