TOWNSHIPS: GRASSROOTS GOVERNMENT





Town meetings are "the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self-government."



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Oldest Form of Gov't in the U.S.

Northwest Ordinance – 1787

6x6 sq mile units – Survey Townships

3 - 5 Supervisors 1 Clerk & 1 Treasurer

TOWNSHIP STRUCTURE

Meet once per month

~70% of budget spent on roads

Section 365.51

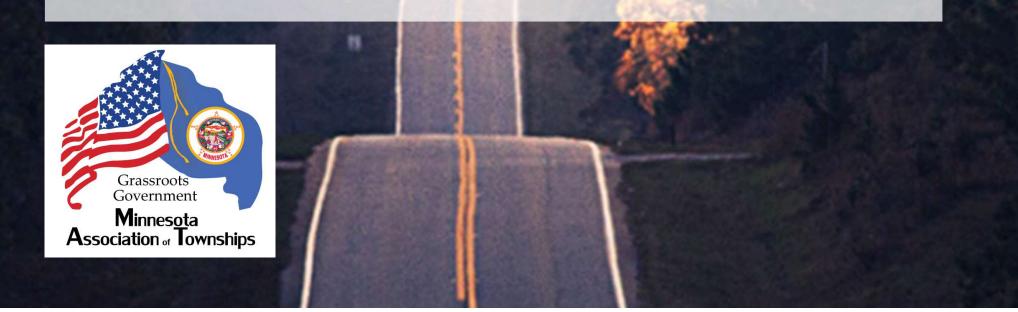
2nd Tuesday of March

TOWNSHIP TUESDAY

People's Meeting Voters determine size of levy

Townships are frugal and efficient!

- Over the past 10 years, revenues have grown less than 1% per year
- Less capacity for taxing
 - ~75% of revenue comes from property tax
 - Aging population
 - No other means of raising taxes





Legislative Priorities: Transportation funding

Townships maintain more than 55,500 miles of Minnesota's roads as well as about 6,000 bridges.

~63% of a township's budget is spent on roads and bridges.

Roads are vital to agriculture, local commerce, emergency vehicles and school buses.



Legislative Priorities: Transportation funding

- **Current state funding is insufficient**
- No increase in dedicated, ongoing funding in many years. FY2022 funding was \$51 million.
- Projected FY2023 funding to decrease by 7% for townships without legislative action.
- WI has 60,000 miles of township roads. State funding is \$168 million per year in ongoing and dedicated funds.



Legislative Priorities: Transportation funding

MAT advocates for a \$40 million increase yearly for township roads.

MAT supports the additional dedication of transportation excise taxes (i.e., auto parts sales tax)

MAT supports limiting truck weight exemptions to roads that don't have a minimum 10-ton capacity standard.



Legislative Priorities: Annexation Fairness

Current annexation law is unfair to townships

- Cities can annex existing township land without township or landowner consent.
- MAT supports annexation by contract (orderly annexation), which requires the agreement of BOTH parties.
- Landowners should have a vote
- Detachment (5 year rule)



Legislative Priorities:

PILT – Payment in lieu of Taxes. Mandate PILT payments are equal to the taxes that would have been received had the land stayed in private hands.

Road Reversions – Require a written agreement with the township before a road can be reverted to a township.
Broadband Funding – Much progress has been made. Still, a long way to go. Maintain focus on unserved areas.
PERA – Allow an appointed township officer to participate in PERA as an elected officer would

MAT Contacts:



Executive Director: Jeff Krueger Counsel: Steve Fenske, Graham Berg-Moberg Contract Lobbyist: Shep Harris (Fredrikson) Contract Advocacy & Communications: Leslie Rosedahl

Grassroots

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