

Housing and Cities: Building the State-Local Partnership

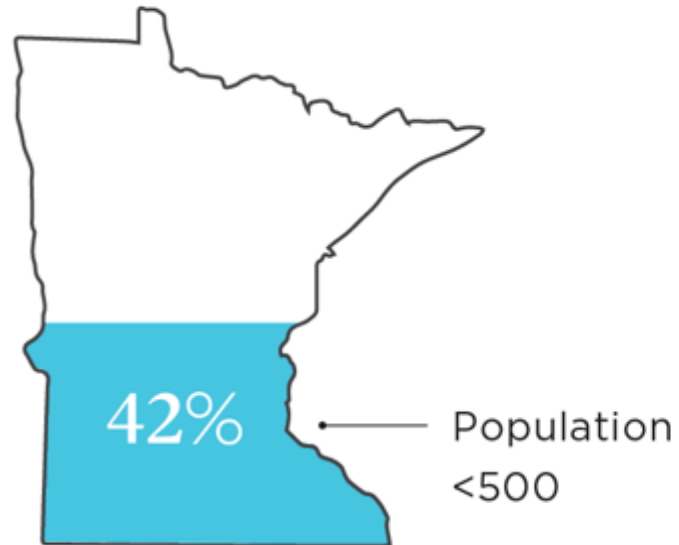
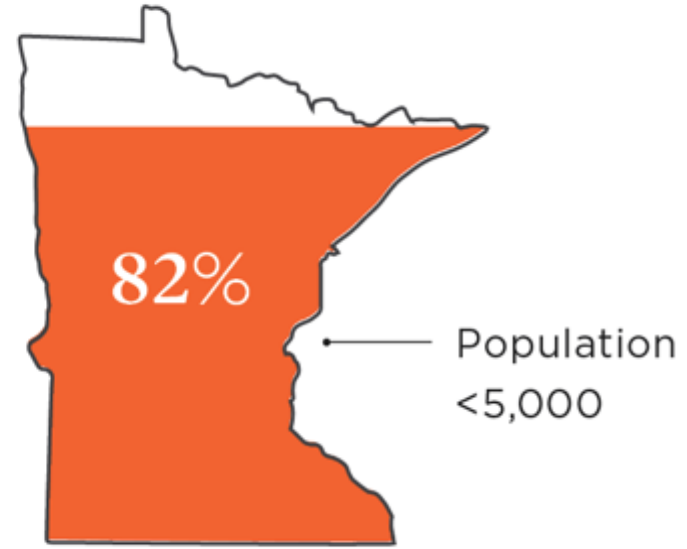
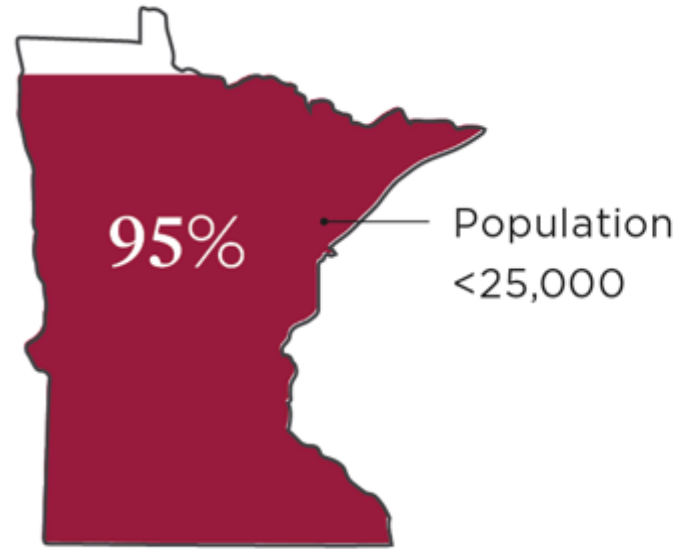
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The Nonpartisan Voice of All Minnesota Cities

ABOUT OUR CITIES



There are

856

cities in Minnesota.

841

cities are LMC members.



Why is zoning important for the economy?

Zoning can:

- Balance property uses for residential, industrial, commercial, and agricultural users.
- Incentivize the types of structures needed in the community, including affordable housing.
- Ensure optimal transportation options, which drives commerce and promotes community livability.



Why is zoning important for social and civic life?

Zoning can:

- Create space for new residents and innovative mixed-use spaces (such as residential and commercial uses in the same area).
- Preserve historic and culturally significant buildings and sites.



Why is zoning important for health and wellness?

Zoning can:

- Ensure adequate public infrastructure like sewer, water, and stormwater.
- Maintain parks and trails.



Why is zoning important for the environment?

Zoning can:

- Preserve unique natural resources like shoreland, wetlands, and other terrain, and protect air and water quality.
- Implement local plans to improve energy efficiency and other comprehensive plan goals.
- Prevent or mitigate flooding and soil erosion.

Zoning: Why It's Important

Zoning regulation is an important planning tool that benefits communities economically and socially, improves health and wellness, and helps conserve the environment.

Local zoning regulation allows communities to plan for the use of land transparently, involving residents through public meetings.

Zoning regulates the kinds of uses a property may be used for — typically residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural uses. This prevents overlapping incompatible uses, like having a home next door to a factory.

Housing Goals



Any legislative solutions to address housing challenges should:

- Encompass the entire housing spectrum
- Support innovation at the local level
- Factor in market differences across Minnesota
- Incentivize local innovation

Meeting the Moment Through Local Innovation

Dan Kraker · Silver Bay, Minn. · December 26, 2023 4:00 AM

Along the North Shore, sleepy Silver Bay embraces development to put itself 'on the map'

St. Paul affordable housing development built to be a large net-zero community

Historic Cloquet building set to be turned into apartments

WEST METRO

Richfield approves zoning changes aimed at housing affordability

The changes allow for duplexes in any residential neighborhood, as well as smaller lot sizes.

By Josie Albertson-Grove

BUSINESS

Ramstad: In Tower, Minn., a vision to quickly build sustainable homes turns real

Last week, carpenters from Norway showed Minnesotans how to quickly assemble cottages on a channel to Lake Vermilion.



By Evan Ramstad
The Minnesota Star Tribune

ROCHESTER

Rochester looks to spur housing with new zoning, programs

A 2020 Olmsted County housing study forecasts that the city needs about 14,000 more housing units by 2030.

By Trey Mewes

2025 Session Priorities

- Build upon work done during 2024 session
- Introduce concepts that replace heavy-handed statewide preemption approaches
 - Incentives-based approaches
 - State support of locally-driven framework of options
 - More sensitivity to regional market differences
 - Concepts that address both affordability and boosting of production overall

2025 Session Priorities

- Modify existing programs to create additional flexibility for cities and broaden application for housing preservation and development
 - State Housing Tax Credit modifications
 - Local Affordable Housing Aid and Statewide Affordable Housing Aid
 - Tax Increment Financing flexibility
 - Adaptive reuse tax credit
- Resources
 - Housing Infrastructure Bonds
 - Prevent reduction in Minnesota Housing budget



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