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Member counties include

Anoka, Benton, Blue Earth, Carver, Dakota, Olmsted, Rice, St. Louis, Scott, Sherburne, Stearns, Washington and Winona

For more information about MICA, member counties and association policy positions contact MICA at 651-222-8737 or visit www.mica.org.

MICA
161 St. Anthony Ave.
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2009 Legislative Priorities

Tax and Fiscal Policy:

*Strengthen the State-County Partnership
in Funding Vital Services*

Criminal Justice Funding:

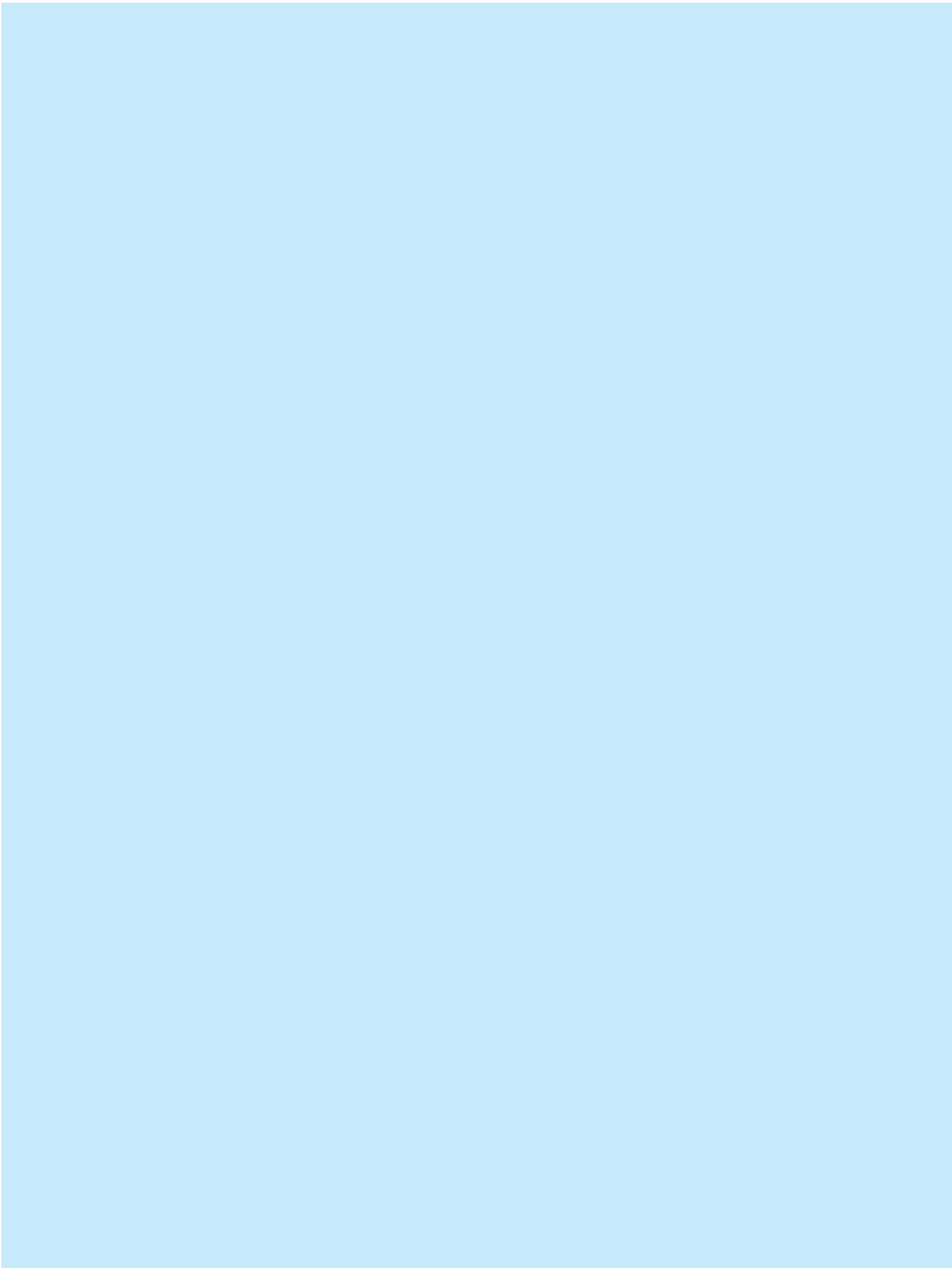
Counties Play a Key Role in Protecting Public Safety

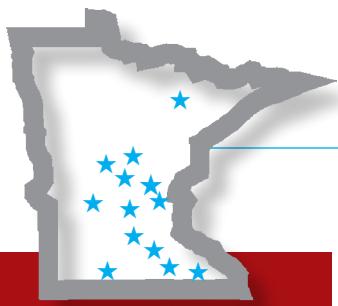
Public Health & Human Services:

*Promote Adequate State Funding for Children
and Other Vulnerable Citizens*

Transportation:

*Maintain and Strengthen the 2008 Legislature's
Financial Commitment to This Critical State Priority*





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SEPTEMBER 2008

Tax and Fiscal Policy

Minnesota counties and the state are partners in the delivery of critical government services to the public. The structure of this relationship is extensive and complicated. In recent years, this relationship has deteriorated as the state has not met its funding obligations and reneged on past commitments.

MICA has adopted three fiscal policy priorities for the 2009 legislative session.

MICA 2009 Tax and Fiscal Policy Priorities

- 1. Eliminate Minimum Spending Requirements and Cost Shifts to Counties**
- 2. If Aid Cuts Are Necessary, Distribute Them Equitably After Taking into Account Cuts that Counties Receive in Other Areas of the Budget**
- 3. Repeal or Relax Levy Limits**

1. Eliminate Minimum Spending Requirements and Cost Shifts to Counties

In recent years, counties have seen a significant expansion in state-mandated, minimum spending requirements called "maintenance of effort requirements" for selected programs such as libraries and mental health services. In addition, recent state budget difficulties have resulted in a number of previously state costs for certain health and human services programs, short-term offenders and most recently, public defenders, being shifted to counties. Both have resulted in hidden property tax increases for county taxpayers. Furthermore, most of these cost shifts are contrary to the state takeover of these programs' costs in exchange for dollar-for-dollar reductions in county aids back in the 1990s.

The imposition of minimum spending requirements and the cost shifts are fundamentally bad public policy in that it separates where the spending decisions are made – at the Legislature in St. Paul, and where the money is raised – from local county taxpayers. The recent imposition of levy limits for 2009 through 2011 have made the problem even worse in that the limits make no explicit exceptions for the minimum spending requirements and cost shifts. These obligations have to be met regardless of the limitations on counties' taxing authority meaning other, equally- or more-needy programs such as child protection, services for the developmentally and physically disabled and the elderly wait at the end of the line for whatever remains after the cost shifts and minimum spending requirements for the favored programs are met.

The Legislature needs to make a decision - either it directly funds these programs or indirectly funds them by relaxing levy limits or it needs to repeal or suspend the minimum spending requirements and cost shifts. Several minimum spending requirements were relaxed or repealed in 2003, the last time the Legislature imposed levy limits.

MICA urges the 2009 Legislature to eliminate or suspend minimum spending requirements and cost shifts to counties. Barring that, the Legislature should make specific exceptions to levy limits for these costs.

OVER \$60 MILLION OF PREVIOUSLY STATE COSTS HAVE BEEN SHIFTED TO COUNTY PROPERTY TAXPAYERS

Beginning in FY 03, counties required to pay 20% of the non-federal costs for over-90-day stays in nursing facility for disabled residents under age 65.	Cost to counties: \$3 million per year.
Beginning in FY 04, counties required to pay 20% of non-federal costs for placements that exceed 90 days in an Institution of Mental Disease, IMD, for a recipient under age 65.	Cost to counties: \$3.5 million per year.
Beginning in FY 04, counties required to pay 20% (up from the prior 10%) of the costs for placement in Regional Treatment Centers, RTC's.	Cost to counties: \$31.8 million per year.
Beginning FY 04, short-term offenders were moved from state prisons to county jails and workhouses.	Cost to counties: \$5.4 million per year.
Beginning in FY 05, counties required to pay 10% of non-federal costs for placements that exceed 90 days in an Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded, ICF/MR, of 7 or more beds.	Cost to counties: \$5.4 million per year.
Beginning in FY 07, counties required to maintain a minimum spending level for mental health services even as many of those clients' case management and cost of care are being shifted to the health plans.	Cost to counties: \$111 million per year.
Beginning in July 8, 2008, State Board of Public Defense refuses to continue to represent adult defendants in child protection cases. In the absence of state assistance, costs are being shifted to counties.	Cost to counties: \$11 million per year.

Source: MN Departments of Finance and Human Services

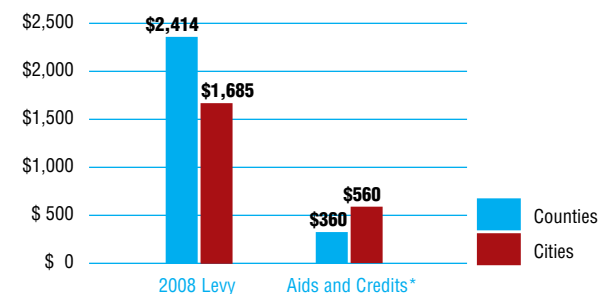
2. If Aid Cuts Are Necessary, Distribute Them Equitably After Taking into Account the Cuts that Counties Receive in Other Areas of the Budget

The state general fund is projected to be facing a \$2 billion deficit in the coming biennium. As a result, it is possible property tax aids and credits will be cut. If that occurs, counties request that the Legislature consider the following:

- While cities', townships' and special taxing districts' exposure to cuts is limited to almost exclusively the property tax aids and credits portion of the budget, counties are also likely to be subject to cuts in the health and human services, public safety and environment portions of the budget as well. In determining any aids and credits cuts for counties, the cuts that counties suffer in other portions of the budget must be taken into account.
- Historically, aids and credit cuts have been distributed on the basis of levy plus aid. This unfairly penalizes counties which – while having an appreciably higher levy – receive substantially less aid than cities. Fairness would dictate that any cuts in aids and credits be apportioned between the several levels of local government - counties, cities, townships and special taxing districts - in proportion to the aids and credits they receive.

If aid cuts are necessary, MICA urges the 2009 Legislature to equitably distribute those cuts among the levels of local government in proportion to their respective shares of aids and credits after taking into account the cuts that counties receive in other areas of the budget.

COUNTY AND CITY LEVY AND AID



*2008 LGA and Program Aid and 2007 Market-Value-Based Credits
Source: MICA

3. Repeal or Relax Levy Limits

Levy limits will be reimposed in 2009, 2010 and 2011 after having been absent for four years - from 2005 through 2008. The newly imposed levy limits are much more restrictive than past levy limits with the adjustment for inflation limited to 3.9% - less than 60% of the actual rate of inflation - and household and commercial industrial property growth to 50% of any increase.

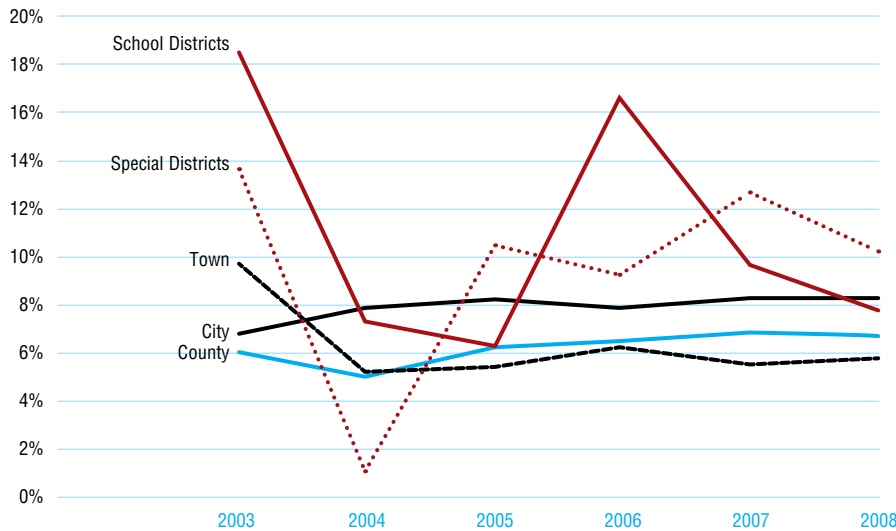
Levy limits are unresponsive to local circumstances and sometimes force counties to borrow funds to meet financial obligations when pay-as-you-go would be more fiscally prudent. One objective of the 2002 property tax reforms was to reduce the state's perceived role in determining local property taxes and reinforce the fact that the property tax is a local tax for which

local officials are accountable. As long as the state imposes levy limits, however, the property tax is neither local nor accountable.

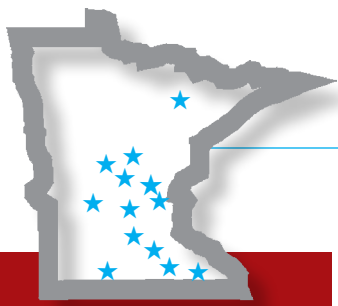
Although "special levies" provide exceptions that allow increases outside the limits for some programs, levy limits largely ignore the fact that counties are required under state mandates and minimum spending requirements to spend \$100's of millions without regard to levy limits' intended restraint on tax increases. The state cannot have it both ways – on one hand telling counties to spend money while on the other hand telling counties to reduce property taxes.

MICA urges the 2009 Legislature to either repeal or relax levy limits by allowing reasonable adjustments for inflation, household and commercial- industrial property growth and special levies for all state-required expenditures.

ANNUAL LEVY INCREASE BY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT SINCE 2002 TAX REFORM



Source: MICA



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Criminal Justice Funding

Minnesota counties play a critical role in protecting public safety and ensuring the effective operation of Minnesota's criminal justice system. Counties, along with cities, are responsible for the apprehension of criminals and their prosecution. Counties are also responsible for the incarceration of all misdemeanants and a growing number of felons and the supervision of those on probation. At more than \$878 million per year, public safety is a substantial cost for counties. County property taxpayers pay for almost all county public safety costs, including those for state-mandated programs.

MICA has adopted three priorities for the 2009 legislative session addressing critical criminal justice funding issues.

MICA 2009 Criminal Justice Priorities

- 1. Eliminate or Fully Fund Short-Term State Prisoners in County Jails**
- 2. Provide Funding for Public Defender Representation in Child Protection Cases**
- 3. Increase Funding for Community-Based Corrections and Public Safety**

1. Eliminate or Fully Fund Short-Term State Prisoners in County Jails

Since July 1, 2003, short-term offenders (STO's) with less than six months to serve at the time of commitment to the Commissioner of Corrections must be housed in county jails at county expense. This has amounted to 2619 state prisoners a year that are absorbing 360 jail beds annually in already crowded county jails. The number of short-term offenders is 80% higher than predicted by the Department of Corrections (DOC) in 2003. The cost to county property taxpayers has

been well over \$18 million as of the end of the 2007 fiscal year.

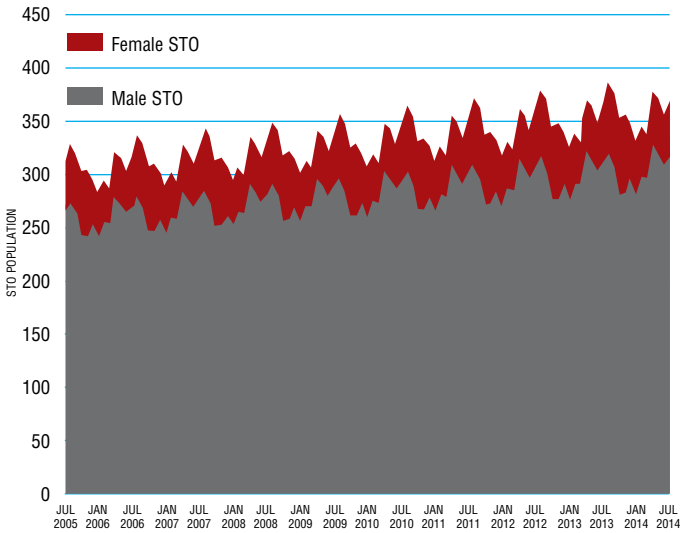
The state partially reimburses counties for the costs of housing short-term offenders. The Legislature generously increased the STO per diem from about \$11.50 to \$27 a day in 2007. Though welcomed by counties, this was still less than half of the actual cost to county property taxpayers to house these state prisoners. Unfortunately, the 2008 Legislature reduced the STO appropriation by \$2.1 million to help balance the state budget. As a result, the 2009 per diem will

fall to approximately \$11 a day, putting the partial county reimbursement back to where it was in 2005.

The state, not counties, needs to acquire or construct beds for state prisoners. Counties accept that it may be cost effective for the state to have a limited number of short-term offenders remain in county facilities. In those cases, the state should purchase available bed space from counties just as other counties, the federal government, and neighboring states do. Renting space in this fashion allows each of the jurisdictions to better manage their bed space needs and negotiate for beds unavailable internally from neighboring jurisdictions and private providers. This obligation to ensure that the space is rented out at its actual cost is the same requirement the Legislature places on the DOC when it rents out its facilities.

MICA urges the 2009 Legislature to increase the appropriation for the short-term offender reimbursement so that short-term offender costs are no longer shifted to county property taxpayers.

PROJECTED STO POPULATION BY OFFENDER GENDER, FY 2006



Source: MN Department of Corrections

2. Provide Funding for Public Defender Representation in Child Protection Cases

In January of 1990, the state took over the public defender costs in the Eighth Judicial District. By January 1995, all judicial districts were included within the state program overseen by the state’s Board of Public Defense. As a result of this takeover, the state reduced aid payments to counties on a dollar-for-dollar basis to reflect the cost of this takeover and increased funding to the Board of Public Defense by an identical amount. Recently counties were informed by the district public defenders that they would no longer provide representation for either custodial or non-custodial parents in Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) cases and Child in Need of Protective Services (CHIPS) cases as of July 7, 2008.

After the state takeover of public defender funding, the Department of Human Services and the Supreme Court started a collaboration called the Children’s Justice Initiative (CJI) in 2000. One of the CJI’s objectives was to speed up the courtroom process to reduce temporary out of home placements of children or expedite the reunification process. This was done in part by providing more representation of parties to TPR and CHIPS proceedings. This resulted in a significant increase in the appointment of public defenders in child protection cases. In 1995, public defenders were only appointed in about 4,000 child protection cases. This had increased to over 9,000 appointments by 2006.

The CJI has been successful in speeding up the processing of cases involving vulnerable children. This has resulted in a reduction in the state’s need to pay for out-of-home placement. Unfortunately, this has put a significant strain on the judicial system, particularly the public defenders. In the 2007 Legislative Session, the public defenders requested \$11.48 million a year for the full implementation of the CJI recommendation to provide greater representation in child protection cases. This request was supported by counties but was not funded by the state.

MICA urges the 2009 Legislature to clearly identify the Board of Public Defense as responsible for providing representation of custodial and non-custodial parents in TPR and CHIPS cases and to provide a permanent source of dedicated funding for the Board to meet this responsibility

3. Increase Funding for Community-Based Corrections and Public Safety

For several decades there was an equal partnership between counties and the state in delivering public safety and correctional services. This Minnesota model of providing services in the community was recognized as one of the best in the nation. This partnership has allowed Minnesota to maintain one of the lowest prison populations per capita in the nation while still keeping our crime rate low.

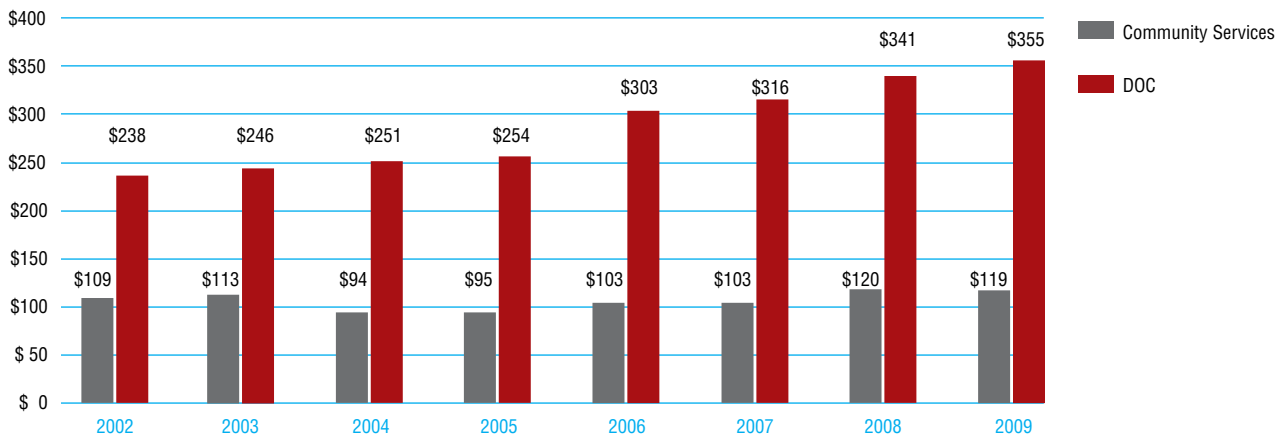
Unfortunately, this successful partnership is in peril. Over the past decade, the state’s financial commitment to this partnership waned while property taxpayers have been picking up an ever increasing portion of the tab. Since 2003, counties under the Community Corrections Act (CCA) have seen their portion of the costs increase by over \$20 million. The State’s commitment to the CCA subsidy actually declined from 2003 to 2006. The Legislature

did increase the subsidy last year, but this only amounted to the equivalent of a 1.3 % annual increase since 2003.

Since 2001 state funding for prisons has increased by 44.2%, DOC operations 36.8% and public defenders 28.9%. During this same time period, “community services” including county aid for corrections only increased 8.3%. Despite the lagging state funding, counties have taken on additional responsibilities for the increased civil commitment of sex offenders, new sex offender supervision standards, the meth epidemic, expanded sanctions for drug and DUI offenders, and short-term offenders.

MICA urges the 2009 Legislature to substantially increase “community services” funding in order to reestablish an equal state-county partnership in providing public safety for our communities and reducing the burden on county property taxpayers.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS INSTITUTIONS FUNDING (in \$ millions)



Source: MN Department of Corrections



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Public Health and Human Services

Minnesota counties partner with the state and federal government to provide critical health and human services to children, the disabled and the elderly. Minnesota's heavy reliance on local financing and delivery of these services is relatively unique. Minnesota is one of only nine states with a county-administered human services system.

In recent years, state and federal funding cuts have intensified fiscal pressure on counties. As a result, county taxpayers are carrying a greater financial burden to deliver in many cases federal- and state-mandated services.

MICA will focus on the following three human services policy/funding priorities for the 2009 legislative session:

MICA 2009 Public Health and Human Services Priorities

- 1. Provide Adequate Funding for the Child Welfare System**
- 2. Replace Lost Federal Funding for the Child Support Collection System**
- 3. Reform the Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment Fund**

1. Provide adequate funding for the child welfare system

In 2004 the Legislature consolidated multiple funding streams into the new Children and Community Services block grant (CCSA). While CCSA gave counties more flexibility in tailoring services to meet local needs, that gain was significantly eclipsed by the \$25 million per-year permanent cut in CCSA funding.

More recently, county social services budgets are being battered by federal cuts. Under the federal Deficit Reduction Act of

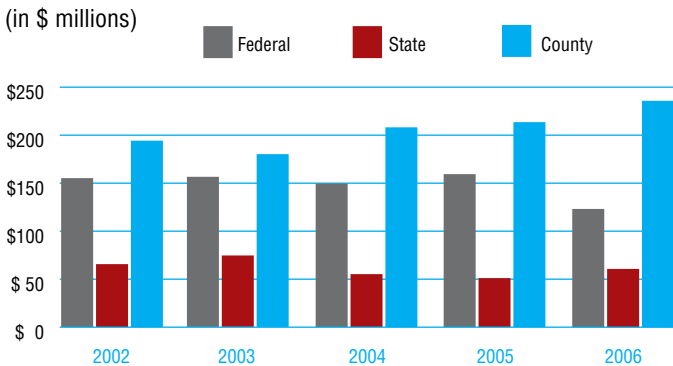
2005, Minnesota counties will lose up to \$61 million in matching funds for Targeted Case Management (TCM). TCM is the backbone of Minnesota's child welfare system. For abused and neglected children, it enhances the likelihood that children have the opportunity to live in a safe and stable environment - more often with their parents, who have received the help they need to provide nurturing homes.

Minnesota has built its reputation as a good place to live in part by investing in preventive and early intervention programs that save money and support healthier outcomes for

troubled families and children. With the cuts in CCSA and targeted case management, those programs are now in jeopardy. County property taxpayers alone cannot pay for the costs of these services. The state needs to step up and restore some of the lost state and federal funding.

MICA urges the 2009 Legislature to adequately fund child welfare and provide permanent replacement funding for the lost federal and state dollars.

SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR MINNESOTA'S CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM



Source: MN Department of Human Services

2. Replace Lost Federal Funding for the Child Support Enforcement System

Minnesota counties helped over 250,000 families collect child support in 2007. Federal incentives funded a large portion of the state/county child support system. The federal Deficit Reduction Act adopted in early 2006 eliminated a large portion of the incentives - a direct loss of approximately \$24 million each year. Because the performance of the state child support system is tied into the funding formulas for other federal programs, the loss of the child support incentives reverberates throughout the human services system.

The state legislature provided one-time replacement funding of \$7.3 million in 2007. Those monies have long since been exhausted. The loss of federal and state funding as well as levy limits will pressure counties to decrease staff and increase worker caseloads, making it more difficult to meet performance standards, resulting in further loss of federal funds. More disturbing is the impact on low income families. Statewide, 56% of families who got help from counties in collecting child support are former welfare recipients. Another 14% are currently receiving MFIP. A high proportion of these families rely on child support to move off of welfare and to remain self-sufficient. The loss of child support would push a significant number of these families back on welfare. An increase in the state's welfare rolls would not only demand more state funds, it would make it more difficult for the state to

meet their federal work participation targets, thus jeopardizing other federal funding of about \$24 million per year.

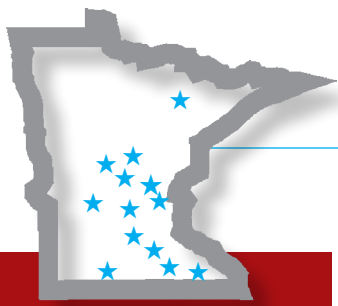
MICA urges the 2009 Legislature to provide permanent replacement funding of the lost federal funds for the child support enforcement system.

3. Reform the Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment Fund

Created in 1986, the state Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment Fund (CCDTF) provides funding for chemical dependency treatment. Unfortunately, funding cuts and restrictions on use of the funds have created barriers to effective treatment. The maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement included in the original legislation has compounded funding inequities across Minnesota counties. The following changes would improve access to treatment and the rate of successful outcomes:

- Fund Tier II and III of the CCDTF**
Funding for Tier II and III, which helped pay for treatment for some uninsured/underinsured individuals with incomes above MA, GAMC or MinnesotaCare eligibility limits, has been eliminated. Counties pay 100 percent of the cost for non-Tier-I-eligible individuals they choose to place in treatment and those ordered into treatment by the courts.
- Allow reimbursement for services related to positive treatment outcomes**
If counties could use the CCDTF for services that support treatment - like detox, intensive case management, transportations services, rent deposits and other one-time services - treatment outcomes would improve. Currently, when counties invest in these kinds of support services, only county taxpayers pay. Detoxification alone costs counties more than \$13 million per year.
- Eliminate or reduce county maintenance of effort requirements**
Under the current parameters of the CCDTF, each county must spend a set amount of county taxpayer dollars each year relative to the state dollars they receive. These "maintenance of effort" requirements or MOE's have the effect of making the portion of total CCDTF expenditures paid by county taxpayers vary widely - from 15% to over 69% of the initial allocation.

MICA urges the 2009 Legislature to reinstate funding for Tier II and III of the Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment Fund, to allow reimbursement for support services and to eliminate or reduce maintenance of effort requirements.



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Transportation

Building and maintaining a safe, efficient and effective transportation system is one of the most basic and vital services provided by all levels of government. Counties are a critical element of the state's transportation system. Over 45,000 miles of Minnesota's 135,000 miles of roads and highways are under county jurisdiction. Counties and other local units of government oversee 14,700 bridges - 75% of all bridges in the state. Counties also provide bus services and are heavily involved in the design, construction and operation of light rail and commuter rail systems.

To its credit, the 2008 Legislature enacted a comprehensive transportation funding bill that provides for new, dedicated revenues for bridges, roads and transit - at both the state and local levels of government. However, as MnDOT's implementation plan for the new law makes clear, most of the new funding will be used for state bridges and highway preservation and maintenance. That means new transportation projects in both the metropolitan area and Greater Minnesota will continue to be delayed. This will be exacerbated by the impact that high oil prices are having on driving habits and gas tax collections as well as the costs of construction materials such as asphalt and steel.

In light of the enactment of the 2008 transportation funding bill, and cognizant of the likely general fund budget deficit that will face the 2009 Legislature, MICA will be pursuing three transportation policy priorities for the 2009 legislative session.

MICA 2009 Transportation Priorities

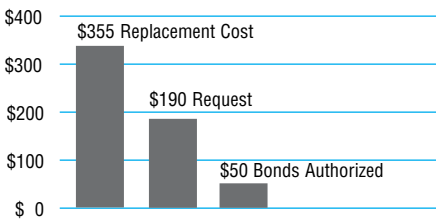
- 1. Include Funding for the Local Bridge Repair and Replacement Program for Deficient Local Bridges in Any Emergency Bonding Bill.**
- 2. Oppose Any Effort to Divert State Revenues Currently Dedicated to Transportation to Other Purposes.**
- 3. Allow All Counties the Option to Impose a Wheelage Tax to Fund Local Transportation Projects.**

1. Include Funding for the Local Bridge Repair and Replacement Program for Deficient Local Bridges in Any Emergency Bonding Bill.

The Legislature has historically provided funding for local bridges. In recent years, however, state funding has not kept pace with growing needs. Chapter 152, (the 2008 transportation funding bill), included \$50 million in bonding for the local bridge repair and replacement program. Half of this amount will go to help finance the replacement of the Lowry Avenue Bridge in Minneapolis. That leaves only \$25 million for the rest of the state. Documented needs for local bridge repair that could be done in 2009 total \$70 million. If the Legislature considers an emergency bonding bill in the 2009 session, funding for deficient local bridges should be included.

MICA urges the 2009 Legislature to include funding for the local bridge repair and replacement program for deficient local bridges in any emergency bonding bill

LOCAL BRIDGE FUNDING STATUS AS OF 2007
(in \$ millions)



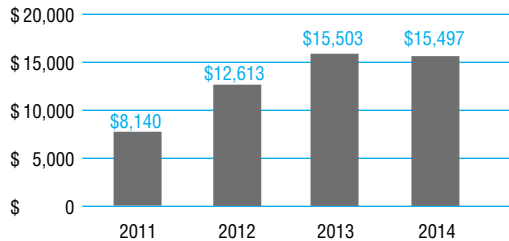
Source: MnDOT

2. Oppose Any Effort to Divert State Revenues Currently Dedicated to Transportation to Other Purposes.

The 2008 transportation funding legislation was the culmination of several years of hard work and advocacy on the part of legislators, local government officials, and dozens of statewide and local business, labor and transportation advocacy organizations. While most of the funding streams for transportation funding are now constitutionally protected, others, such as the sales tax on leased motor vehicles, are statutorily dedicated and could be used for other purposes by action of a future Legislature. Legislative leaders had to make significant compromises (reductions in revenues) in order to get the 2008 bill passed. Any proposals to further reduce transportation funding should be rejected.

MICA urges the 2009 Legislature to oppose any effort to divert state revenues currently dedicated to transportation to other purposes

LEASED VEHICLE SALES TAX REVENUE FOR TRANSIT
(in \$000)

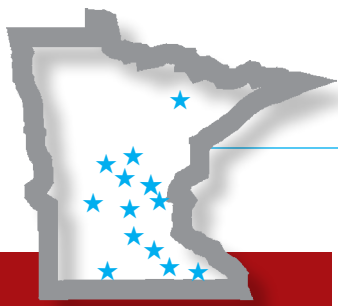


Source: House Department of Fiscal Analysis

3. Allow All Counties the Option to Impose a Wheelage Tax to Fund Local Transportation Projects.

Current law only allows counties in the Twin Cities metropolitan area the option to impose a wheelage tax. The tax is limited to no more than \$5 per vehicle. The wheelage tax option should be extended to all counties and the maximum should be increased to up to \$20 per vehicle. Giving this user tax option to all counties would help reduce the use of property tax revenues as the primary source of funding for local transportation projects.

MICA urges the 2009 Legislature to allow all counties the option to impose a wheelage tax to fund local transportation projects



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- Repeal or Relax Levy Limits

2. Criminal Justice Priorities

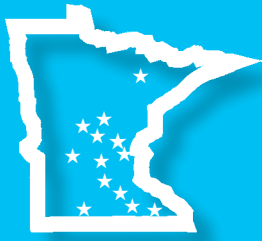
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4. Transportation

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- Allow All Counties the Option to Impose a Wheelage Tax to Fund Local Transportation Projects.



MICA 2009 Legislative Forums:

Questions for Legislative Candidates

1. TAX AND FISCAL POLICY

Minnesota counties and the state are close partners in the delivery of critical government services to the public. In 2008, county program aid reduced property taxes by more than \$205 million, or nearly 8 percent. These and other aids assist counties in dealing with the costs of state mandates, such as administering the state's welfare system, incarcerating misdemeanants, and some felons, supervising juvenile delinquents and providing probation services. The costs of many of these mandates are increasing substantially and recent federal cuts have further strained counties. The reimposition of levy limits has placed further, unwarranted pressures on county finances. Levy limits ignore the rising costs of state mandates, are unresponsive to local circumstances and sometimes force counties to borrow funds to meet financial obligations when pay-as-you-go would be more fiscally prudent.

Please share your views on:

- Eliminating Minimum Spending Requirements and Cost Shifts to Counties**
- If Aid Cuts Are Necessary, Distributing Them Equitably After Taking into Account Cuts that Counties Receive in Other Areas of the Budget**
- Repealing or Relaxing Levy Limits**

2. CRIMINAL JUSTICE FUNDING

Minnesota counties play a critical role in protecting public safety and ensuring the effective operation of Minnesota's criminal justice system. Counties, along with cities, are responsible for the apprehension of criminals and their prosecution. Counties are also responsible for the incarceration of all misdemeanants and a growing number of felons and the supervision of those on probation. At more than \$878 million per year, public safety is a substantial cost for counties. County property taxpayers pay for almost all county public safety costs, including those for state-mandated programs.

Please share your views on:

- Eliminating or Fully Funding Short-Term State Prisoners in County Jails**
- Providing Funding for Public Defender Representation in Child Protection Cases**
- Increasing Funding for Community-Based Corrections and Public Safety**

3. PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Minnesota counties partner with the state and federal government to provide critical health and human services to children, the disabled and the elderly. Minnesota's heavy reliance on local financing and delivery of these services is relatively unique. Minnesota is one of only nine states with a county-administered human services system.

In recent years, state and federal funding cuts have intensified fiscal pressure on counties. As a result, county taxpayers are carrying a greater financial burden to deliver in many cases federal- and state-mandated services.

Please share your views on:

- Providing Adequate Funding for the Child Welfare System**
- Replacing Lost Federal Funding for the Child Support Collection System**
- Reforming the Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment Fund**

4. TRANSPORTATION

Building and maintaining a safe, efficient and effective transportation system is one of the most basic and vital services provided by all levels of government. Counties are a critical element of the state's transportation system. Over 45,000 miles of Minnesota's 135,000 miles of roads and highways are under county jurisdiction. Counties and other local units of government oversee 14,700 bridges - 75% of all bridges in the state. Counties also provide bus services and are heavily involved in the design, construction and operation of light rail and commuter rail systems.

Please share your views on:

- Including Funding for the Local Bridge Repair and Replacement Program for Deficient Local Bridges in Any Emergency Bonding Bill.**
- Opposing Any Effort to Divert State Revenues Currently Dedicated to Transportation to Other Purposes.**
- Allowing All Counties the Option to Impose a Wheelage Tax to Fund Local Transportation Projects.**



2008 Profile: MICA Member Counties

Minnesota's counties deliver essential services to the state's five million citizens: Human services, public health, child protection, crisis intervention and prevention, employment assistance, housing assistance, law enforcement, criminal justice, transportation, libraries and parks.

The Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) comprises 13 counties representing more than 1.9 million citizens and taxpayers in five metro areas.

Member counties include **Anoka, Benton, Blue Earth, Carver, Dakota, Olmsted, Rice, St. Louis, Scott, Sherburne, Stearns, Washington and Winona**

For more information about MICA, member counties and association policy positions contact MICA at 651-222-8737 or visit www.mica.org.

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SEPTEMBER 2008

COUNTY	2007 POPULATION	POP. GROWTH 1990 - 2007	2008 TAXABLE NET TAX CAPACITY (\$MIL.)	2008 TAX LEVY (\$MIL.)	LANE MILES OF CSAH ROADS
ANOKA	328,614	34.9%	\$308.2	\$110.9	713
BENTON	39,308	30.2%	\$29.4	\$19.0	454
BLUE EARTH	59,723	10.5%	\$61.4	\$25.4	871
CARVER	86,236	80.0%	\$119.1	\$43.1	441
DAKOTA	391,613	42.3%	\$437.0	\$123.6	799
OLMSTED	139,418	30.9%	\$136.7	\$71.9	680
RICE	63,034	28.2%	\$60.7	\$16.5	574
ST. LOUIS	196,108	-1.1%	\$155.2	\$101.6	2,771
SCOTT	119,646	106.8%	\$149.7	\$53.0	545
SHERBURNE	86,308	105.8%	\$94.8	\$38.5	491
STEARNS	145,877	22.8%	\$128.3	\$60.8	1,311
WASHINGTON	228,103	56.3%	\$315.1	\$81.1	463
WINONA	49,954	4.4%	\$39.0	\$17.0	633
TOTAL	1,933,942	36.5%	\$2,034.6	\$762.4	10,746

The Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) is a voluntary organization of the metropolitan and developing counties in Minnesota. The association is a vehicle for planning and implementing projects and programs of similar interest to member counties.

Through MICA, the counties are able to influence regional and state programs in order to solve common problems; produce and share standardized, high quality information on indicators and issues of common concern; increase public understanding of county government; and secure and exchange cooperation among counties in areas of mutual interest.

MICA coordinates the formulation of ideas of common interest in a manner that saves both cost and time. Examples of such facilitated cooperation are currently in progress in the areas of transportation funding, human services delivery and financial reporting.