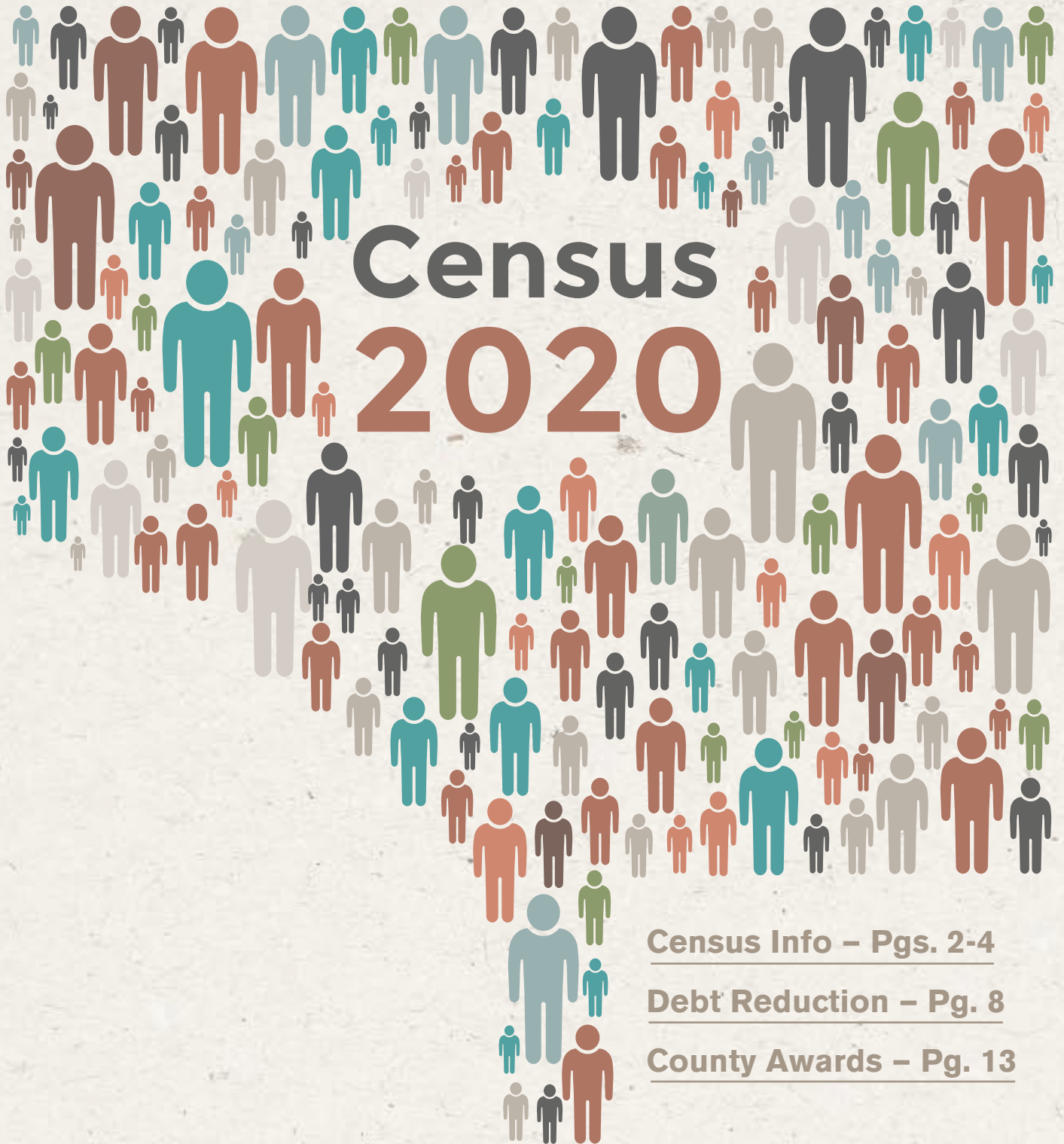


# ANOKA COUNTY

## NEWS Volume 1-2020



# Census 2020

Census Info – Pgs. 2-4

Debt Reduction – Pg. 8

County Awards – Pg. 13

## Census Impacts Representation, Funding for Communities

### WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW



Starting **March 2020**, residents will receive a census invitation and can begin responding online, by mail or by phone. Your local **Anoka County Library** will have computers available to take the census.



#### \$2,800 PER MINNESOTAN ANNUALLY

Census data is used to provide federal funding for schools, roads, emergency services and more.



#### YOUR PRIVACY

Federal law protects your census responses. The Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about individuals, households, or businesses, even to law enforcement agencies.



#### YOUR VOICE

Without an accurate count, Minnesota risks losing a congressional seat in Washington, D.C.

For more information on the census visit:  
[www.anokacounty.us/2020census/](http://www.anokacounty.us/2020census/)



The 2020 U.S. Census is more than a simple head count of people living within our country — it's an important tool used by lawmakers, businesses and others to make critical decisions.

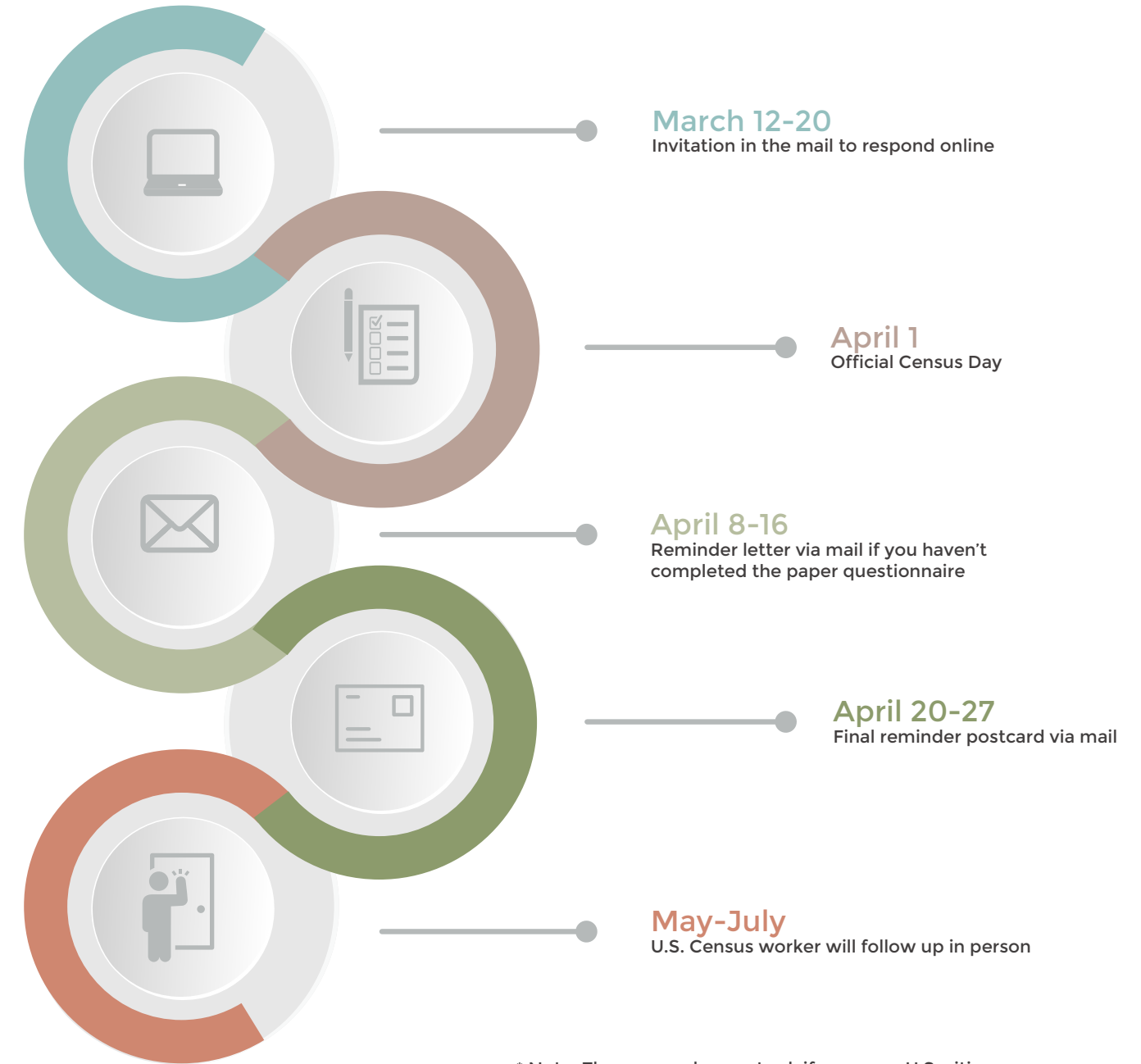
Across the nation, the census is used to determine congressional and state legislative district boundaries. Conducting an accurate census ensures states have the correct amount of representation. In Minnesota, having the right count is vitally important, as the state could lose representation in Congress if population thresholds fail to meet a specified mark. However, Minnesota could retain its Congressional seat with a census count in which a high number of residents participate.

In addition to potentially losing congressional representation, Minnesota is also at risk of having one less vote in the Electoral College, diminishing the state's power in presidential elections.

Population figures derived from the census are also integral for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to support states, counties and communities' vital programs — impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy.

"The 2020 Census will accurately determine how many representatives Minnesota will have in Congress; it's used when allocating federal funding to our communities; and it's necessary for the accurate and fair redistricting of state legislative seats, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners, city councils and voting districts," said Scott Schulte, chair, Anoka County Board of Commissioners. "It's vitally important all residents of Anoka County — and every other county in the state — fill out the census so Minnesota gets the representation it deserves."

# 2020 Census Timeline



\* Note: The census does not ask if you are a U.S. citizen



**Anoka County**  
MINNESOTA

Respectful, Innovative, Fiscally Responsible



## ATTORNEY/SHERIFF

### County Attorney Reflects on Historic Changes as Census Nears

Beginning in 1977 — 100 years after women were legally granted the right to practice law in Minnesota — the Anoka County Attorney's Office hired its first female attorney.

At the time it was progressive, if not novel, for a woman to fill a role historically held by a man. And after fighting to be here, she had to fight to wear pants. Only now, 43 years later, can we fully appreciate how that change would open the doors to other opportunities.

The turn of a new decade and the upcoming 2020 Census give occasion to reflect on other ways Anoka County has grown and changed over the years — and how the County Attorney's Office has evolved to keep up. The Anoka County Attorney's Office, once a one-man operation with an office over a hardware store, is now a 113-employee operation spanning two floors of the Government Center. The first county attorney was elected in 1857 — the same year Anoka County was organized and recognized by the State Legislature.

The 1860 Census counted 2,106 residents in Anoka County's eight towns. As we enter 2020, Anoka County is home to an estimated 350,000 people (the fourth largest county in Minnesota) and the County Attorney's Office handles more than 2,000 adult felony cases per year. The office has expanded substantially over the last century

and handles everything from child protection and child support, to county land purchases, to civil commitment, to defending the county in lawsuits.

Women now make up more than 65 percent of this office and fill roles in all levels and divisions, including the chief deputy county attorney. And while about 11 percent of county residents speak a language other than English, more than half of the staff in our office speak at least one other language.

How else do we represent our community? Well, that's harder to answer. The census is a great tool to understand the characteristics of the people who live here. But government employees are not required to complete the same surveys in the workplace. And the rich diversity that is reflected in census data isn't something you can see by scanning the room.

So we're working on assessing who we are in relation to those we serve; how our identities reflect the community and how well we understand identities different from our own. We have launched a diversity and inclusion committee, which aims to improve internal cultural competency, create meaningful programs and policies, and build bridges with underserved communities. As the Anoka County population changes in size and diversity, so will this office.

### Community Matters to US

We, as the Anoka County Sheriff's Office, understand and believe the citizens we serve are the most important component of our profession. To be a good partner in the community, we positively engage with the citizens of the county in a variety of ways. These engagements happen through several community events throughout the year that Sheriff's Office personnel participate in.

The Sheriff's Office has a notable partnership with Special Olympics. Sheriff's Office personnel participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, Polar Plunge, Truck Convoy and a bowling event to help raise funds for Special Olympics. Another partnership event that happens annually is the "Battle of Badges Blood Drive." During this event, law enforcement and fire service personnel team up for a blood drive. This allows for some healthy competition for the "cops vs. firefighters" to see who can donate more blood. A few other community events we have partnered with are the Heroes Walk 4 Women, Hope 4 Youth, and the CAST (Community and Sheriff Together) fishing event.

We have a contingent of civilian volunteer units within our office. These programs are in place to further support our community. They include the reserve unit and explorer post — citizens in these programs participate in parades, festivals, and other community events. Other volunteer support includes a chaplain unit, a community support dog, and a senior volunteer unit.

The Sheriff's Office also hosts our own events to positively engage with the community. With ATV use being prominent in Anoka County, we train youth about safe ATV operations. We also offer bike helmet and car seat clinics. Annually, we invite our citizens to attend our open house to tour and see the diverse services we offer. This year, our open house is 4 to 7 p.m. Sept. 15.



## TRANSPORTATION/ELECTIONS

### New Engineer, Assistant Engineer Start in Anoka County

Over the past few months, Anoka County has seen a familiar face take on a new role within the Highway Department and welcomed a new employee with decades of experience.

The Board of Commissioners appointed Joe MacPherson, formerly assistant county engineer, to the role of county engineer at the board's Oct. 22 meeting and then added transportation division manager to his title at the following board meeting Nov. 12. He replaces Doug Fischer, who retired from the county last year after 25 years of service.

To fill the void left when MacPherson started his new job, the county hired Jerry Auge, who most recently worked for Ramsey County.

#### Meet Macpherson



MacPherson, a Ramsey native, has a Bachelor of Science Degree in civil engineering from North Dakota State University. He served as the assistant Anoka County engineer for 3 years. Prior to his time in Anoka County, he served as assistant county engineer in Benton County for 4 years, was a construction engineer with MnDOT State Aid for 2 1/2 years, and he worked for Hakanson Anderson — a consultant engineering firm — for nearly a decade. MacPherson notes the Anoka County Highway

Department has strong partnerships with local agencies and MnDOT, and all those entities will be working together closely over the coming years as the region transforms — especially along the Highway 10 and Highway 65 corridors — to accommodate for population growth in the county.

"I'm excited about the challenges and all the projects ahead for the Highway Department," MacPherson said. "We have talented staff who are ready to hit the ground running and help continue our efforts to keep our roadways safe and efficient."

#### Meet Auge



Auge has Master of Science degree in infrastructure systems engineering from the University of Minnesota and a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the U of M. For the last 5 1/2 years, he's served as a construction and maintenance engineer in Ramsey County, and for about 8 years prior to that he was a project manager/engineer for that county. His experience also includes working in an engineering capacity in the private sector and for two Minnesota cities. Auge said he looks forward to working on Anoka County engineering projects that enhance infrastructure in both the urban and rural portions of the county.

### Consider Being an Election Judge this Year



Election judges are needed throughout Anoka County for a busy 2020 election season.

Cities will be hiring election judges to work at 128 polling places in Anoka County for the state primary election Aug. 11 and the general election Nov. 3.

Election judges are paid officials who staff local polling places, carry out election procedures, and make sure the rights of voters are protected. Duties and responsibilities include welcoming voters to the polls and ensuring they are at the correct location, checking-in voters and registering voters who need to complete an Election Day registration, issuing ballots, and overseeing the ballot counter. Election judges are required to uphold election laws and to perform their duties in a fair and impartial manner. All judges must be able perform their work in a nonpartisan manner. There is also a need for judges who are comfortable and familiar with new technology (namely iPads).

There are some eligibility requirements to work as an election judge. You must be eligible to vote in Minnesota and able to read, write and speak English. Students 16 and 17 years old can be election judge trainees. Relatives cannot serve together in the same precinct at the same time. In addition, relatives of a candidate, and anyone who temporarily or permanently lives in the same house as a candidate, cannot serve in the precinct where the candidate is on the ballot. Candidates cannot serve in a precinct where they are on the ballot. Judges must also complete required training (provided by Anoka County) to serve on Election Day.

Election judge pay rates vary for each municipality. Many cities require judges be available all day on Election Day, while others are able to accommodate partial shifts. If you are interested in serving as an election judge, you can contact your city clerk or reach out to Anoka County Elections at 763-324-1300 or [anokacounty.us/elections](http://anokacounty.us/elections). Judges can also sign up through their major political party.

# RECYCLING



**When it Comes to Electronics and Battery Recycling – Only You Can Prevent Fires**  
Excited about your new cell phone purchase? Wondering what to do with your old phone? You think, “It is an electronic, electronics are recyclable.” You throw the old phone in your recycling bin at home, not realizing you just created a serious fire hazard.

In recent years, there has been a spike in fires erupting in recycling trucks and at facilities due to lithium-ion batteries — like the battery contained in that cell phone and other electronics or rechargeable batteries. One facility fire even took place in Anoka County. It goes without saying these fires are an extreme safety hazard for both drivers and the people working in recycling facilities.

**Why electronics and batteries are explosive**  
It is hard to imagine how such a simple act could cause so much harm, but lithium-ion batteries, whether large or small, are packed with the power of combustion. Contained inside the battery is a flammable electrolyte — this helps keep your laptop or cell phone charged — but when put under the right (or wrong) conditions it can ignite into flames. If they are punctured when compacted in a truck or by the equipment at a recycling facility, a fire can quickly ignite.

Only you can help prevent recycling truck and facility fires. Most importantly, keep electronics and rechargeable batteries out of your recycling and trash bin. Thankfully, there are several options for safe disposal and recycling of your electronics and rechargeable batteries. Go to [AnokaCounty.us/recyclingdirectory](http://AnokaCounty.us/recyclingdirectory) or call Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions at 763-324-3400.

County	Facility	Hours
<b>Household Hazardous Waste Facility</b>	<b>Bunker Hills Compost Site</b>	<b>Rice Creek Compost Site</b>
3230 101st Ave. NE, Blaine	13285 Hanson Blvd. NW, Coon Rapids	7701 Main Street, Lino Lakes
April 1 – Oct. 31	April - Nov. weather permitting	April - Nov. weather permitting
Wednesdays: 2 - 8 p.m. Monday, Friday, and Saturday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Monday – Friday: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Sunday: Noon – 7 p.m.	Tuesday: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Thursday: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Sunday: Noon – 7 p.m.

For information on materials accepted at the compost sites and the Household Hazardous Waste Facility go to: [AnokaCounty.us/recycle](http://AnokaCounty.us/recycle)

# FINANCES/GROWTH

## Anoka County Focused on Lowering Debt

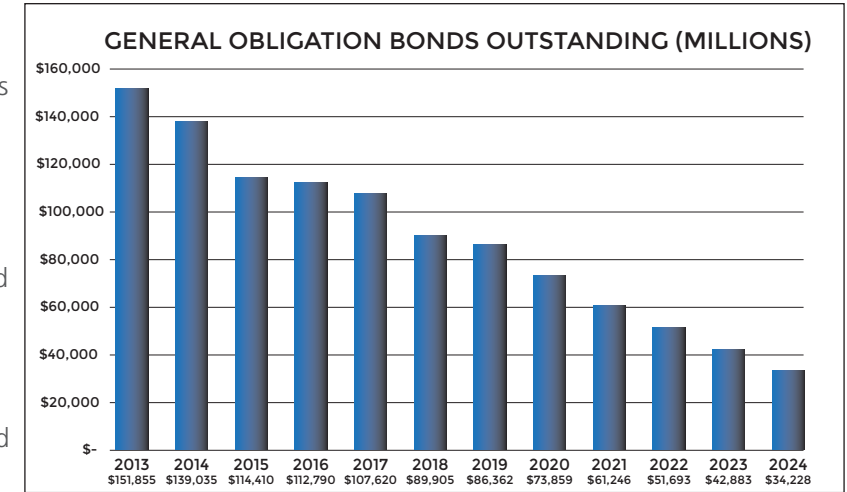
The Anoka County Board of Commissioners and county staff have worked diligently over several years to significantly reduce the county's debt.

At the beginning of 2013, the outstanding debt was around \$151.8 million. That amount was reduced to about \$89.9 million at the end of 2018, and by 2024 the debt load is expected to drop to \$34 million.

County Board actions to reduce county debt have resulted in a direct positive impact on county taxpayers — having less funds that need to be allocated to paying off outstanding debt means the county can keep property taxes low.

Starting in 2012, Anoka County had a string of three consecutive years where the levy was actually less than zero percent (-5.22, -1.2 and -0.03). Over the following six years, the board approved modest levies that resulted in just a 1.33 percent increase over the nine-year period — this wouldn't have been possible without systematically paring down the county's debt.

The reduction of the county's debt has been made possible through initiatives that allow the county to



operate on a pay-as-you-go basis for many of the needed capital projects. Future increases in debt are reserved for major capital needs and will be reflected as they become known.

“Reducing the county's debt has been important to ensure we're being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars,” said District 1 Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look. “County Board members and staff have worked in lockstep to implement this plan to address the county's debt load.”

## Employment Growth Numbers Steady in Anoka County

Between the second quarters of 2018 and 2019 — the latest data available — Anoka County was the state's second largest growing county in terms of job creation.

Only Hennepin County, which has a population more than three times higher than Anoka County, had a greater mark.

During that time, 2,171 new jobs were created, and Anoka County's total employment increased by 1.7 percent. Total statewide employment growth during that period was .08 percent, which means Anoka County grew at a rate that was 2.1 percent higher than the state's.

Employment is on the rise in Anoka County for a variety of reasons:

- Anoka County is home to many strong and innovative companies that continue to invest in their employees.
- The Anoka County Regional Economic Development Partnership (ACRED) was formed to ensure support to the

county's 20 cities and one township to help companies grow in the region. Those companies have been rapidly expanding both their real estate and employee base. Not only are businesses in Anoka County aided by their home communities and county, but they also benefit from a strong support network from many other organizations, including Greater MSP, the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), the public school districts, Anoka Tech and Anoka Ramsey colleges, CareerForce, Open to Business, the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD), Connexus Energy, Xcel Energy, chambers of commerce, rotaries and many more.

- Transportation improvements have been made to the county's infrastructure, and more projects are planned to make travel to and from work easier for employees of Anoka County companies.



Visit [anokacountylibrary.org](http://anokacountylibrary.org) for more information on upcoming events & programs.

## FEATURED EVENTS



Researcher, author, and lecturer Chad Lewis discusses stories and history that range from the strange and unusual to the bizarre.

**Bizarre History of Minnesota: Strange Stories From Our Past**  
Monday, March 30, 6 p.m.  
Columbia Heights Public Library

**Mysterious Creatures of Minnesota: From Bigfoot to Lake Monsters**  
Wednesday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.  
Crooked Lake Library

**Bizarre History of Minnesota: Strange Stories From Our Past**  
Saturday, April 25, 2:30 p.m.  
St. Francis Library - North Park Shelter

Seating is limited. These programs are funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

## Write On! Teen Short Story Contest

April 1 - 30  
Submissions accepted online. Visit the library's Teen Page for more information:  
[www.anokacounty.us/2681/Teens](http://www.anokacounty.us/2681/Teens)

## Write On! Celebration Winners Announced

Saturday, May 16, 2 - 3 p.m.  
Rum River Library

## Local Talent Collection

Volunteers from the Ham Lake area will present special skills, talents, or areas of expertise at the North Central Library:

- Monday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.  
Bardmageddon will perform traditional European folk music

- Monday, May 11, 6:30 p.m.  
To be announced

## Upper Midwest Bead Society: Beadworker's Showcase

Saturday, April 18, 1 p.m.

Johnsville Library

Members will share samples of their work in this informative, show-and-tell program. This program is funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

## Coffee & Crafts

Saturdays - 2 p.m.  
March 14  
April 11  
May 9  
Mississippi Library

Get your craft on! Bring your knitting, sewing, cross-stitch, scrapbooking or other projects to work on. Make cool things and get acquainted with your crafting community.

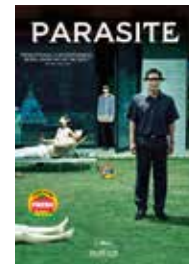
## FEATURED COLLECTION

### Foreign Film DVDs

See the world this summer without ever leaving home. Break out of your routine and get outside of your comfort zone. Discover great films that are waiting for you. To find titles, look for our Foreign Films list linked on the first page of the library catalog.



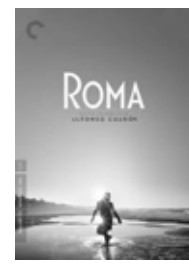
Britt-Marie Was Here (Swedish)



Parasite (Korean) 6 Oscar nominations



My Brilliant Friend (Italian) TV Series



Roma (Spanish) Won 3 Oscars



Pain and Glory (Spanish) 2 Oscar nominations



The Third Wife (Vietnamese)

## Make the Most Out of Google Docs/Drive

Monday, June 8, 5:30 p.m.  
Centennial Library

## Corporate Storytelling

Tuesday, June 16, 6 p.m.  
Rum River Library

## Game Day

Saturdays - 2 p.m.  
April 11  
May 9  
June 20  
Crooked Lake Library  
Teens and adults play board games with library game masters and others in the game community.

## Dementia Dialogue

Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m.  
April 7  
May 5  
Rum River Library  
This discussion group explores dementia through books, DVDs and stories.

## Book Club for Adults

Mondays - 6 p.m.  
March 16  
April 20  
May 18  
June 15  
Crooked Lake Library

Mondays - 6:30 p.m.  
March 23  
April 27  
June 22  
Centennial Library

## Walking Book Club

Fridays - 10 a.m.  
March 27  
April 24  
St. Francis Library - North Park Shelter

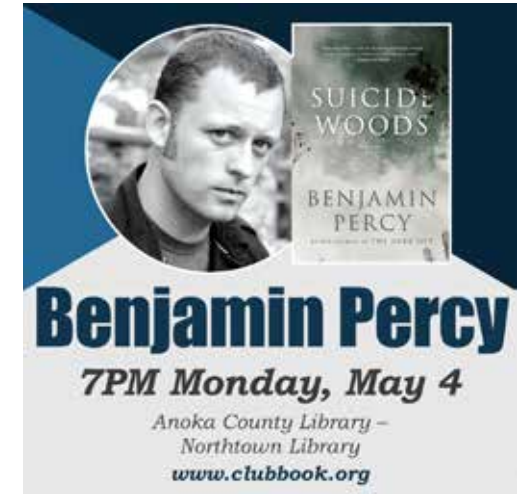


## SUMMER ADVENTURES BEGIN JUNE 1

Kids and teens can drop by any Anoka County Library to discover adventures and fun activities this summer.

Stay sharp over summer! On average, students lose 1-2 months (20 - 30%) of what they learned during the school over summer.

This summer we challenge kids of all ages to Read Boldly & Bravely and go back to school smarter this fall.



## Benjamin Percy

7PM Monday, May 4

Anoka County Library - Northtown Library  
[www.clubbook.org](http://www.clubbook.org)

Club Book - Benjamin Percy  
Monday, May 4, 7 p.m.  
Northtown Library

Minnesota's own Benjamin Percy is a master of many genres. Comic book fans may know him best as a favored storyteller for DC and Marvel heavyweights like X-Men and the superhero Teen Titans. He also holds the singular distinction of writing and developing Marvel's first-ever scripted podcast - a ten-episode murder mystery audio drama featuring X-Men's Wolverine.

Percy has also penned four genre-defying novels to date, including most recently Indie Next Pick and Minnesota Book Award finalist *The Dark Net*. Uniquely blending elements of cyberpunk and occult horror, it is undeniably creepy.

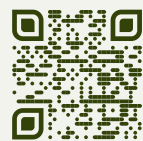
His latest works include *Thrill Me: Essays on Fiction* and the spine-tingling 2019 short story collection *Suicide Woods*. In a starred review, Kirkus Review raves about the latter: "Like modern Grimm fairy tales, the stories in this volume are cautionary and haunting."

Podcasts of previous Club Book authors are available [clubbook.org/podcasts/](http://clubbook.org/podcasts/)



# ENGAGE WITH YOUR PARKS

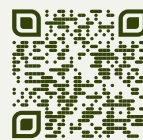
The Anoka County Parks Department is proud to manage over 11,500 acres of public open space for visitors and residents of the county. The Parks offer more ways than one to engage and connect with nature. Whether you work, volunteer, or play in the parks there are opportunities to have fun and give back to the community.



## JOB OPPORTUNITIES - ANOKACOUNTY.US/PARKJOBS

The Anoka County Parks are a great place to explore a career in the outdoors with ample opportunities to grow and develop. Spending time outdoors, learning new skills, and building work relationships are some of the benefits of a job in the Anoka County Parks. There are a vast array of job opportunities the Parks have to offer that fit a variety of interests.

- Bunker Beach Water Park • Chomonix Golf Course • Park Services • Wargo Nature Center
- Park Maintenance • Natural Resources



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - ANOKACOUNTY.US/879/VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering in the parks offers a variety of ways in which one can contribute to the success of the parks system while helping to build community and provide an opportunity for local engagement. Whether as a group or an individual, there are always new ways to connect the community to our parks system.

- Adopt a Garden • AIS Ambassador • Service Project • Animal Care • Invasive Plant Removal



## PROGRAMS & EVENTS - ANOKACOUNTY.US/3033/PROGRAMS-CAMPS

Come out and play! Paddle down the Rum River, taste fresh maple sap from the tree, or ride a fat tire bike through the forest and engage with the parks through programming. There are programs and activities available for all ages and abilities at a variety of locations. Each experience with our programming staff is unique and tailored to the participants' needs and questions. Each adventure is one you are sure to never forget.

- Earth Day Celebration (April 25) • Kayaking Classes • Fat Tire Biking • Stand Up Paddle Boarding
- Restoration Project Days • Kids Fishing Clinic (May 2)

The Anoka County park system is proud to have totaled 5.5 million visits to the parks last year. The people and programs continue to strengthen the communities and well-being of the county. Thank you for engaging with the 11,500 acres of open space so we can continue to enjoy the parks together.



## BUNKER BEACH WATER PARK

OPEN EARLY JUNE THROUGH LABOR DAY

- MINNESOTA'S LARGEST WAVE POOL
- 900-FOOT LAZY RIVER
- SIX TOWERING WATERSLIDES
- ZERO-DEPTH ENTRY POOL WITH PLAY STRUCTURES
- LEISURE POOL WITH CLIMBING WALLS
- PRIVATE CABANAS FOR RENT

PLAN YOUR VISIT

BUNKERBEACH.COM • 763-324-3310



Bunker Hills Regional Park 701 County Parkway A Coon Rapids



18-HOLE, PAR 72 COURSE

- PLAYERS CLUB
- MEMBERSHIPS
- TOURNAMENTS
- DRIVING RANGE
- BANQUET ROOM

CHOMONIX.COM 763-324-3434

700 AQUA LANE LINO LAKES, MN 55014



# SEEK OUT SUMMER

2020 SUMMER CAMPS



### NEW THIS YEAR

YMCA CAMP HERITAGE BEFORE & AFTER CARE

\*Available FOR camps located at Wargo Nature Center

### SUMMERS ARE BEST SPENT OUTSIDE

A variety of camp topics for ages preschool - grade 8 include: Nature Detectives, Wild about Animals, Water Adventures, and Work with the Wild.

### REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE

Register by May 8, 2020, and save \$5 per participant on preschool and grandparent camps and \$10 on school-aged camps.

Register online at [anokacountyparks.com](http://anokacountyparks.com) or call 763-324-3350

\*Discount does not apply to Adventures with Tom and Huck Camp.

# NEW COMMISSIONER

## Jeff Reinert is New District 6 Commissioner



Jeff Reinert was sworn in as the new commissioner for District 6 at the Anoka County Board's Feb. 25 meeting. Anoka County voters selected Reinert to fill the vacancy, created when Rhonda Sivarajah became county administrator, in a Feb. 11 special election.

Reinert served for 20 years on the Lino Lakes City Council, including 10 as mayor. His public service experience also includes: president of the Lino Lakes Economic Authority; Lino Lakes Park Board; Anoka County Fire Protection Council and Finance Committee; Centennial Fire District Steering Committee; Anoka County Joint Law Enforcement Committee; eight years in Sons of the American Legion; one year in the Chain of Lakes Rotary Club; one year as president of Lino Lakes Yellow Ribbon Network; and frequent American Legion

volunteer. He is also the president and co-founder of a biotech material manufacturing company. "I am humbled Anoka County voters chose me to fill out the rest of the term for District 6," Reinert said. "I know my 20 years in elected office and 35 years of business experience will serve me well as I transition into this new role. I'm excited for this new challenge, and I'll work hard with my fellow commissioners to ensure our residents have a voice at the county level."



**ANOKA COUNTY**  
**Law Day**  
8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. May 1  
2100 3rd Ave., Anoka

- Learn about the court system
- Free legal advice
- Guided tours
- K-9 demonstrations

**Anoka County Senior Expo**  
9 a.m. to noon  
**LORD OF LIFE CHURCH**  
14501 Nowthen Blvd. NW  
Ramsey, MN  
SATURDAY April 18 2020

**FREE EVENT!**

- Open to seniors/families • Ample Parking/handicapped accessible
- Information booths • Free pancake breakfast • Mini massages
- Blood pressure checks • Entertainment: Elvis tribute band

SPONSORED BY ANOKA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES  
Questions: Please call Leslie at 763-324-1692

# AWARDS

The Minnesota Technology Corridor, a collaborative public-private initiative to attract technology companies to the north metro that would benefit from abundant electrical capacity, unlimited fiber optic bandwidth, large parcels of available land, and the talented workforce in the area, recently won the Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers' (MAPCED) Outstanding Economic Development Award. The award was presented during a ceremony at the Association of Minnesota Counties annual conference Dec. 11, 2019, at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud.

are in need of the assets we have to offer," said District 3 Anoka County Commissioner Robyn West. "This partnership is going to benefit our region for years to come, and we're proud to be recognized by AMC and MAPCED for this endeavor." See [mntechcorridor.com](http://mntechcorridor.com) for more information about the Minnesota Technology Corridor.



"The Minnesota Technology Corridor is an innovative partnership to attract tech companies to our region that



The Anoka County Human Services Department received a first-place award and was runner up in two other categories during the Minnesota Department of

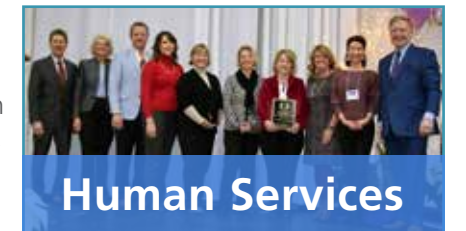
The county received the top award in the targeted case reviews category. In the earned income case note category, the county received a runner-up award. The county received another runner-up award in the payment accuracy rate category.

Human Service's first Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Awards Program Nov. 21, 2019, in St. Paul.

"Our Human Services Department has done great work to improve the implementation of our Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program," said District 2 Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad. "We're proud they were recognized for their exemplary efforts."

Anoka County received a 2019 Association of Minnesota Counties Award for its Human Services Leadership Mentorship Program, which was developed to connect new leaders to more experienced staff for increased support, at the association's annual banquet Dec. 11, 2019, at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud.

"This program has been integral to the expansion of a work environment in Human Services that is professional and dedicated to serving the public," said Commissioner Scott Schulte, chair, Anoka County Board of Commissioners.



The purpose of the mentorship program is to increase workforce retention and positively impact the quality of supervision, program service delivery and enhance customer service.



The Anoka County Information Technology Department recently received two "Golden GOVIT" awards for innovations that reduce waste, save

time and make people's lives easier. One Golden GOVIT award was given to application developer Tom Rogers for his work to streamline the county's outside agency hospice process, and the other was presented to application developer Charles Kolstad for developing a new electronic employment application review system for the county.

The awards were presented to the county from GTS Educational Events, an organization that designs, convenes and supports educational programs for government and civic sectors that engage, inspire and inform.

"Our county IT Department is constantly looking for ways to simplify processes, enhance communication, improve security and decrease waste," said District 5 Anoka County Commissioner Mike Gamache. "I'm proud our employees are being recognized for their efforts from a well-respected organization such as GTS Educational Events."

# PROPERTY TAXES



Trained volunteers are available to help senior citizens and people with disabilities apply for their homeowners/renters Minnesota property tax refund/Form M1PR. (See below for dates and locations. Please attend a session in the district where you live.)

You will need to provide:

- Federal Form 1040 (if you filed one) OR records showing your 2019 total household income.
- Homeowners: Copy of your 2020 real estate tax statements.

- Renters: 2019 Certificate of Rent Paid (CRP).  
The State of Minnesota will mail tax credit refund checks to eligible renters in mid-August and to eligible homeowners in late September.

“This is a great opportunity for some residents to receive help with their property tax refund forms, if they need it,” said Anoka County District 3 Commissioner Robyn West. “We have multiple dates available, so people can choose the time that works for them.”

Date/Time	Location	District/Commissioner
Monday, May 4 9 a.m. to noon	Columbia Heights Senior Center, Murzyn Hall 530 Mill St., Columbia Heights	District 4: Commissioner Mandy Meisner
Wednesday, May 6 8 a.m. to noon	Coon Rapids Senior Center 11155 Robinson Dr. NW, Coon Rapids	District 5: Commissioner Mike Gamache District 7: Commissioner Scott Schulte
Thursday, May 7 1 to 3 p.m.	Fridley City Hall – Fireside Room 7071 University Ave. NE, Fridley	District 4: Commissioner Mandy Meisner
Monday, May 11 9 a.m. to noon	Columbia Heights Senior Center, Murzyn Hall 530 Mill St., Columbia Heights	District 4: Commissioner Mandy Meisner
Tuesday, May 12 1 to 4 p.m.	AC Government Center 2100 3rd Ave., Room 715, Anoka	District 1: Commissioner Matt Look District 7: Commissioner Scott Schulte
Thursday, May 14 8:30 a.m. to noon	Mary Ann Young Senior Center 9150 Central Ave. NE, Blaine	District 3: Commissioner Robyn West District 6: Commissioner Jeff Reinert
Wednesday, May 20 1 to 4 p.m.	Centennial Library 100 Civic Heights Cir., Circle Pines	District 6: Commissioner Jeff Reinert
Thursday, May 21 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.	Lino Lakes City Hall – Community Rm. 600 Town Center Parkway, Lino Lakes	District 6: Commissioner Jeff Reinert
Monday, June 1 1 to 3 p.m.	St. Francis City Hall 23340 Cree St., St. Francis	District 1: Commissioner Matt Look
Tuesday, June 2 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.	Linwood City Hall 22817 Typo Creek Dr. NW, Stacy	District 6: Commissioner Jeff Reinert
Wednesday, June 3 8 a.m. to noon	Coon Rapids Senior Center 11155 Robinson Dr. NW, Coon Rapids	District 5: Commissioner Mike Gamache District 7: Commissioner Scott Schulte
Tuesday, June 9 1 to 3 p.m.	Andover Senior Center – City Hall 1685 Crosstown Blvd. NW, Andover	District 1: Commissioner Matt Look District 2: Commissioner Julie Braastad District 5: Commissioner Mike Gamache
Wednesday, June 10 10 a.m. to noon	East Bethel City Hall 2241 221st Ave. NE, East Bethel	District 2: Commissioner Julie Braastad
Thursday June 11 8:30 a.m. to noon	Mary Ann Young Senior Center 9150 Central Ave. NE, Blaine	District 3: Commissioner Robyn West District 6: Commissioner Jeff Reinert
Thursday, July 16 9 a.m. to noon	Ham Lake Senior Center 15544 Central Ave. NE, Ham Lake	District 2: Commissioner Julie Braastad
Monday, July 20 8 a.m. to noon	Coon Rapids Senior Center 11155 Robinson Dr. NW, Coon Rapids	District 5: Commissioner Mike Gamache District 7: Commissioner Scott Schulte

# LEGISLATIVE/YOUTH SUPPORT

## Anoka County Works at State Level

Residents who follow the proceedings of the Anoka County Board likely realize the county provides an array of services to residents, but what they might not know is the board and staff also advocate for them at the state level.

In the fall each year, Anoka County circulates questionnaires among its departments to solicit feedback from county employees about issues at the county level that could be addressed through the Minnesota Legislature. Once the responses are collected, they get reviewed at one of the county’s Intergovernmental and Community Relations Committee meetings, which are open to the public and attended by county commissioners and staff.

The committee then sorts the ideas into three categories: actively lobby, support with others, or do not focus on this year.

Some of the county’s top legislative priorities are then lobbied for at the State Capitol. Certain county staff, county commissioners and two contract lobbyists take an active role in this process, making sure Anoka County’s voice is heard at the state level. It’s important for the

county to be an active participant in the state’s legislative process to save taxpayer dollars, streamline processes and protect initiatives that already work well.

### 2020 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Some of this session’s top legislative priorities include:

#### Transportation

- State funding for the U.S. Highway 10 Strategic Congestion Mitigation in the City of Coon Rapids.
- State funding for the U.S. Highway 10/169 Safety and Mobility Improvements in the City of Ramsey.

#### Human Services

- Personal property limitations — business accounts that are used to pay personal expenses should be considered an asset and counted toward asset limits.
- Prevention of public assistance fraud by defining income when establishing eligibility for public assistance.



## Sponsorships Available for Collaborative Efforts to Help Kids

The Anoka County Children and Family Council invites local organizations to apply for sponsorships of events or activities that support kids.

Sponsorships of a few hundred dollars up to \$5,000 may be awarded for proposals that meet one or more of the ACCFC goals:

Nurture collaborative efforts in Anoka County by building relationships and networks to support healthy families and communities.

Support collaborative efforts to improve family and educational functioning while fostering a safe and stable environment for children.

Ensure Anoka County children are developmentally ready for school.

The funds are federal dollars that must be used for prevention and intervention.

“Anoka County supports our community organizations that focus on youth,” said District 4 Anoka County Commissioner Mandy Meisner. “This is a resource that might not be well known, but it is available to you. I hope people consider applying for a sponsorship to help better serve our local children.”

More information and application forms are available online at [www.anokacountychildrenfamilycouncil.org](http://www.anokacountychildrenfamilycouncil.org) or by contacting Christine Cole, collaborative coordinator, at 763-324-1289.

## Apply For REAL ID at Local License Centers

Minnesotans can apply for REAL ID-compliant driver’s licenses, enhanced licenses (EDL), and ID cards at county license centers. Residents have until Oct. 1, 2020, to complete the process for federal purposes, including boarding domestic flights. It is recommended residents applying for REAL IDs and EDLs arrive at least 90 minutes prior to closing time to allow for processing time.

What makes obtaining a REAL ID-compliant driver’s license or ID card different than procuring a regular driver’s

license or ID card is the amount of documentation needed at the time of the application. Documents that prove identity, date of birth and legal presence in the United States are required. Also needed is a document proving the applicant’s Social Security number and two documents proving current residency in Minnesota. The full list of documents that work for a Real ID application can be found on the Minnesota Department of Vehicle Services website: [dps.mn.gov](http://dps.mn.gov) — search “Real ID” and then click on the “Required Documents” link on the left.

Anoka County  
2100 3rd Ave.  
Anoka MN 55303-5024

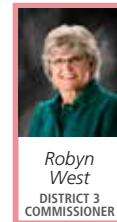
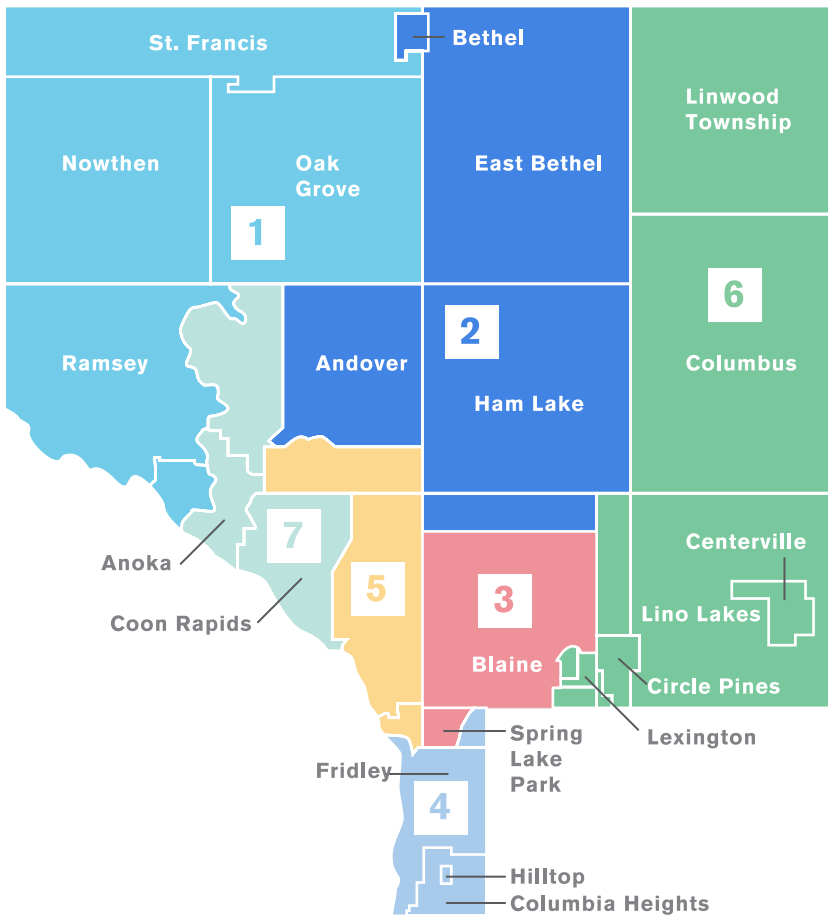
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## ANOKA COUNTY LEADERSHIP

763-324-4700



County board meetings are generally held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. in Room 705 of the Anoka County Government Center in Anoka. Watch board meetings live at [anokacounty.us](http://anokacounty.us). "Anoka County News" is produced by Anoka County Communications, Erik Thorson, Director, 763-324-4612 [publicinfo@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:publicinfo@co.anoka.mn.us) • [anokacounty.us/newsletter](http://anokacounty.us/newsletter)  
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