

North Metro Mayors

Introduction to the North Metro Mayors Association

Who We Are

- The North Metro Mayors Association was created in 1987 to serve as the non-profit champion organization to encourage private and public investments in the northern suburbs and the City of Minneapolis.
- Within our territory, which is defined by legislative districts, member cities represent more than 466,000 residents in Andover, Anoka, Blaine, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Circle Pines, Coon Rapids, Lexington, New Brighton, New Hope, Maple Grove, Mounds View, Ramsey and Spring Lake Park. Additional cities are eligible for membership and we welcome other community leaders joining our collective voice.
- Community Partners, which include multiple chambers of commerce, schools and businesses of all sizes, help demonstrate our united front in sustaining and growing the North Metro.

What We Do

- **Interpret** – In order to have a strong metropolitan region and strong state, we need a strong North Metro. Legislators need to know how proposals at the State Capitol will impact the people and businesses of the North Metro.
- **We are just the right size.** We have power in our large number of members, but unlike associations of our kind that cover the entire Twin Cities or Minnesota, we roll up our sleeves and advocate for projects specific to the North Metro. We provide the North Metro perspective on regional and statewide issues, which sometimes isn't the same as those of our neighbors.
- Our size and focus on the North Metro causes people to seek us out.
- **Leverage** – Our North American Joint Purchasing Program provides significant product and service savings via public bid pricing. There are also nominal annual dividends for participating governments, nonprofits and businesses.
- **Network** – Neighboring cities are great resources in a variety of ways. Often they partner with us to advocate for a specific issue where we have common interest. In other instances they have blazed a trail and can be helpful on a specific topic. Community Partners tell us they value the unparalleled access NMMA provides to a legislative delegation that covers the North Metro. Partners take opportunities to build relationships with city leaders.
- Activities like interpreting, leveraging and networking result in a stronger North Metro.

How We Do It

- NMMA members serve on a board and in a committee structure that directs the association's work. NMMA contracts with Ewald Consulting to manage our intergovernmental relations. The team includes seasoned experts on transportation and finance. NMMA's new executive director is Jill Brown, a public relations consultant with nearly 30 years of North Metro experience. Weekly updates are emailed during session. Board and operating committee meetings are followed up with quick recaps in North Metro Mayors' Minute emails.

Why We Do It

- Money** – Complicated equations and formulas loaded with political history control the flow of money from the state to the cities. NMMA successfully joined with others to bring more than \$17 million in additional local government aid to NMMA area cities for 2013-2015 – a 128% increase. Also, we are intimately involved in conversations around fiscal disparities and tax policy.
- Projects** – Since 1987, we've helped deliver numerous projects that make the North Metro a great place to live, work and play. Our website www.NorthMetroMayors.org includes an extensive list of our accomplishments, covering transportation, community economic development and redevelopment, housing issues and more.
- Community Pride** – We love the North Metro. Banding together to advocate for a balanced approach to investments in the region and state is a natural extension of our commitment to our communities.
- Because the North Metro Needs Us** – Our analysis in the chart below shows:
 - The North Metro Mayors' area was hit harder during the recession than anywhere else
 - We're coming out of the recession more slowly
 - After a couple good years, we haven't recovered the loss from 2008-13

MN City Total Tax Capacity Value Changes 2008-2016

	% 2008-13	% 2013-14	% 2014-15	% 2015-16	%2008-16
All State Cities	-16.80%	1.20%	7.70%	5.78%	-9.3%
Greater MN Cities	-8.20%	1.20%	4.90%	4.88%	-2.6%
Minneapolis	-16.80%	2.50%	10.20%	11.43%	-6.0%
St. Paul	-24.00%	0.40%	6.60%	4.54%	-18.6%
Metro-Non NMMA	-17.30%	1.60%	8.30%	5.64%	-9.0%
NMMA Area Cities	-24.30%	-1.00%	9.50%	4.50%	-17.1%

