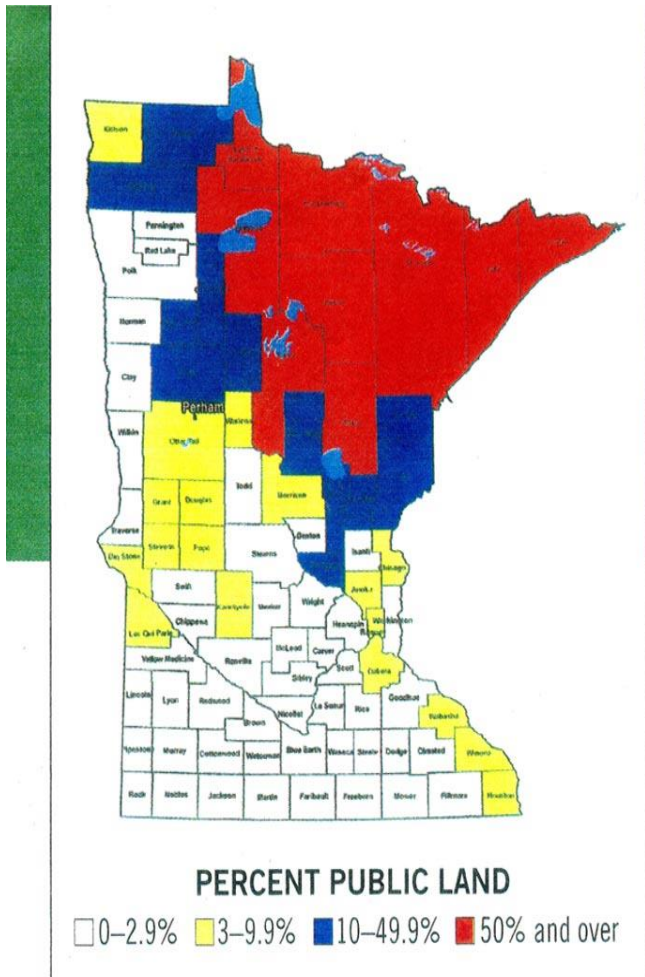


# 2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



## NO NET GAIN OF NON-TAXABLE PROPERTY

- **Support HF 143 & SF 372**, to protect local tax base and allow counties to limit the amount of non-taxable land within the county.
- Using State's Outdoor Heritage Fund, State ownership of lands has increased, creating more non-taxable property and decreasing local tax base.
- **Cost's to local governments** remain the same- there is no decrease in costs of roads, emergency services, or other management activities.
- Remaining landowner's **taxes increase** to make up for the lost taxes.
- PILT helps address non-taxable property losses, but is inconsistent and has decreased over time.
- HF 143/ SF 372 allows each county to file a notice with the State that would require the State to sell an equal amount of State property within the county if the State acquires property in the county with Outdoor Heritage Funds.



Courtesy St. Louis County



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# 2018 Legislative Priorities

**Transportation: At a cost of over \$170 million per year, townships maintain over 55,000 miles of roads & approximately 6,000 bridges, of which over 400 are on the deficiency list.**

- Seek immediate and long term increased comprehensive funding that is sufficient, predictable, sustainable, constitutionally dedicated, and equitable for townships.
- Current spending is insufficient to meet and maintain the increasing demand placed on township infrastructure. Most recent study available says townships need at least an additional \$15 million per year above current expenditures to meet the demand.
- Provide funding to replace culverts when needed for environmental reasons, not road purposes.
- Require a written agreement with the township before a county can revert jurisdiction of a road to a township, which increase the township's responsibilities, liabilities, and costs.
- Restore 30 MPH speed limit option for Rural Residential Districts.
- Require funding adequate to build roads to a minimum 10-ton standard before approving any increase in truck weight limits or sizes.
- Restore right of way management powers related to flexible force mains used to transport animal waste.
- Seeks input in the permitting process for vehicles exceeding size and weight standard.

**Broadband: Robust broadband is essential to the vitality of rural communities.**

- Fund to equitable and affordable access to broadband services for all residents, at speeds not less than the State's goals for 2026. Unserved areas must remain the top priority.

**Annexation: Township should be on equal ground with a city when faced with a proposed annexation.**

- Protect orderly annexation agreements from interference by cities not a party to the agreement by limiting annexation of land subject to an orderly annexation agreement to only the parties of the agreement.
- Establish a detachment process to allow owners of qualified properties to revert to an abutting township in a manner like the annexation-by-ordinance process cities use to annex township land.

**Taxes and Aids: Townships are efficient but 75% dependent on property taxes, which is not equitable or sustainable.**

- Increase funding for Town Aid program to ensure full funding of the Town Aid formula.
- Hold townships harmless, dollar-for-dollar, from lost tax revenues by seeking increased, sustainable, and dedicated funding for the Payment-in-lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) program.
- Develop an alternative or supplemental tax reimbursement process based on a pay-as-you-buy approach for all future State acquisition of land resulting in lost or reduced tax revenues to the township.

**Environment: Protecting our resources; providing healthy communities**

**Noxious Weed Control: Noxious weeds are a threat to the environment, destroying natural habitat.**

- Allow townships to hold State and Counties responsible for weeds in their rights-of-way.

**Government Operations: Grassroots governance at work.**

**Elections: Townships serve as local election officials and protect the integrity of elections.**

- Allow townships to determine which four hours they will have an authorized person available to accept filings on the last day to file for office.

**Mandate Relief & Cost Reductions**

- Reduce costs of townships obtaining easements across state land, especially for roads sited on school trust land.
- Seek flexibility on MS4 permits so apply only to urbanized portions of a township.
- Implement 90-day notice periods for State agency hearings, actions, or comment periods.

**Miscellaneous**

- Enhance public notice and role of township in process used by State and counties before use of publicly owned land is changed or modified.
- Hold utilities responsible for damages they cause in or to road rights-of-way and related infrastructure including culverts, and hold road authorities immune for damage to utilities whose infrastructure is improperly placed or marked.