

2025 MACPZA Legislative Platform

Adopted: October 3, 2024



MACPZA
Minnesota Association of County
Planning & Zoning Administrators

Introduction

MACPZA's Legislative Platform are statements of support or opposition to a variety of issues facing county planning and zoning administrators. Any MACPZA position will be consistent with those adopted by AMC, with a list of Association Priorities forwarded for AMC's Platform development. Adoption of these positions in no way bind any member county zoning administrator from supporting a position different from the Association's Legislative Platform.

Goals

MACPZA's legislative goals are to promote the health, safety, morals, and general welfare to better serve Minnesota citizens as well as local, state, and federal government. Through these legislative positions, MACPZA will support efficient and effective land use management and promote environmental protections for present and future generations. Finally, Federal and State agencies should respect the role of counties in land use management and environmental protection by treating counties as equal partners, while working toward common goals, in all discussions affecting county responsibilities during law, statute, rule and policy making processes.

Legislative Priorities

- 1** MACPZA supports changing funding for state mandated programs under the Natural Resources Block Grant to an aid program under the Minnesota Department of Revenue, eliminating redundant reporting requirements.
- 2** MACPZA supports addressing green/renewable energy systems end of life handling, including full decommissioning, to ensure the financial burden does not fall onto local governments and local taxpayers who may or may not have benefitted from the energy generated.
- 3** MACPZA supports state (DNR) assistance with implementation of regional executive boards to address aquatic invasive species challenges and meet minimum standards developed by MAIRSC, MNDNR, MACPZA, and MLR.



Legislative Positions

Administration

- A.1. MACPZA supports requiring its inclusion during all federal and state agency discussions affecting county land use and environmental responsibilities.
- A.2. MACPZA supports increased funding for programs currently covered by the Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) and continued flexibility for the use of the funding to address local priorities.
- A.3. MACPZA supports changing funding for state mandated programs under the Natural Resources Block Grant to an aid program under the Minnesota Department of Revenue, eliminating redundant reporting requirements.
- A.4. MACPZA opposes all state mandates for enforcement, administration, and implementation of state programs without adequate state funding and technical support.
- A.5. MACPZA supports the clear and consistent application from state agencies of all mandated requirements.
- A.6. MACPZA supports requiring state agencies to follow the established procedures for rulemaking and/or statute amendments versus guidance creation.
- A.7. MACPZA supports modernizing state notice/publication statutes to be more reflective of current resources and meaningful readership.
- A.8. MACPZA supports production taxes for green energy production, including small solar facilities, to LGUs.

Land Use

- LU.1. MACPZA supports clear and consistent definitions and clearly communicated outcomes from all state agencies that are provided in a timely manner.
- LU.2. MACPZA supports requiring townships which choose to adopt any level of land use regulations, to assume land use control responsibilities at least equal to that of the county in which the township lies.
- LU.3. MACPZA supports the concept of local comprehensive planning and land use controls which serves as a foundation to reflect social, geographic, ecological and cultural diversity of each unique community.
- LU.4. MACPZA supports legislative changes to Minnesota Chapter 394 to allow the use of civil citations and correlated penalties as an option for counties to compel compliance with local zoning ordinances.
- LU.5. MACPZA supports addressing affordable housing issues through local government measures with funding supports to do necessary planning and programming.

Wastewater Treatment

- WWT.1. MACPZA supports SSTS licensing program exams that are consistent with course materials and Minnesota Rules 7080-7083.
- WWT.2. MACPZA supports extending the state grant and loan assistance program to assist with upgrading or replacement of any non-compliant SSTS's.
- WWT.3. MACPZA supports funding and simplifying processes for the replacement or upgrade of community and cluster systems.

Water Management and Protection

- WMP.1. MACPZA supports non-competitive state grant funding for priorities identified in completed comprehensive watershed management plans.
- WMP.2. MACPZA supports funding for counties in the MS4 permit program.
- WMP.3. MACPZA supports state and federal funding to accelerate updating of floodplain maps and increased technical assistance and education.
- WMP.4. MACPZA supports state funding to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for purposes of establishing ordinary high water and 100-year flood elevations on public waters.
- WMP.5. MACPZA supports sufficient and equitable funding for state mandated shoreland programs and supports a required, equitable-partnership approach with counties when the MN DNR is proposing new shoreland rules that local government units will be required to uphold and enforce on behalf of the state.

Wetland Management and Protection

- WTMP.1. MACPZA supports the de minimis exemptions as they were in 2006.
- WTMP.2. MACPZA supports maintaining WCA as a conservation program rather than a preservation program.
- WTMP.3. MACPZA supports the review of the potential use of wetland replacement incentives to encourage wetland mitigation outside of those counties that contain 80% or more of their pre-settlement wetlands.
- WTMP.4. MACPZA supports county approval of project specific wetland mitigation sites.
- WTMP.5. MACPZA supports local approval of wetland mitigation siting outside of the established Permit to Mine boundary.

Non-Metallic Mineral Resources

- NMMR.1. MACPZA supports the adoption of policies by the state and local governments that provide for the reclamation of non-metallic mineral mines when mining ceases.
- NMMR.2. MACPZA supports increased state funding to accelerate the state-mapping program to accurately identify non-metallic mineral deposits that have the potential to be economically mined.
- NMMR.3. MACPZA supports updating the Department of Natural Resource's Aggregate Mining Reclamation Manual including the development of reclamation standards for non-metallic mineral mines.