



# Introduction to Murray County Government

Heidi Winter, Auditor-Treasurer

Jean Christoffels, Zoning/Environmental Administrator

# Presenters

Heidi Winter

- 22 years with Murray County. 13 years as Auditor-Treasurer (currently serving 4th term)
- Served 8 years as board member of the Minnesota Association of County Officers
- Current District 7 Representative for the Minnesota Association of County Auditors, Treasurers and Finance Officers

Jean Christoffels

- 20 years experience in Planning and Zoning; 15 years as Zoning Administrator
- Served 9 years as board member of the Minnesota Association of County Planning & Zoning Administrators
- Served on multiple work groups with State Agencies reviewing wind and solar regulations



# Today's Presentation

Introduction to Murray County

Overview of County Decision-making

Planning in Murray County

Murray County Budget

# Murray County Government

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Mission Statement:

*Provide public service by linking County resources with county and community needs.*



# Different levels of government



## Federal government

- Acts in matters of war, interstate commerce, coinage, and bankruptcy
- Impacts local governments through the use of loans and grants, such as housing and redevelopment directly to cities
- For roads, wastewater treatment and other infrastructure, state agencies administer or distribute federal aid to cities

## State government

- Controls the existence and powers of local governments within their boundaries

## Local government

- Authorized by state government via State Statutes
- Applies to cities, counties, towns and special-purpose districts, such as schools, soil-and-water-conservation districts, hospital districts, and regional-development commissions
- Generally take responsibility for parks and recreation services, police and fire departments, housing services, emergency medical services, municipal courts, transportation services and public works

# Services Murray County provides



- Essential Services
  - Public Safety
  - Transportation
  - Health & Human Services
  - Public information & elections
  - Public infrastructure
  - Courts
- Functions of County Government
  - Property Tax Assessment
  - Tax Administration
  - Elections
  - Record Keeping
  - Plans for Road Improvements
  - Comprehensive Planning & Zoning and Water Management
  - Solid Waste Management/Recycling
  - Parks & Recreation
  - Promote Economic Development

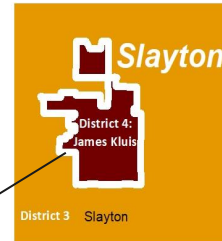
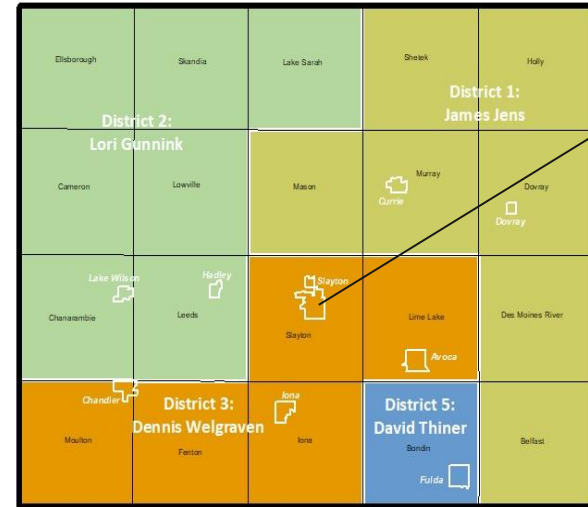
# Who's Involved in the Decision-making Process?

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- 1 County Commissioners
- 2 Planning Commissions & Other Committees
- 3 County Staff
- 4 Citizens

# Role of County Commissioners

- 5 Commissioners
  - 1: James Jens
  - 2: Lori Gunnink
  - 3: Dennis Welgraven
  - 4: James Kluis
  - 5: David Thiner
- Responsibilities
  - Key policymakers
  - Oversee the operation and administration of the county
  - Participate in long-range planning
  - Managing the county budget and finances
  - Members of advisory boards/committees that provide direct and indirect county services
- Obtain information from county administrator, auditor-treasurer and department heads





# Role of Committees



- Advisory Committees bring recommendations to the County Board of Commissioners
- County Commissioners are appointed to over 50 different committees
  - Boards vary in size and focus
  - Some are local, some are multi-county joint powers agreements
- Examples
  - Hospital Board
  - Airport Commission
  - Economic Development Authority
  - Extension Committee
  - Fair Board
  - Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
  - Law Library
  - Multiple Watershed Planning Districts (Missouri, Heron Lake, Des Moines River)
  - Southwest Health & Human Services
  - Planning Commission

# Role of County Staff Overview



- Department Heads are in charge of the day to day operations of their Departments
  - Road and Bridge (Highway)
  - Law Enforcement
  - County Attorney
  - Auditor/Treasurer
  - Recorder
  - Administrator
  - Assessor
  - Environmental Services: Planning & Zoning and Ag & Solid Waste
  - Technology
  - Veterans Services
  - Licensing
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Maintenance
  - Extension
- Murray County operates under Minnesota Statute Chapter 375A.06 Administrator form of Government. The Administrator is responsible for the annual budget, strategic planning, implementation and execution of the ordinances, policies and wishes of the board, and providing leadership for the county staff and general operations of the county.

# Role of Citizens Overview



- Be active in county government
  - Attend board meetings, read newspapers, stay informed *with facts*
  - Serve on a committee or task force
  - Participate in public hearings
  - Truth in Taxation Budget Hearing
- Vote - elections are the “report cards” for decision makers
- Stay in touch with your local elected officials

# Planning in Murray County



- The county plans yearly
  - Road and Bridge 5-year plan
  - Capital improvement plans
  - Comprehensive Planning - Land Use Ordinances
  -
- Procedures and processes for Planning
  - Research and Plan Drafting
  - Citizen Participation
  - County Board Review, Approval and Adoption

# Murray County Budget



## REVENUES: Where does our money come from?

- 46% Taxes
- 45% Intergovernmental Revenues (money from other governmental agencies)
  - Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILT)
  - Grants
  - County Program Aid
  - Market Value and Ag Homestead Credit
  - County State Aid (roads & bridges)
- 5% Special Assessments
- 4% Other Sources
  - Charges for Services
  - Investment Earnings
  - Gifts
  - Contributions
  - Miscellaneous

(Based on 2020 Adopted Budget)

# Murray County Budget



## REVENUES:

- \$9,074,919 Taxes
- \$8,964,112 Intergovernmental Revenues
- \$ 932,402 Special Assessments
- Other Sources
  - \$374,418 Charges for Services
  - \$362,843 Miscellaneous
  - \$114,577 Investment Earnings
  - \$ 39,450 Other
  - \$ 3,300 Gifts and Contributions
- **\$19,866,021 Total Revenues Budget**

(Based on 2020 Adopted Budget)

# Murray County Budget



## EXPENDITURES: How does the money get used?

- 41% Highways and Streets (high intergovernmental revenues coming in)
- 24% General Government
- 13% Public Safety
- 7% Human Services
- 6% Conservation of Natural Resources
- 4% Culture and Recreation
- 2% General Obligation Debt
- 2% Sanitation
- <1% Economic Development
- <1% Community Health
- <1% Other

(Based on 2020 Adopted Budget)

# Murray County Budget



## EXPENDITURES

- \$7,972,176 Highways and Streets
- \$4,728,156 General Government
- \$2,601,449 Public Safety
- \$1,339,787 Human Services
- \$1,115,182 Conservation of Natural Resources
- \$ 756,271 Culture and Recreation
- \$ 385,856 General Obligation Debt
- \$ 314,796 Sanitation
- \$ 178,903 Economic Development
- \$ 119,969 Community Health
- \$ 7,683 Other
- **\$19,520,228 Total Revenues Budget**

(Based on 2020 Adopted Budget)



# Budget Changes - Past, Present and Future



## REVENUES

- Levy increases (3.93% average from 2010 to 2020)
- Wind and Solar Production Tax (in lieu of property tax)
  - 2006 - \$ 448,483.00 (County 20% - \$358,786.40)
  - 2019 - \$1,239,259.30 (County 20% - \$991,407.44)
- County Program Aid (drastic up and down changes over last 15 years)
  - 2007 - \$797,907 (highest)
  - 2012 - \$ 99,461 (lowest)
  - 2020 - \$556,641 (creeping back up)
- Legislatively authorized changes
  - Allotments
  - Levy Limits

# Budget Changes - Past, Present and Future



## EXPENDITURES

- Normal increased cost of doing business
- Unfunded mandates
- Technology
- Capital Costs
  - Aging Buildings
  - Equipment



Questions?

Thank you.