MEMBERS PRESENT:
Patricia Beckel, Lake of the Woods County
Charlie Borrell, Wright County
Richard Brenner, Carlton County
Spencer Buerkle, Benton County
Jim Butterfield, Kandiyohi County
Gayle Degler, Carver County
Hiedi Doo-Kirk, Cook County
James Ebeling, Steele County
Thomas Egan, Dakota County
Bob Fox, Renville County
Paul Graupmann, Lyon County
Rick Greene, Chisago County
Ben Grimsley, Becker County
Jim Hofer, Wadena County
Mike Housman, Meeker County
Lyle Hovland, Wilkin County
Frank Jewell, St. Louis County
Bob Kangas, Cass County
Larry Lindor, Pope County
Anne Marcotte, Aitkin County
DeWayne Mareck, Stearns County
Jim McDonough, Ramsey County
Pat Melvin, McLeod County
Bruce Messelt, Chisago County
Gene Metz, Nobles County
Owen Miler, Douglas County
Rolland Miller, Marshall County
Blair Nelson, Waseca County
Randy Neumann, Todd County
Ron Norby, Koochiching County
David Nordaune, Chippewa County
Pat Oman, Mille Lacs County
Glenda Phillipe, Roseau County
Mark Piepho, Blue Earth County
Jody Reisch, Rock County
Felix Schmiesing, Sherburne County
Timothy Sumner, Beltrami County
Dave Thiner, Murray County
Darryl Tveitbak, Pennington County
Vernell Wagner, Grant County
Marcia Ward, Winona County
Tom Warmka, Faribault County
Robyn West, Anoka County
Randy Winscher, Morrison County
Tom Wolf, Scott County

GUESTS PRESENT:
Rick Gnami, Steele County
Jamie Haefner, Nicollet County
Laura Elvebak, Steele County
Dan Whitman, Martin County
Kenneth Olson, Pennington County
Brenda Landon, Mahnomen County
Larry Kleindl, Kandiyohi County
Donna Gravley, Cottonwood County
Frank Gross, Clay County
Aurora Heard, Murray County
Jessica Anderson, Blue Earth County
Laura Hanson, Lake of the Woods County
Char Christenson, Hubbard County
Martie Monsrud, Roseau County
Al Paulon, Clearwater County
Sara Folsted, Rice County
Molly O’Rourke, Washington County
I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Commissioner Darryl Tveitbakk, Pennington County, called the meeting of the General Government Policy Committee meeting to order at 8:01 AM. Members said the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Speaker, Bob Meyer, Department of Natural Resources
Chair Darryl Tveitbakk introduced DNR staff, Bob Meyer, to discuss the importance of timely submitting property tax information on PILT lands.

III. Presentation, Steven Baker, Ramsey County Assessor
Chair Tveitbakk and AMC staff Matt Hilgart introduced Ramsey county assessor Stephen Baker to discuss “dark store” assessing theory and how the issue may be relevant for Minnesota counties in the future. Presentations available upon request.

IV. Minutes
Commissioner Heidi Doo-Kirk makes a motion to pass the minutes, as amended, to correct for name misspellings. Commissioner Owen Millers seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Platform amendments
AMC staff member Matt Hilgart presented the current general government platform. Chair Tveitbakk opened the floor up for amendments to the platform.

Commissioner Gene Metz motions to amend the Election Administration section of the platform to make the following changes:

- AMC supports federal and state funding commensurate with the cost for counties to comply with voting requirements, election administration standards, and the replacement of aging election equipment.
- AMC supports a comprehensive voting equipment funding package to aid or replace the aging assortment of election equipment. The identified cost to replace or repair Minnesota’s election equipment is $28m.
- AMC supports initiatives to reduce the costs and administrative requirements of election day voter registration that maintain accuracy and integrity in the process.
- AMC supports infusing new money into the use of federal 2002 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds to further maintain voting accessibility and assist counties in administering polling place duties or other requirements under the Act.
- AMC supports expanding population thresholds for counties who choose to implement mail balloting.
- AMC asks that the legislature continue to support the reimbursement mechanism for presidential primary election that fully accounts for county costs.
Commissioner Jim Butterfield seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Commissioner Heidi Doo-Kirk motioned to amend the Employment and Employee Benefits section of the general government platform to make the following changes:

**Health Care**

- AMC supports modifying MS 62A.21, subdivision 2a to put in place reasonable limitations and requirements for continued health insurance coverage for divorced spouses.

Commissioner Betty Younggren seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Commissioner Ben Grimsley motioned to amend the Pensions section of the general government platform to make the following changes:

- AMC believes that any structural changes to PERA should promote long-term sustainability of the pension fund and be representative of potential costs to taxpayers, marketability of the pension benefit, and consideration of active employees in addition to retirees.

Commissioner Brent Olson seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Commissioner Larry Lindor motioned to amend the Veterans Preference section of the general government platform to make the following changes:

**Veteran’s Preference**

- AMC supports eliminating the requirement for local governments to conduct a Veteran’s Preference hearing for a veteran who is discharged during probation, in order to ensure consistency between state and local Veterans Preference laws.

- AMC supports clarifying statute so that a honorably discharged veteran has an election option of a 3-member panel except in cases where the governmental subdivision has a civil service board, commission, or other presiding merit authority.

Commissioner Tom Warmka seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Commissioner DeWayne Mareck motioned to amend the Mandates section of the general government platform to make the following changes:

- AMC believes the Legislature should enact legislation that would sunset all county mandates over a period of time and review each mandate during that period to determine if the mandate should continue or if it should be eliminated.

Commissioner Tom Warmka seconded the motion; the motion passed.
Commissioner Heidi Doo-Kirk motioned to amend the general government platform to make the following changes:

- AMC recognizes and promotes the importance of pay equity at all levels of county employment. Any state reporting mandates should be succinct, cognizant of staff time/costs, and void of redundant annual data sets.

Commissioner Ben Grimsley seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Commissioner Brent Olson motioned to amend the Tax and Finance section of the general government platform to make the following changes:

**Assessment**
- AMC supports repealing modifying the mandate that every individual who appraises property for tax purposes be licensed as an accredited assessor. If the mandate remains in effect, AMC believes the state should provide additional funding to counties to offset the additional training costs of this mandate

**Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)**
- AMC supports the creation of a sustainable PILT funding mechanism which would promote sustainability and guarantee recovery of lost property tax revenue for state-funded land purchases.

Commissioner Tom Egan seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Commissioner Jim Butterfield motioned to amend the Vital Communities and Economic Development section of the general government platform to make the following changes:

- AMC advocates for a continued statewide Minnesota marketing program that can be benchmarked against other states’ marketing programs.

Commissioner Bob Fox seconded the motion; the motion passed.

With no further amendments, Chair Tveitbakk asked members for a motion to forward the amended platform to AMC general membership for vote. Commissioner Owen Miller made a motion to do so; Commissioner Bob Fox seconded. The motion passed.

### VI. Adjournment
Chair Darryl Tveitbakk adjourned the meeting at 9:55 AM.