MEMBERS PRESENT:
Jim Abbe, Steele County  
Kevin Adee, Koochiching County  
Tony Bennett, Mower County  
Spencer Buerkle, Benton County  
Jim Butterfield, Kandiyohi County  
Charlene Christenson, Hubbard County  
Joy Cohrs, Sibley County  
Randy Dahl, Fillmore County  
Gayle Degler, Carver County  
Hiedi Doo-Kirk, Cook County  
Thomas Egan, Dakota County  
Doug Erickson, Renville County  
Sara Folsted, Rice County  
Paul Graupmann, Lyon County  
Donna Gravley, Cottonwood County  
Ben Grimsley, Becker County  
Frank Gross, Clay County  
Jim Hofer, Wadena County  
Lyle Hovland, Wilkin County  
Bob Kangas, Cass County  
Bill LaValley, Grant County  
Larry Lindor, Pope County  
DeWayne Mareck, Stearns County  
Jim McDonough, Ramsey County  
Gene Metz, Nobles County  
Owen Miller, Douglas County  
Rolland Miller, Marshall County  
Blair Nelson, Waseca County  
David Nordaune, Chippewa County  
Brent Olson, Big Stone County  
Pete Peterson, Swift County  
Mark Piepho, Blue Earth County  
Jody James Reisch, Rock County  
Felix Schmiesing, Sherburne County  
Dave Thiner, Murray County  
Tim Tjosaaas, Dodge County  
Darryl Tveitbakk, Pennington County  
Marcia Ward, Winona County  
Robyn West, Anoka County  
Randy Winscher, Morrison County

GUESTS PRESENT:
Lisa Herges, Renville County  
Michael Stalberger, Blue Earth County  
Jessica Anderson, Blue Earth County  
Josh Milow, Blue Earth County  
Mark Thein, Olmsted County  
Denny Groebner, Redwood County  
Donna Gravley, Cottonwood County  
Aurora Heard, Murray County  
Jerry Soma, Anoka County  
Scott Golberg, Steele County  
Glen Kack, Yellow Medicine County  
Dan Wildermuth, Pipestone County  
Cathy Feste, Pipestone County  
Phil Gausman, Stevens County  
Bob Meyer, Blue Earth County  
Sandra Norikane, Cass County  
Joe Hatch, Todd County  
Lorene Hanson, Lake of the Woods County  
Larry Kleindl, Kandiyohi County  
Chuck Enter, Brown County  
David Minke, Pine County  
Montgomery Headley, Benton County  
Brian Fritzinger, St. Louis County  
Steve Duncan, Jackson County  
Steve Taylor, Sherburne County  
Roxy Traxler, Sibley County  
Susan Skattum, Rock County  
Peg Heglund, Yellow Medicine County  
Mark Peterson, MAAO/Cass County
I. **CALL TO ORDER**
Chair Commissioner Darryl Tveitbakk, Pennington County, called the meeting of the General Government Policy Committee meeting to order at 7:59 AM. Members said the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced themselves.

II. **Approval of minutes**
Commissioner DeWayne Mareck motioned to approve the minutes from the 2017 Fall General Government Policy Committee meeting at the AMC Legislative Conference. Commissioner Larry Lindor seconded the motion; the motion passed.

III. **Speaker, Mark Peterson, Minnesota Association of Assessing Officers (MAAO)**
Matt Hilgart introduced Mark Peterson, Legislative Chair for the Minnesota Association of Assessing Officers. Mr. Peterson provided updates on Department of Revenue-issued rule orders regarding the determination of Ag homestead as well as news on the possible study of Minnesota’s property tax system being led by State Representative Whelan. A short Q/A ensued.

IV. **Special Guest Speaker, Secretary of State Steve Simon**
Matt Hilgart and Chair Tveitbakk introduced and welcomed special guest speaker Steve Simon. Secretary Simon provided a presentation on election security issues, touching on issues such as hackable technologies and threats from foreign actors. Secretary Simon also provided general election updates and highlights of the newly established election equipment grant.

V. **Panel: Minnesota Association of County Administrators—“Counties Leading the Way”**
Yellow Medicine County Administrator Peg Heglund and Blue Earth County Administrator Bob Meyer presented to the committee on their counties’ efforts to move the dial away from incarceration to restorative justice and treatment intervention and why it should matter to all of us. Presentation materials are available upon request.

VI. **Review of General Government Platform**
Matt Hilgart reviewed the current General Government Platform along with all submitted proposed amendments. Chair Tveitbakk opened the floor for amendments.

Commissioner DeWayne Mareck made the motion to delete the following provision under the section Election Administration: “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.” Commissioner Jim McDonough seconded the motion. The motion prevailed.

Commissioner Marcia Ward made the following motion to amend the Public Records section of the General Government Platform to include the following: “Government transparency and access to public data are cornerstones a functioning democracy. AMC supports the current general county retention guidelines reviewed and accepted by the Minnesota Historical Society. Any legislative proposal to change retention policies should include compensation, or means for compensation, for increased storage, technology costs, and staff time,” as well as delete the following plank under the same section:
“AMC supports changing state law to no longer require that social security numbers be collected for marriage license applications.” Commissioner Buerkle seconded the motion. The motion prevailed.

Commissioner Reisch made a motion to amend the Assessment section of the platform by deleting the following plank: “AMC supports 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.” Commissioner Doo-Kirk seconded the motion; the motion prevailed.

Commissioner Heidi Doo-Kirk made a motion to delete the following two planks from the Payment in Lieu of Taxes section of the platform: “Private lands acquired outside of a city should not be in conflict with the county’s comprehensive plan,” as well as “Private land acquisitions must emphasize the greatest level of public value that can be obtained in order to achieve the maximum statewide public benefit.” In addition, the motion included adding the following sentence to the third plank: “…along with finding solutions to reduce the volatility of PILT natural acres reassessments.”

VII. Chair and Vice Chair Elections
Chair Tveitbakk opened the floor for nominations to the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Nominations included Kevin Adee, Heidi Doo-Kirk and Larry Lindor. Each candidate provided a short presentation and biography. Chair Tveitbakk and Matt Hilgart distributed post it notes for the election of Chair. Larry Lindor won the most votes and was announced Chair. Commissioners Doo-Kirk and Adee reiterated their interest to also run for Vice Chair. Matt Hilgart redistributed post-it notes for another vote. Heidi Doo-Kirk won the most votes and was announced Vice Chair by outgoing Chair Darryl Tveitbakk.

VIII. Adjourn
Chair Darryl Tveitbakk thanked the committee for their participation and support during his time as Chair. Members applauded Commissioner Tveitbakk for his work. Chair Tveitbakk adjourned the meeting at 10:04 AM.

*Presentation materials available upon request*