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# Local Government Survey on State Mandates

## APPENDIX A

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On July 28, 1999, we sent questionnaires to 654 local government officials from counties, cities, and towns throughout the state. Our sample included all 87 county administrators/auditors, all 79 city managers/administrators from cities with 10,000 residents or more, a random sample of 288 city clerks from cities with populations under 10,000, and a random sample of 200 town clerks. Respondents were instructed to answer the questionnaire from the perspective of their city, county, or town, based upon their professional experience. In order to help ensure that responses were reflective of the local government's point of view, we encouraged respondents to get input from elected officials, department heads, and other staff. We sent a reminder letter on August 27 and stopped processing responses on October 2, 1999.

Of the 654 surveys mailed, 448 useable surveys were returned by the deadline, resulting in an overall response rate of 69 percent. The response rates were: 74 percent for counties, 80 percent for large cities, 69 percent for small cities, and 61 percent for towns. Tables A.1 through A.4 contain lists of local governments who received and responded to our survey.

To assess whether survey respondents were representative of the population of local government units, we compared their characteristics with those of all local governments in Minnesota. We found that respondents closely resemble their respective populations. Tables comparing the characteristics of survey respondents with the population, along with a copy of our questionnaire, can be found on our website at <http://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/ped/2000/pe0001.htm>

**Table A.1: Counties in Our Sample**

Aitkin	Dakota	Lac qui Parle	Olmsted	Stearns
Anoka	<i>Dodge</i>	Lake	Otter Tail	<i>Steele</i>
Becker	Douglas	Lake of the Woods	<i>Pennington</i>	Stevens
Beltrami	<i>Faribault</i>	Le Sueur	<i>Pine</i>	Swift
<i>Benton</i>	Fillmore	<i>Lincoln</i>	Pipestone	Todd
Big Stone	<i>Freeborn</i>	<i>Lyon</i>	Polk	<i>Traverse</i>
Blue Earth	<i>Goodhue</i>	Mahnomen	Pope	Wabasha
Brown	<i>Grant</i>	Marshall	Ramsey	Wadena
<i>Carlton</i>	Hennepin	Martin	Red Lake	Waseca
Carver	Houston	<i>McLeod</i>	<i>Redwood*</i>	Washington
Cass	Hubbard	Meeker	<i>Renville</i>	Watsonwan
Chippewa	Isanti	Mille Lacs	Rice	Wilkin
Chisago	Itasca	Morrison	Rock	Winona
Clay	Jackson	<i>Mower</i>	<i>Roseau</i>	Wright
Clearwater	Kanabec	Murray	<i>Scott</i>	<i>Yellow Medicine</i>
<i>Cook*</i>	Kandiyohi	Nicollet	Sherburne	
Cottonwood	Kittson	Nobles	<i>Sibley</i>	
<i>Crow Wing</i>	Koochiching	Norman	St. Louis	

We received and processed responses from counties listed in regular type.  
 We received responses from counties listed in italics with an asterisk (\*) too late for processing.  
 We did not receive responses from counties listed in italics.

**Table A.2: Cities in Our Sample with at Least 10,000 Residents**

Albert Lea	<i>Columbia Heights</i>	<i>Hibbing</i>	New Hope	<i>Savage</i>
Andover	<i>Coon Rapids</i>	Hopkins	New Ulm	Shakopee
Anoka	Cottage Grove	<i>Hutchinson</i>	<i>North Mankato</i>	Shoreview
<i>Apple Valley</i>	Crystal	Inver Grove Heights	<i>North St. Paul</i>	South St. Paul
Austin	<i>Duluth</i>	Lakeville	Northfield	<i>St. Cloud</i>
Bemidji	Eagan	Lino Lakes	Oakdale	St. Louis Park
Blaine	Eden Prairie	Mankato	Owatonna	St. Paul
Bloomington	Edina	Maple Grove	Plymouth	Stillwater
Brainerd	Elk River	Maplewood	Prior Lake	Vadnais Heights
<i>Brooklyn Center</i>	Fairmont	Marshall	Ramsey	West St. Paul
<i>Brooklyn Park</i>	<i>Faribault</i>	Mendota Heights	Red Wing	White Bear Lake
Burnsville	Fergus Falls	Minneapolis	Richfield	Willmar
Champlin	Fridley	Minnetonka	Robbinsdale	Winona
Chanhassen	Golden Valley	Moorhead	Rochester	Woodbury
Chaska	Ham Lake	<i>Mounds View*</i>	Rosemount	Worthington
<i>Cloquet</i>	Hastings	<i>New Brighton</i>	Roseville	

We received and processed responses from cities listed in regular type.  
 We received responses from cities listed in italics with an asterisk (\*) too late for processing.  
 We did not receive responses from cities listed in italics.

**Table A.3: Cities in Our Sample with Fewer than 10,000 Residents**

Aitkin	Dassel	<i>Iona</i>	Minnesota City	St. Francis
<i>Akeley</i>	<i>Dawson</i>	Iron Junction	Minnetonka Beach	St. Joseph
Albany	<i>De Graff</i>	Ironton	<i>Montgomery</i>	<i>St. Martin</i>
Alden	<i>Delano</i>	Isanti	Morgan	St. Michael
Aldrich	Delavan	Karlstad	Morris	<i>St. Peter*</i>
Alexandria	Detroit Lakes	Keewatin	Morristown	<i>St. Rosa</i>
Alvarado	Dodge Center	Kelliher	Morton	Stacy
Appleton	<i>Dovray</i>	<i>Kellogg</i>	<i>Mound</i>	Stewart
<i>Arden Hills</i>	Easton	Kennedy	Mountain Lake	Storden
<i>Arlington</i>	<i>Eden Valley</i>	<i>Kent</i>	New Prague	<i>Sturgeon Lake</i>
Askov	Elizabeth	<i>Kenyon</i>	<i>New Trier</i>	<i>Swanville</i>
<i>Avon*</i>	Elkton	Kerkhoven	Nicollet	Tamarack
Backus	Ellsworth	Kerrick	<i>Northome</i>	Tenney
Balaton	Elmore	Kiester	<i>Northrop</i>	Thief River Falls
Beaver Creek	<i>Eloso</i>	Kimball	Oak Park Heights	Tintah
Bellingham	Emily	Kinbrae	Odin	<i>Tonka Bay</i>
Belview	Erhard	<i>Lafayette</i>	Ogilvie	<i>Tracy</i>
Bertha	Erskine	Lake City	Okabena	Trail
Big Falls	<i>Eveleth</i>	Lake Henry	<i>Onamia</i>	<i>Trimont*</i>
Big Lake	Farwell	Lake Lillian	<i>Ormsby</i>	Trosky
<i>Bigelow</i>	<i>Fifty Lakes</i>	Lake Park	Orono	Truman
Bird Island	<i>Fisher</i>	Lake Shore	Orr	<i>Twin Valley</i>
<i>Biscay</i>	Flensburg	<i>Lake St. Croix Beach</i>	Ortonville	Two Harbors
<i>Blomkest</i>	Foreston	Lake Wilson	Parkers Prairie	Tyler
Blue Earth	<i>Fort Ripley</i>	Landfall	Paynesville	<i>Ulen</i>
<i>Borup</i>	<i>Frazee*</i>	Lanesboro	Pennock	Underwood
Bowlus	<i>Funkley</i>	<i>Lastrup</i>	<i>Pequot Lakes</i>	Upsala
<i>Brandon</i>	Gary	<i>Le Center</i>	Pierz	Utica
<i>Brewster</i>	Ghent	Le Roy	Pillager	<i>Vermillion</i>
Brookston	Gibbon	Leonard	Pine City	<i>Viking</i>
Brownton	Gilman	Lester Prairie	Pine Island	Vining
Buckman	Good Thunder	<i>Lindstrom</i>	Pine River	Virginia
Burtrum	<i>Goodhue</i>	<i>Little Canada*</i>	Pipestone	Wabasha
<i>Byron</i>	Graceville	Little Falls	Plato	<i>Wadena</i>
<i>Cambridge</i>	Granada	<i>Long Beach</i>	<i>Plummer</i>	<i>Wahkon</i>
<i>Cannon Falls</i>	Grand Marais	Lonsdale	<i>Princeton</i>	Waldorf
<i>Canton</i>	<i>Grand Meadow</i>	Louisburg	Prinsburg	Walker
<i>Carlton</i>	Greenfield	Lowry	Racine	Walnut Grove
Cedar Mills	<i>Greenwood</i>	Lucan	Randolph	Warba
Center City	Gully	Lyle	<i>Raymond</i>	Warren
Chisholm	<i>Hadley</i>	Mabel	<i>Regal</i>	Waterville
Circle Pines	Hammond	Madelia	Remer	Watkins
Claremont	Hancock	Madison Lake	Rockford	Waverly
Clarissa	Hanover	Magnolia	Rockville	<i>Wayzata*</i>
Clinton	Harding	Manchester	<i>Roscoe</i>	Wendell
Cold Spring	Hatfield	Mantorville	Rothsay	<i>West Concord</i>
Comfrey	Hawley	Maple Lake	Round Lake	West Union
<i>Conger</i>	<i>Heron Lake</i>	Maple Plain	Sabin	Willernie
<i>Cook</i>	Hewitt	Mapleview	Sacred Heart	<i>Wilmont</i>
Cosmos	Hinckley	Marietta	Sedan	Windom
<i>Cottonwood</i>	Hitterdal	Mazeppa	Shorewood	Winger
Crosby	Hoffman	<i>Medicine Lake</i>	Slayton	Winthrop
<i>Currie</i>	<i>Holdingford</i>	<i>Meire Grove</i>	<i>Solway</i>	Woodland
Cyrus	<i>Holloway</i>	Melrose	Spring Grove	Woodstock
<i>Dakota</i>	<i>Houston</i>	Menahga	Spring Valley	<i>Wykoff</i>
<i>Dalton</i>	Howard Lake	<i>Mendota</i>	Springfield	Zimmerman
Danvers	<i>Humboldt</i>	Miesville	St. Anthony	
Darwin	International Falls	<i>Minneiska</i>	<i>St. Bonifacius</i>	

We received and processed responses from cities listed in regular type.

We received responses from cities listed in italics with an asterisk (\*) too late for processing.

We did not receive responses from cities listed in italics.

**Table A.4: Towns in Our Sample**

<i>Alba</i>	Dahlgren	Hendrum	Middleville	Scambler
<i>Albion</i>	Darling	<i>Hersey</i>	Midway	<i>Shelburne</i>
Alden	Dassel	High Forest	Moore	<i>Shelby</i>
Alexandria	Deerwood	<i>Hines</i>	<i>Moose Lake</i>	<i>Shible*</i>
Andover	<i>Donnelly</i>	<i>Holt</i>	<i>Moose Park</i>	Silver Creek
Angus	Dublin	<i>Home</i>	<i>Morgan</i>	Silver Lake
<i>Ann</i>	Elizabeth	<i>Hudson</i>	<i>Mound</i>	Silver
<i>Arlington</i>	Elk Lake	Humboldt	<i>Moyer</i>	<i>Spencer Brook</i>
<i>Arrowhead</i>	<i>Ellsborough*</i>	<i>Huntsville</i>	Mudgett	<i>Springdale*</i>
<i>Barnett</i>	Elm Creek	Ida	Nebish	<i>Springfield</i>
Beauford	Euclid	Ideal	Nelson Park	Springwater
<i>Beaulieu</i>	Evergreen	Idun	<i>New Folden</i>	St. Charles
Belgrade	<i>Eyota*</i>	<i>Iron Range</i>	New Richland	<i>St. Vincent</i>
<i>Belle Prairie</i>	Fairfield	<i>Jamestown</i>	Nininger	Summit Lake
Bemidji	Farden	Jo Davies	Nokay Lake	Sumter
Benton	<i>Farmington</i>	<i>Judson</i>	North Fork	Tamarac
Bernadotte	Feeley	Kimberly	Oak	<i>Ten Mile Lake</i>
Beseman	Flom	Kingston	Page	<i>Three Lakes</i>
Beulah	Florida	<i>Kragnes</i>	<i>Parker</i>	Thunder Lake
Birch	Flowing	La Crescent	Parnell	Timothy
Bloomer	Ford	<i>Lake Benton</i>	Pepin	<i>Trout Lake</i>
Blue Earth City	Forest	Lake Henry	<i>Percy</i>	<i>Twin Lakes</i>
Brandrup	<i>Forest Prairie</i>	Lakewood	Plainview	Underwood
Bristol	<i>Fox Lake</i>	<i>Lamberton</i>	Pleasant Grove	<i>Union</i>
Campbell	<i>Foxhome</i>	<i>Laona</i>	<i>Pliny</i>	Vallers
<i>Canton</i>	Fremont	Lawrence	<i>Ponto Lake</i>	<i>Verdi</i>
Carpenter	Garrison	<i>Leaf River</i>	<i>Poppleton</i>	<i>Walcott</i>
Carson	Goodhue	Lee	<i>Racine</i>	Wang
Cedar Valley	Goose Prairie	<i>Lime</i>	<i>Rice*</i>	Warren
<i>Cedarbend</i>	Grace	Limestone	Rice Lake	<i>Warrenton</i>
Chatham	Grafton	<i>Litchfield</i>	<i>Ridgely</i>	<i>Wasioja</i>
Chengwatana	Granby	<i>Logan</i>	<i>River</i>	<i>Wheatland</i>
Clear Lake	Grand Lake	London	Riverdale	White Bear
<i>Clinton Falls</i>	Great Scott	<i>Lone Tree</i>	Roberts	Willmar
Clover	<i>Greenwood</i>	<i>Lura</i>	<i>Rocksbury</i>	<i>Winger</i>
Columbus	Halstad	<i>Lynden</i>	Rockwell	<i>Wolford</i>
Colvin	Hamden	Manyaska	<i>Rogers</i>	Woodland
Coon Creek	Hawk Creek	Marcell	Russia	<i>Woods*</i>
Cordova	Hegne	Medo	<i>Salo</i>	Wyoming
Custer	Helena	Merton	<i>Sandstone</i>	Zumbro

We received and processed responses from towns listed in regular type.

We received responses from towns listed in italics with an asterisk (\*) too late for processing.

We did not receive responses from towns listed in italics.

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**Table A.5: Comparison Between All Counties and Those Represented in the Survey**

	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Survey Respondents</u>
Region		
Central	31%	31%
Metropolitan	8	9
North	28	30
South	33	30
Population		
Fewer than 10,001	17%	17%
10,001 -- 20,000	29	27
20,001 -- 30,000	17	20
30,001 -- 50,000	17	13
50,001 -- 100,000	10	11
More than 100,000	9	13
Population Growth, 1997-98		
Yes	62	63
No	38	38

NOTE: Geographic region is based on the state's economic development regions. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

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**Table A.6: Comparison Between All Cities with at Least 10,000 Residents and Those Represented in the Survey**

	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Survey Respondents</u>
Region		
Central	8%	6%
Combination	1	3
Metropolitan	68	71
North	6	3
South	17	18
Population		
10,000 -- 13,000	15%	11%
13,001 -- 17,000	20	24
17,001 -- 21,000	17	16
21,001 -- 30,000	16	16
30,001 -- 50,000	18	21
More than 50,000	15	13
Population Growth, 1997-98		
Yes	82%	83%
No	18	18

NOTE: Geographic region is based on the state's economic development regions. The combination category includes cities whose boundaries include counties in two or more regions. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

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**Table A.7: Comparison Between All Cities with Fewer Than 10,000 Residents and Those Represented in the Survey**

	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Survey Respondents</u>
<b>Region</b>		
Central	32%	36%
Combination	1	2
Metropolitan	11	7
North	26	24
South	31	32
<b>Population</b>		
Fewer than 501	48%	43%
501 – 1,000	20	24
1,001 – 2500	17	19
2501 – 5000	9	8
5001 – 7500	4	3
7501 – 10,000	3	4
<b>Population Growth From 1997 to 1998</b>		
Yes	48%	48%
No	52	52

NOTE: Geographic region is based on the state's economic development regions. The combination category includes cities whose boundaries include counties in two or more regions. Statewide figures for population growth are based on our random sample and not the statewide population. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

**Table A.8: Comparison Between All Towns and Those Represented in the Survey**

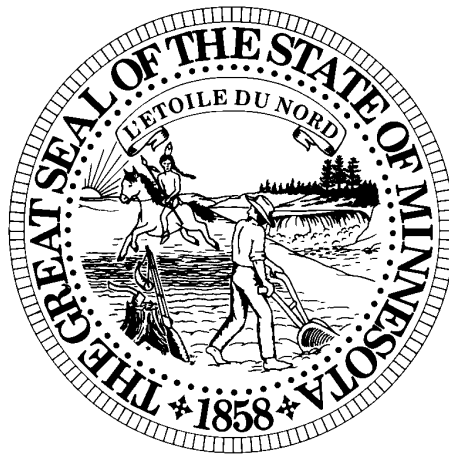
	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Survey Respondents</u>
<b>Region</b>		
Central	32%	33%
Metropolitan	3	5
North	37	32
South	28	30
<b>Population</b>		
Fewer than 501	70%	67%
501 – 1,000	19	18
1,001 – 1500	5	7
More than 1500	6	8

NOTE: Geographic region is based on the state's economic development regions. Estimates of town populations for 1998 were not available so no comparison on population growth could be made. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

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# Office of the Legislative Auditor

State of Minnesota



## Questionnaire on STATE MANDATES

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**Please return in postage-paid envelope by August 18, 1999.**

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# STATE MANDATES QUESTIONNAIRE

July 1999

## Office of the Legislative Auditor Program Evaluation Division

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Please complete this questionnaire about your county's views regarding state mandates on local government. It is designed to obtain opinions on state mandates in general and to identify specific mandates that help illustrate the concerns of local governments. The first two sections of this questionnaire focus on programs, services, or activities that the state requires local governments to perform, including conditions of receiving aid. The next sections refer to restrictions the state places upon local governments' ability to implement local programs or requirements or to raise revenue. The last two sections cover mechanisms created to deal with state mandates and state-local relationships.

Our study addresses mandates created by the Legislature in laws and by state agencies in rules. Federal requirements and restrictions are included in our study only if the state has adopted provisions that go beyond federal provisions.

Please answer this questionnaire from the perspective of your county, based upon your professional experience. To help ensure that your responses accurately reflect your county's opinions, we encourage you to get the input of county board members, department directors, or others you believe will help reflect your county's viewpoint. Please return only one questionnaire for your county. Because we are posing the same set of questions to county, city, and township administrators, some questions may not apply to your jurisdiction. In these instances, answer by checking "Not Applicable." *Unless otherwise indicated, please provide only one response per question.*

If any of your answers require additional explanation, please provide it in the margins or on another sheet of paper. When finished, sign the questionnaire and **return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope by August 18, 1999**. Feel free to enclose any additional materials that you think may assist us in our study.

If you have any questions about this questionnaire or our study, please contact Jo Vos, project manager (651/296-1233), or e-mail her at [jo.vos@state.mn.us](mailto:jo.vos@state.mn.us)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of permanent staff (in full-time equivalents) employed by your county as of July 1, 1999: \_\_\_\_\_



**FIRST, WE'D LIKE TO GET YOUR OVERALL IMPRESSIONS OF THE REQUIREMENTS THAT THE STATE PLACES ON COUNTIES.**

We use the word "**requirements**" to refer to state laws or rules that require local government to provide a service, perform a service in a certain way, or meet an outcome or goal, including those resulting from conditions of aid.

**1a. Overall, what impact do you think state requirements have on your county's ability to do its job well?**

- 1 State requirements make it considerably more difficult.  
 2 State requirements make it somewhat more difficult.  
 3 State requirements have little or no impact. (Go to Question 2.)  
 4 State requirements make it somewhat easier. (Go to Question 2.)  
 5 State requirements make it considerably easier. (Go to Question 2.)  
 8 Don't know (Go to Question 2.)

**1b. If state requirements make it more difficult, is it primarily due to specific state requirements or to the cumulative impact of state requirements?**

- 1 Specific requirements  
 2 Cumulative impact of requirements  
 8 Don't know

Questions 2 through 4 focus on **three different types of requirements** that the state might place on local government. The first type requires counties to provide certain programs or services or to meet certain goals or outcomes, but gives them latitude in how to do this. The second type requires counties to provide certain programs or services, but according to specific state standards. The third type requires counties to follow certain procedural or reporting requirements. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements, considering your county's overall experience with each type of requirement.

**2. In general, state laws or rules that require my county to provide certain programs or services or meet certain goals or outcomes, but give us latitude in how to do this, usually:**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
a. allow for sufficient flexibility.	1	2	3	4	5	7
b. lead to financial problems.	1	2	3	4	5	7
c. are adequately supported with state funds.	1	2	3	4	5	7
d. address concerns that are not problems locally.	1	2	3	4	5	7
e. make it difficult to address local priorities.	1	2	3	4	5	7
f. preempt local authority.	1	2	3	4	5	7
g. address problems that might be difficult to address locally because of resistance.	1	2	3	4	5	7

**3. In general, state laws or rules that require my county to provide certain programs or services according to *specific state standards* usually:**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
a. allow for sufficient flexibility.	1	2	3	4	5	7
b. lead to financial problems.	1	2	3	4	5	7
c. are adequately supported with state funds.	1	2	3	4	5	7
d. address concerns that are not problems locally.	1	2	3	4	5	7
e. make it difficult to address local priorities.	1	2	3	4	5	7
f. preempt local authority.	1	2	3	4	5	7
g. address problems that might be difficult to address locally because of resistance.	1	2	3	4	5	7

**4. In general, state laws or rules that require my county to follow certain procedural or reporting requirements usually:**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
a. allow for sufficient flexibility.	1	2	3	4	5	7
b. lead to financial problems.	1	2	3	4	5	7
c. are adequately supported with state funds.	1	2	3	4	5	7
d. address concerns that are not problems locally.	1	2	3	4	5	7
e. make it difficult to address local priorities.	1	2	3	4	5	7
f. preempt local authority.	1	2	3	4	5	7
g. address problems that might be difficult to address locally because of resistance.	1	2	3	4	5	7

**5. Please indicate whether you think it is generally *appropriate* for the state to place requirements on counties in each of the following areas of local government. If your county does not provide services in a particular area, please circle “Not Applicable.”**

For this question, “*appropriate*” means that you think the state has a justifiable reason for, or interest in, requiring minimum standards or services in that particular area.

Area of Local Government	State Requirements Are					
	Appropriate if Fully State-Funded	Appropriate if Partially State-Funded	Appropriate with No State Funding	Not Appropriate Regardless of State Funding	Not Applicable	Don't Know
a. General government (personnel, budget, finance, taxation, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8
b. Public safety (police, fire, corrections, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8
c. Infrastructure (buildings, roads, transportation, sewers, airports, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8
d. Environment (wetlands, pollution control, recycling, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8
e. Recreation and culture (parks, libraries, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8
f. Human services (income maintenance, child protection, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8

## Question 5, continued ...

Area of Local Government	State Requirements Are					
	Appropriate if Fully State-Funded	Appropriate if Partially State-Funded	Appropriate with No State Funding	Not Appropriate Regardless of State Funding	Not Applicable	Don't Know
g. Health services (vital statistics, immunizations, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8
h. Economic development (planning, zoning, tax increment financing, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8
i. Other ( <i>specify</i> ): _____	1	2	3	4	7	8

6. Now, please indicate how *reasonable*, in general, you think state requirements are in the following areas of local government. If your county does not provide services in a particular area, please circle "Not Applicable."

**"Reasonable"** means that, overall, you think state requirements in the area contain acceptable procedural requirements for providing services or set appropriate standards for the quality of service. **"Unreasonable"** means that, overall, state requirements in the area (a) require inappropriate types or levels of service for your county, (b) are inflexible or restrict local ability to implement cost-effective alternatives, or (c) are antiquated or no longer relevant.

Area of Local Government	Overall, State Requirements in this Area Are					
	Very Reasonable	Reasonable	Unreasonable	Very Unreasonable	Not Applicable	Don't Know
a. General government (personnel, budget, finance, taxation, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8
b. Public safety (police, fire, corrections, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8
c. Infrastructure (buildings, roads, transportation, sewers, airports, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8
d. Environment (wetlands, pollution control, recycling, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8
e. Recreation and culture (parks, libraries, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8
f. Human services (income maintenance, child protection, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8
g. Health services (vital statistics, immunizations, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8
h. Economic development (planning, zoning, tax increment financing, etc.)	1	2	3	4	7	8
i. Other ( <i>specify</i> ): _____	1	2	3	4	7	8

7a. Since January 1994, has your county had to do any of the following specifically to help cover the cost of state requirements?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
a. Increase local taxes	1	2	8
b. Increase fees or other charges	1	2	8
c. Reduce levels of local services	1	2	8
d. Forgo local priorities	1	2	8
e. Other (specify): _____	1	2	8

7b. If yes to any of the above activities, please describe what your county has done.

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**NEXT, WE'D LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT SPECIFIC STATE REQUIREMENTS THAT CREATE PROBLEMS FOR, OR ARE OBJECTIONABLE TO, YOUR COUNTY.**

Question 8 asks you to identify up to three state requirements that create the most problems for, or are the most objectionable to, your county. If state requirements are not a problem for, or are not objectionable to, your county, please skip to Question 24.

8. Please describe up to three state requirements that create the most problems for, or are the most objectionable to, your county, with "a" being of most concern to your county. Be specific in describing the requirement and why it is a problem or is objectionable. If possible, include statutory or administrative rule citations.

a. First requirement:

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b. Second requirement:

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c. Third requirement:

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Now, thinking about the requirement that you identified in *Question 8(a)*, please answer *Questions 9 through 13*. If you did not identify any requirements in *Question 8*, go to *Question 24*.

**9. Which of the following statements explains why your county has problems with, or objects to, this particular state requirement? (Check all that apply.)**

- a. It preempts local authority.
- b. It makes us do something that we would not otherwise do or would do to a lesser extent.
- c. It is designed in a way that makes it difficult for us to implement.
- d. We could probably meet the goals of the requirement in a less financially or administratively burdensome way.
- e. State funding for the requirement is insufficient to cover its cost.
- f. It does not take into consideration our local circumstances.
- g. It specifies how we must comply rather than setting overall goals for us to meet as we see fit.
- h. Other (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. If you checked more than one response in Question 9, please indicate which one of your responses is the *primary* reason your county has problems with, or objects to, this requirement.**

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**11. Did your county offer a similar service or perform a similar activity before it became a state requirement?**

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Partially
- 7 Not applicable
- 8 Don't know

**12. How do you think your county's expenditures on the required activity or service would be affected over the next five years if the state immediately discontinued the requirement?**

- 1 Probably increase significantly
- 2 Probably increase somewhat
- 3 Probably stay about the same
- 4 Probably decrease somewhat
- 5 Probably decrease significantly
- 8 Don't know

**13. Please describe how your county would likely respond if the state discontinued this particular requirement. (Be specific.)**

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*Thinking about the requirement that you identified in Question 8(b), please answer Questions 14 through 18. If you did not identify a requirement in Question 8(b), go to Question 24.*

**14. Which of the following statements explains why your county has problems with, or objects to, this particular state requirement? (Check all that apply.)**

- a. It preempts local authority.
- b. It makes us to do something that we would not otherwise do or would do to a lesser extent.
- c. It is designed in a way that makes it difficult for us to implement.
- d. We could probably meet the goals of the requirement in a less financially or administratively burdensome way.
- e. State funding for the requirement is insufficient to cover its cost.
- f. It does not take into consideration our local circumstances.
- g. It specifies how we must comply rather than setting overall goals for us to meet as we see fit.
- h. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**15. If you checked more than one response in Question 14, please indicate which one of your responses is the primary reason your county has problems with, or objects to, this requirement.**

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**16. Did your county offer a similar service or perform a similar activity before it became a state requirement?**

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Partially
- 7 Not applicable
- 8 Don't know

**17. How do you think your county's expenditures on the required activity or service would be affected over the next five years if the state immediately discontinued the requirement?**

- 1 Probably increase significantly
- 2 Probably increase somewhat
- 3 Probably stay about the same
- 4 Probably decrease somewhat
- 5 Probably decrease significantly
- 8 Don't know

**18. Please describe how your county would likely respond if the state discontinued this particular requirement. (Be specific.)**

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*Thinking about the requirement that you identified in Question 8(c), please answer Questions 19 through 23. If you did not identify a requirement in Question 8(c), go to Question 24.*

**19. Which of the following statements explains why your county has problems with, or objects to, this particular state requirement? (Check all that apply.)**

- a. It preempts local authority.
- b. It makes us do something that we would not otherwise do or would do to a lesser extent.
- c. It is designed in a way that makes it difficult for us to implement.
- d. We could probably meet the goals of the requirement in a less financially or administratively burdensome way.
- e. State funding for the requirement is insufficient to cover its cost.
- f. It does not take into consideration our local circumstances.
- g. It specifies how we must comply rather than setting overall goals for us to meet as we see fit.
- h. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**20. If you checked more than one response in Question 19, please indicate which one of your responses is the primary reason your county has problems with, or objects to, this requirement.**

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21. Did your county offer a similar service or perform a similar activity before it became a state requirement?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Partially
- 7 Not applicable
- 8 Don't know

22. How do you think your county's expenditures on the required activity or service would be affected over the next five years if the state immediately discontinued the requirement?

- 1 Probably increase significantly
- 2 Probably increase somewhat
- 3 Probably stay about the same
- 4 Probably decrease somewhat
- 5 Probably decrease significantly
- 8 Don't know

23. Please describe how your county would likely respond if the state discontinued this particular requirement. (Be specific.)

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**NOW WE'D LIKE TO GET YOUR GENERAL IMPRESSIONS ON THE RESTRICTIONS THAT THE STATE PLACES ON COUNTIES.**

We use the word "restrictions" to refer to state laws or rules that prevent a local government from providing a service, adopting local requirements, or raising revenue.

24. Overall, what impact do you think state restrictions have on your county's ability to do its job well?

- 1 State restrictions make it considerably more difficult.
- 2 State restrictions make it somewhat more difficult.
- 3 State restrictions have little or no impact.
- 4 State restrictions make it somewhat easier.
- 5 State restrictions make it considerably easier.
- 7 Not applicable
- 8 Don't know

Questions 25 and 26 focus on two different types of restrictions that the state might place on local government. The first type of restriction limits counties' ability to engage in certain services or activities or to adopt local requirements. The second type limits counties' ability to raise revenue through local taxes, fees, or special assessments. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements, considering your county's overall experience with each type of restriction.



**25. In general, state laws or rules that restrict my county’s ability to engage in certain services or activities or to adopt local requirements usually:**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
a. create administrative problems.	1	2	3	4	5	7
b. lead to financial problems.	1	2	3	4	5	7
c. address concerns that are not problems locally.	1	2	3	4	5	7
d. make it difficult to address local priorities.	1	2	3	4	5	7
e. preempt local authority.	1	2	3	4	5	7
f. set justifiable limits on local government.	1	2	3	4	5	7

**26. In general, state laws and rules that restrict my county’s ability to raise revenue through local taxes, fees, or special assessments usually:**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable
a. create administrative problems.	1	2	3	4	5	7
b. lead to financial problems.	1	2	3	4	5	7
c. address concerns that are not problems locally.	1	2	3	4	5	7
d. make it difficult to address local priorities.	1	2	3	4	5	7
e. preempt local authority.	1	2	3	4	5	7
f. set justifiable limits on local government.	1	2	3	4	5	7

**NOW WE’D LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT SPECIFIC STATE RESTRICTIONS THAT CREATE PROBLEMS FOR, OR ARE OBJECTIONABLE TO, YOUR COUNTY.**

*Question 27 asks you to identify up to three state restrictions that create the most problems for, or are the most objectionable to, your county. If state restrictions are not a problem for, or are not objectionable to, your county, please skip to Question 38.*

**27. Please describe up to three state restrictions that create the most problems for, or are the most objectionable to, your county, with “a” being of most concern to your county. Be specific in describing the restriction and why it is a problem or is objectionable. If possible, include statutory or administrative rule citations.**

a. First restriction: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Second restriction: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. Third restriction: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now, thinking about the restriction that you identified in Question 27(a), please answer Questions 28 through 30. If you did not identify any restrictions in Question 27, go to Question 38.

**28. Which of the following statements explains why your county has problems with, or objects to, this particular restriction? (Check all that apply.)**

- a. It preempts local authority.
- b. It hampers our ability to raise funds.
- c. It prevents us from providing certain services or performing certain activities.
- d. It does not take into consideration our local circumstances.
- e. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**29. If you checked more than one response in Question 28, please indicate which one of your responses is the *primary* reason your county has problems with, or objects to, the restriction.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**30. Please describe how your county would likely respond if the state discontinued the restriction. (Be specific.)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thinking about the restriction that you identified in *Question 27(b)*, please answer Questions 31 through 33. If you did not identify a restriction in *Question 27(b)*, go to *Question 37*.

**31. Which of the following statements explains why your county has problems with, or objects to, this particular restriction? (Check all that apply.)**

- a. It preempts local authority.
- b. It hampers our ability to raise funds.
- c. It prevents us from providing certain services or performing certain activities.
- d. It does not take into consideration our local circumstances.
- e. Other (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

**32. If you checked more than one response in Question 31, please indicate which one of your responses is the *primary* reason your county has problems with, or objects to, the restriction.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**33. Please describe how your county would likely respond if the state discontinued the restriction. (Be specific.)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thinking about the restriction that you identified in *Question 27(c)*, please answer Questions 34 through 36. If you did not identify a restriction in *Question 27(c)*, go to *Question 37*.

**34. Which of the following statements explains why your county has problems with, or objects to, this restriction? (Check all that apply.)**

- a. It preempts local authority.
- b. It hampers our ability to raise funds.
- c. It prevents us from providing certain services or performing certain activities.
- d. It does not take into consideration our local circumstances.
- e. Other (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

**35. If you checked more than one response in Question 34, please indicate which one of your responses is the *primary* reason why your county has problems with, or objects to, the restriction.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**36. Please describe how your county would likely respond if the state discontinued the restriction. (Be specific.)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*In Questions 8 and 27, you identified up to six state requirements and restrictions that create problems for, or are objectionable to, your county.*

**37. Please rank the state requirements and restrictions that you identified in Questions 8 and 27 in order of concern for your county, with “1” being of most concern and “6” being of least concern.**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_

**NEXT, WE’D LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT SOME OF THE MECHANISMS MINNESOTA CURRENTLY HAS IN PLACE TO ADDRESS ISSUES REGARDING STATE REQUIREMENTS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

*When the Legislature considers proposed legislation that would place new requirements on local government, legislators may request that **local fiscal impact notes** be prepared. These notes provide cost information about the fiscal impact of the proposed legislation on some local units of government.*

**38. Were you aware that the Legislature has created a local fiscal impact note process?**

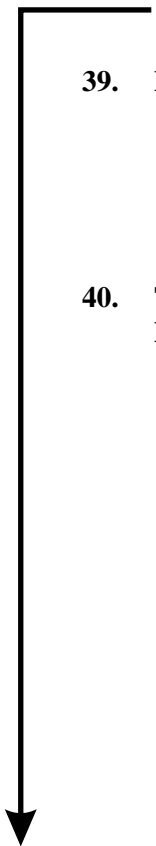
- 1 Yes
- 2 No (*Go to instructions for Question 43a.*)

**39. Has your county ever been involved in preparing a local fiscal impact note?**

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 7 Not applicable
- 8 Don’t know

**40. To what extent do you think local fiscal impact notes provide accurate information to the Legislature?**

- 1 Information is very accurate.
- 2 Information is somewhat accurate.
- 3 Information is not accurate at all.
- 7 Not applicable
- 8 Don’t know



**41. To what extent do you think the Legislature uses the information in local fiscal impact notes when considering a particular state mandate for local governments?**

- 1 Uses to a great extent
- 2 Uses somewhat
- 3 Uses not at all
- 7 Not applicable
- 8 Don't know

**42. What changes, if any, do you think should be made to the local fiscal impact note process?**

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*The Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation has the authority to provide temporary waivers of administrative rules and procedural laws to local units of government that request them. Individual state agencies can also grant waivers from their administrative rules.*

**43a. Has your county ever applied to the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation for a waiver?**

- 1 Yes (Go to Question 44.)
- 2 No
- 8 Don't know (Go to Question 44.)

**43b. If no, why not?**

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**44. What changes, if any, should be made to the waiver process through the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation?**

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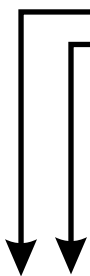
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**45a. Since January 1994, has your county applied to a state agency for a waiver from a rule?**

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (Go to Question 45c.)
- 8 Don't know (Go to Question 46.)



**45b. If yes, list the agencies involved and whether the waivers were granted. (Then go to Question 46.)**

Agency _____	Waiver Granted?			
	Yes	Partially	No	Don't Know
a. _____	1	2	3	8
b. _____	1	2	3	8
c. _____	1	2	3	8

**45c. If you answered no to Question 45(a), please explain why your county has never applied to a state agency for a waiver from a rule.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**46. What changes, if any, should be made to state agencies' waiver processes to make them more useful to counties?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FINALLY, WE'D LIKE TO GET YOUR OPINIONS ON COUNTY-STATE RELATIONSHIPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE.**

**47. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about county-state relationships?**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. The Legislature does a good job seeking input from counties about proposed legislation that would place requirements or restrictions on us.	1	2	3	4	5
b. The Legislature is responsive to local concerns when considering proposed legislation that would place requirements or restrictions on us.	1	2	3	4	5
c. Local government associations do a good job of representing my county's concerns about requirements and restrictions before the Legislature.	1	2	3	4	5
d. State agencies do a good job seeking input from counties about proposed rules that would place requirements or restrictions on us.	1	2	3	4	5

**Question 47, continued ...**

	Strongly <u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	No <u>Opinion</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	Strongly <u>Disagree</u>
e. State agencies are responsive to local concerns when considering proposed rules that would place requirements or restrictions on us.	1	2	3	4	5
f. State agencies are generally receptive to requests for waivers from rules.	1	2	3	4	5

**48. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

	Strongly <u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	No <u>Opinion</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	Strongly <u>Disagree</u>
a. Counties should continue to meet state requirements even if state funding is insufficient.	1	2	3	4	5
b. Counties should have more flexibility when it comes to meeting state requirements.	1	2	3	4	5
c. In exchange for increased flexibility in meeting state requirements, counties should accept a greater portion of the costs.	1	2	3	4	5
d. A state advisory commission on intergovernmental relations should be created to help address state-local issues.	1	2	3	4	5
e. State requirements and restrictions on counties should be accompanied by a clear statement of the Legislature's rationale for creating them.	1	2	3	4	5
f. State requirements and restrictions are an appropriate means of holding counties accountable.	1	2	3	4	5
g. The Legislature should provide more aid to counties to cover the costs of requirements and restrictions.	1	2	3	4	5
h. The Legislature should relax revenue-raising constraints on counties.	1	2	3	4	5
i. State requirements should focus on outcomes rather than specific programs or procedures.	1	2	3	4	5
j. The Legislature should assume greater responsibility for delivering services or administering programs.	1	2	3	4	5

**49. If you have any recommendations for how the Legislature could improve the process of passing or reviewing requirements or restrictions on local government, please list them below.**

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