

2026 Legislative Meeting

January 16, 2026

Nicollet County Government Center Board Room • 501 S Minnesota Ave. St. Peter, MN 56082

Commissioners: Mark Dehen - Board Chair, Kurt Zins - Vice Chair, Jack Kolars, Nicole Helget, Marie Dranttel

9:00 a.m. 1. Welcome and Introductions: Chair Mark Dehen

Invited Guests:

- State Senator Nick Frentz
- State Representative Erica Schwartz
- Chuck Ackman (U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar)
- Jeanne Poppe (U.S. Senator Tina Smith)
- Isaiah Osborne (U.S. Congressman Brad Finstad)
- Association of Minnesota Counties

9:10 a.m. 2. Discussion Items from County Board Members

3. Discussion Items from Department Leaders

Health and Human Services - Director Cassie Sassenberg

- Addressing Minnesota's Crisis in Services for Children & Adults with Complex Needs
- Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act- Fiscal Needs and Policy Amendments
- Cost and Workload Shift for Federal SNAP Changes/Medicaid Response to Federal Reconciliation Bill also known as H.R.1
- HHS Modernization/Technology

County Attorney – Michelle Zehnder Fischer

- Brady/Giglio legislation
- Statute regarding preventing the disclosure of evidence presented in Court that is clearly offensive to common sensibilities
- Focus on continuing to review and amend Minn. Stat. §§ 611.40 – 611.59, Competency Proceedings
- Review of offenses eligible under the Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act (MRRRA)

4. Other Department Items

10:15 a.m. 5. Comments from Federal and State Officials and Staff

10:30 a.m. 6. Wrap Up/Thank You – Chair Dehen

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Mission Statement

Providing efficient services with innovation and accountability.

Vision Statement

Setting the standard for providing superior and efficient county government services through leadership, accountability and innovation to a growing and diverse society.

Core Values

Leadership. Integrity. Accountability. Efficiency. Innovation.