

The Power & Importance of Township Boards



What is a Township Board?

Townships are governed by an elected board of three supervisors, a treasurer, and a clerk. The board can take charge of all town affairs not committed to other officers by law, even if it's currently overseen by a higher office.

Examples of this include:

- Planning & zoning
- Build & acquire buildings
- Acquire & maintain cemeteries
- Law enforcement powers
- Establish a fire department
- Waste disposal
- Establish parks
- Expanded road powers
- Regulate snow & ice removal
- Regulate water supply

What does a Township Supervisor do?

The elected supervisors, treasurer and clerk meet once a month. They can make decisions on behalf of the town and have the responsibility to see that the town fulfills its duties to the state and to town residents.

Common duties include:

- awarding contracts
- authorizing township expenditures
- adopting ordinances

Township Boards have authority over the general welfare of the community. They can adopt ordinances to protect community health, safety, order, convenience, or other areas deemed general welfare.



Prepared and paid for by the Land Stewardship Action Fund, www.landstewardshipaction.org. It is not coordinated with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it.



Why is this important for Land Stewardship?

Good local government in Minnesota is critical because of our **strong local control** laws. Local elected officials determine the quality of life for residents and give people a voice in how their township is managed. The decision-making is more directly connected and responsive to the specific needs and concerns of the community. This form of governance is typically more accessible to the public, and elected officials are often more engaged with constituents. Ultimately, strong local governance in the form of Township Boards is crucial to building and maintaining healthy, vibrant and prosperous communities.

How do they advance LSP's work?

- Set permanent or temporary water or land use restrictions within the township.
- These could pertain to Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), Data Centers, fertilizer use or anything else they deem.

Township Day!

- Most township elections are held annually on the second Tuesday in March; however, some townships have voted to hold elections in November.
- Regardless of when elections are, the annual meeting (a.k.a. Township Day) is still held on the second Tuesday of March, every year.
- This day allows residents to play an important role in the decision-making process, voting on township levies (taxes) – how much they are and how they're spent.

Get Involved - Attend the annual Township Day meeting and the monthly meetings at the Town Hall. When and where the meetings are held is posted in a general circulation newspaper or you can contact your Township Clerk. Not sure who your Township Clerk is? Reach out to your County office and they can get you connected!

