

A photograph of the Steele County Administration Center. The building is a two-story brick structure with large glass windows and a central entrance. A large tree is on the right, and a grassy lawn is in the foreground. A sign on the lawn reads "Steele County Administration Center" and "630 Florence".

Steele County

2026 Performance Measures

Steele County
Administration Center
630 Florence



Mission Statement

Driven to deliver quality services in a respectful and fiscally responsible way.

Vision Statement

First in Service. First in Stewardship.
The County of choice...today and tomorrow.

About the Program

In 2010, the Legislature created the Council on Local Results and Innovation. In February 2011, the Council released a standard set of ten performance measures for counties and ten performance measures for cities that will aid residents, taxpayers, and state and local elected officials in determining the efficacy of counties and cities in providing services and measure residents' opinions of those services. In February of 2012, the Council created a comprehensive performance measurement system for cities and counties to implement. In 2013, the Council revised the performance measures and clarified the system requirements to increase participation in the program.

Participation in the standard measures program by a city or a county is voluntary. Counties and cities that choose to participate in the standard measures program must officially adopt and implement the ten minimum performance measures and system developed by the Council.

A county or city that elects to participate in the standard measures/performance measurement program is eligible for a reimbursement of \$0.14 per capita, not to exceed \$25,000 and is also exempt from levy limits under sections 275.70 to 275.74 for taxes payable in the following calendar year, if levy limits are in effect. However, participation in the standard measures/performance measurement program does not exempt a county or city from the new 2013 property tax levy limits, which are found in a different section of law.

Public Works

Hours to Plow Complete System During a Snow Event

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
2 to 4 inches of snowfall	6 hours	6 hours	6 hours	6 hours	6 hours
6 plus inches of snowfall	8 hours	8 hours	8 hours	8 hours	8 hours

Pavement Conditions

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Average County Pavement Condition Rating	76.0	76.3	76.3	75.5	75.5

The Minnesota Department of Transportation rates Steele County Roads every two years on a scale from 0 (poor) to 100 (excellent) based on the types of pavement distresses and the smoothness of the surface.

Bridge Sufficiency

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Average Bridge Sufficiency Rating	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Local Planning Index	86.2	86.2	85.8	85.8	83.8

The Bridge Sufficiency rating is a measurement of the overall rating of a bridge's fitness on a scale from 0 (poor) to 100 (excellent) for the duty that it performs based on factors derived from over 20 National Bridge Inventory (NBI) data fields, including fields that describe its structural evaluation, functional obsolescence, and its essentiality to the public.

In 2020, MnDOT changed the bridge rating system from "Sufficiency Ratings" to "Local Planning Index". Both measure the bridge's condition on the same scale, 0 (poor) to 100 (excellent), but using differing calculations. The Local Planning Index uses a more risk-based approach than the Sufficiency Rating, factoring both the consequences of a service interruption and the probability of service interruption.

Public Health, Social Services

<i>Tobacco and Alcohol Use</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Tobacco Use, Steele County	18%	18%	18%	16%	15%
Tobacco Use, State of Minnesota	16%	15%	14%	16%	16%
Excessive Alcohol Use, Steele County	23%	25%	23%	21%	21%
Excessive Alcohol Use, State of Minnesota	23%	23%	22%	21%	21%

A statistic from County Health Rankings, adult smoking is based on Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) data and is the percentage of the adult population in a county who both report that they currently smoke every day or most days and have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime. Excessive alcohol use measures the percentage of a county's adult population that reports binge or heavy drinking in the past 30 days.

<i>Number of Low-Weight Births</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Steele County	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%
State of Minnesota	7%	7%	7%	6%	7%

Another statistic from County Health Rankings, low birthweight is the percentage of live births where an infant weighed less than 2,500 grams (approximately 5 lbs., 8 oz.).

Property Records, Valuation, Assessment

<i>Level of Assessment Ratio</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Assessment Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2026
Residential Property	93.2%	93.2%	92.3%	93.58%	92.95%
Apartments	99.7%	99.7%	95.6%	95.44%	93.55%
Agricultural Property	97.2%	98.5%	93.8%	92.28%	97.17%
Commercial / Industrial Property	96.7%	97.7%	98.8%	96.53%	91.68%

The level of assessment ratio is an indication of the quality and accuracy of the County's property value assessments. It is based on the difference between a property's assessed value and the actual sale price of the property. If the median ratio falls between 90% and 105%, the level of assessment is determined to be acceptable.

** Median ratio based on six or more sales transactions during the assessment year.*

Budget and Financial

<i>Bond Rating</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Standard & Poor's	AA	AA	AA+	AA+	AA+

<i>Outstanding Bonded Debt</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Debt Service Levy Per Capita	\$49.77	\$49.54	\$48.06	\$50.76	\$30.39
Total Outstanding Debt Per Capita	\$349.05	\$298.06	\$240.72	\$203.25	\$106.50

The debt service levy includes the amount of bonded debt funded by the property tax levy. The total outstanding debt includes both levied and non-levied bonded debt outstanding. Each of these figures are divided by the Minnesota State Demographic Centers estimated population of Steele County.

Environmental

<i>Recycling</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Steele County Recycling Percentage	56.0%	55.0%	55.0%	51.0%	52.0%

The recycling percentage is a calculation of the total tonnage collected for recycling divided by the total municipal solid waste (MSW) generated. In 1989, Minnesota Legislation set county recycling goals. Each Greater Minnesota County (outside of the seven-county Metro Area) must recycle a minimum of 35% by weight of total solid waste generation. In 2024, SCORE reporting materials calculations have changed, which have moved materials to different sub-categories, therefore lowering the total annual recycling percentage as previously reported.

<i>Waste Collections (lbs.)</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Household Hazardous Waste Collections	23,892	22,686	22,774	21,463	21,300
Electronics Collected	66,355	40,158	65,015	39,675	28,950

Proper disposal of leftover chemicals, household products, and electronics help protect the environment and people's health. The Steele County Landfill collects unwanted electronics for recycling and household hazardous products, such as paints, cleaners, oils, and pesticides.

Data Sources

Hours to Plow Complete System	Steele County Highway Department
County Pavement Condition Rating	Steele County Highway Department
Bridge Sufficiency Rating	Steele County Highway Department
Tobacco and Alcohol Use	County Health Rankings: http://www.countyhealthrankings.org
Low-weight Births	County Health Rankings: http://www.countyhealthrankings.org
Level of Assessment Ratio	Steele County Assessor's Office
Bond Rating	Steele County Finance Office
Debt Outstanding	Steele County Finance Office
Recycling	Score Report
Waste Collections	Steele County Landfill