North Dakota County Government
History & Structure
Presentation Outline

✓ County Government in America
✓ County Development in North Dakota
✓ North Dakota Association of Counties
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Government Roles & Powers

Federal

Local

State
Land Patterns of North Dakota
Historically
United States Counties - 3095
Initially Elected County Officials

Originally Appointed County Officials
County Governments have only three types of powers:

- Those expressly granted to them by the state legislature
- Powers necessary and incident to the execution of the express powers, and
- Powers absolutely necessary to the discharge of the express powers”
“The County: The Dark Continent of American Politics”

- The reformers’ agenda for counties: 1900-1920

  - Move to appoint more officials rather than elect them – reverse of previous century
  - Salaried officials – less dependent on fees
  - Increased professionalism – qualifications
  - Home Rule
Percentage Change in Total Population
U.S. Counties: 1990 to 2000

CENSUS: POPULATION CHANGE: 2000-10

% CHANGE
-46.6% to -10.1%
-10% to 0.1%
0% to 0.1%
9.7% to 24.9%
25% to 49.9%
50% to 100.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau/IRE
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Counties – Dakota Territory
Counties – Dakota Territory

1873
Counties – Dakota Territory

1873
Counties – Dakota Territory

1878
Counties – Dakota Territory

1888
North Dakota Counties - 53
County Structure

Voters

- Auditor
- Sheriff
- State's Attorney
- Commission
- Treasurer
- Recorder
County Structure - Commissions

3-Member Commissions
What is an association?
Why do counties need an association?
NDACo Structure – Formation
NDACo 1975-2005
Strategic Planning and the Future
North Dakota Association of Counties
Organization & Structure

Link to YouTube videos:

NDACo Origins & Structure
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgr2uJYjljA

NDACo Subsidiaries Legal & Tax Structure
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaHtFYfTQ00&t=31s