



# North Dakota County Government History & Structure

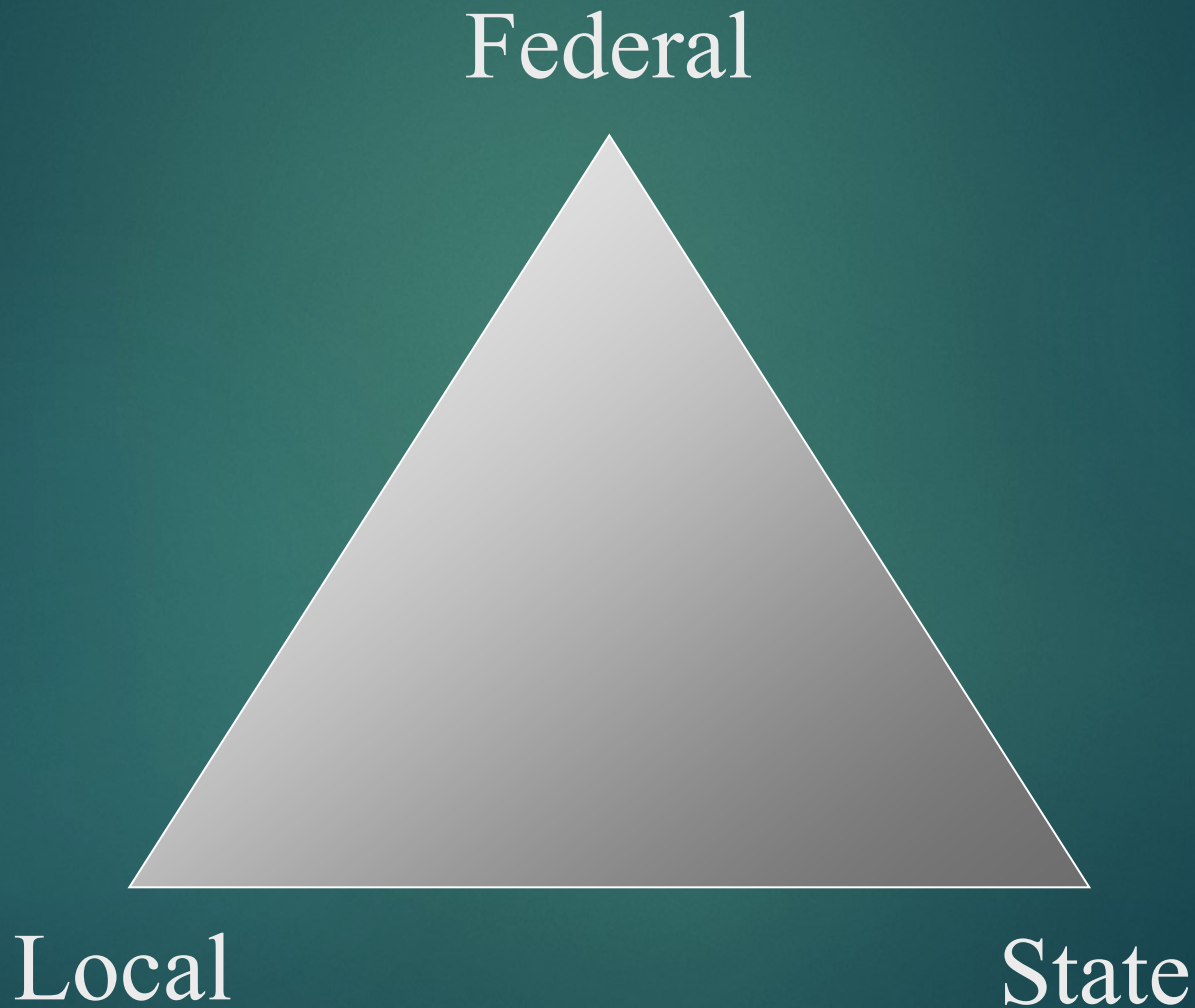
# Presentation Outline

- ✓ **County Government in America**
- ✓ **County Development in North Dakota**
- ✓ **North Dakota Association of Counties**

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# Government Roles & Powers

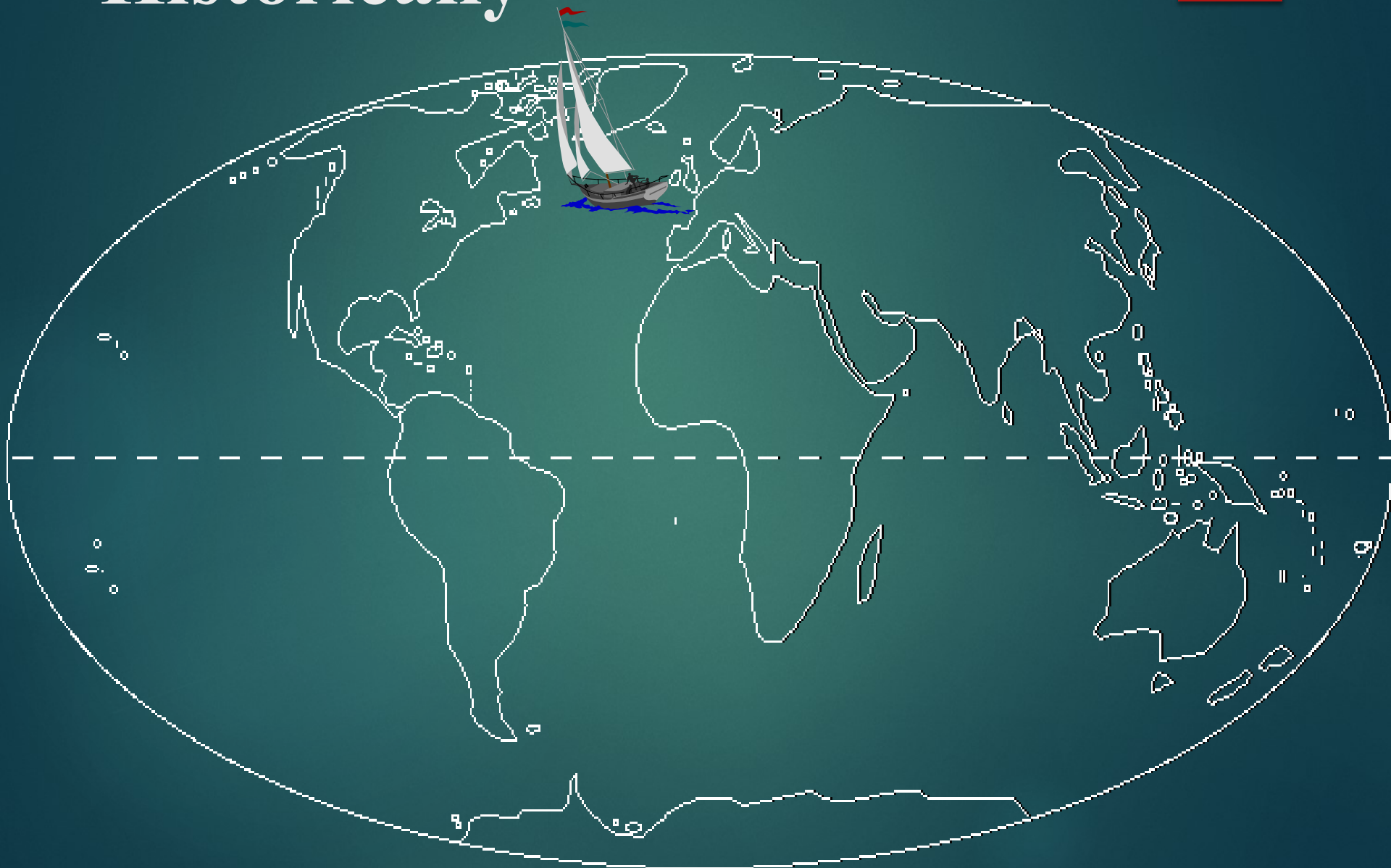


# Land Patterns of North Dakota





# Historically



# United States Counties - 3095

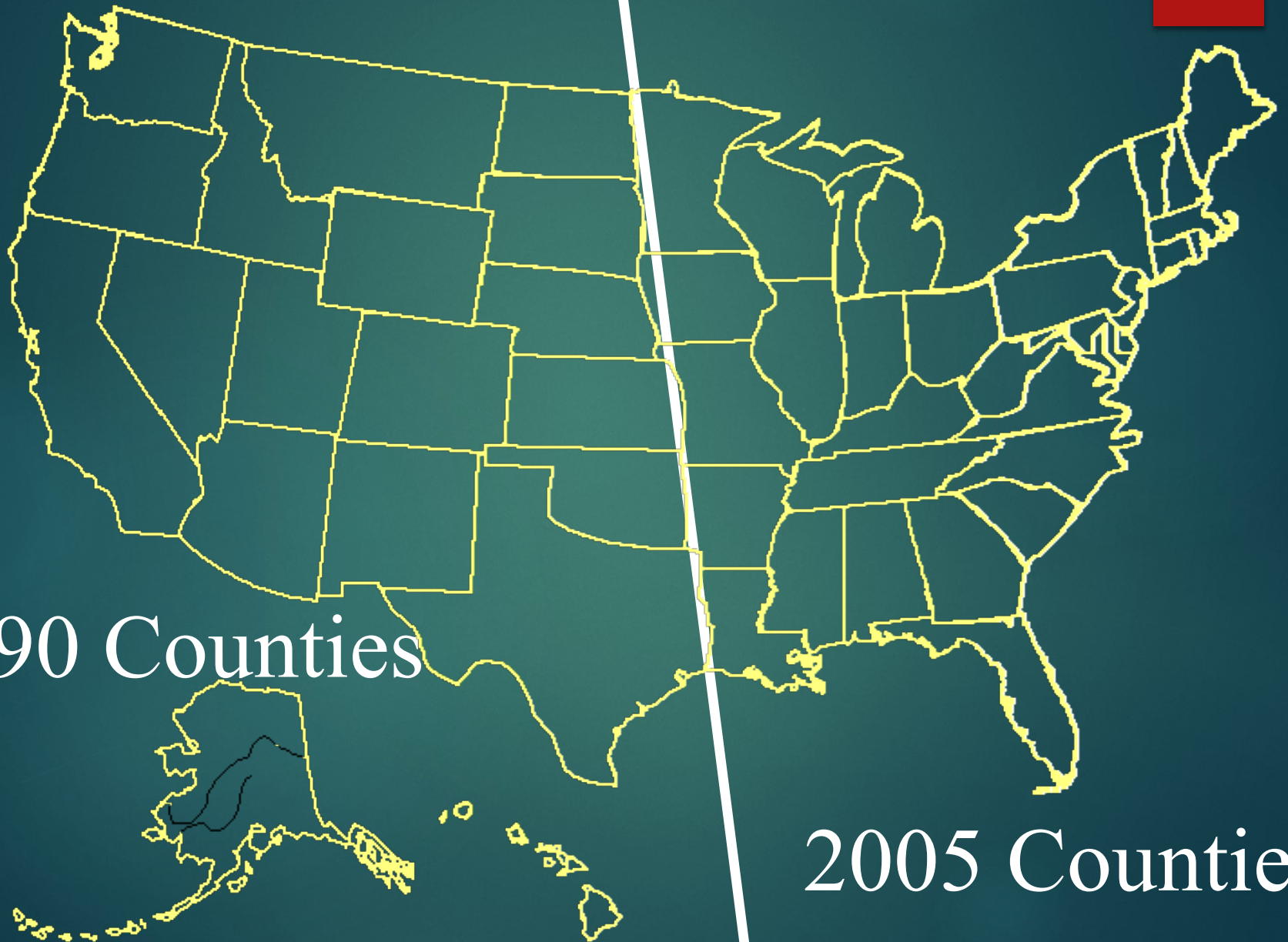


# United States Counties - 3095





# United States Counties - 3095



1090 Counties

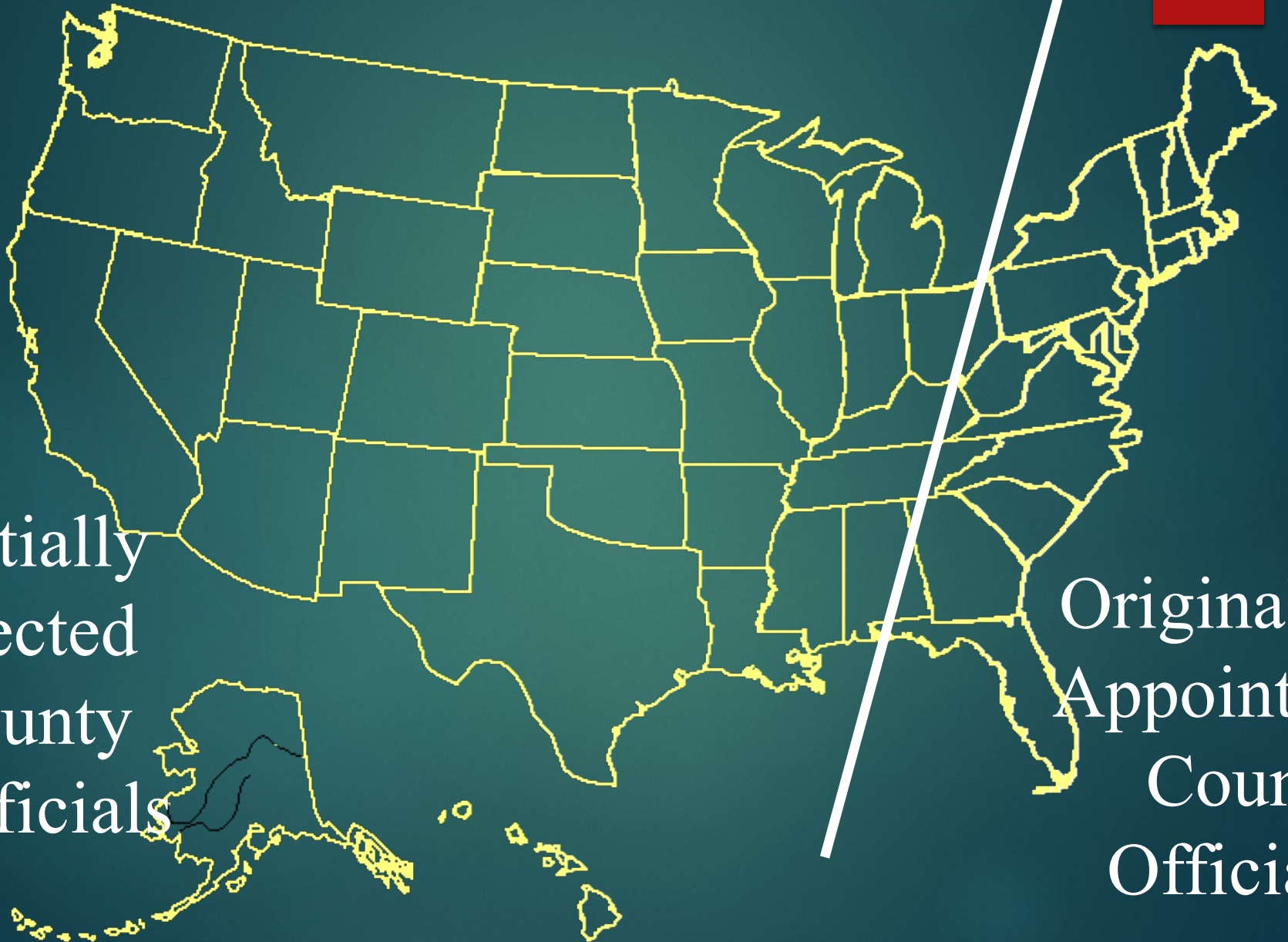
2005 Counties

# United States Counties - 3095



Initially  
Elected  
County  
Officials

Originally  
Appointed  
County  
Officials



# **Dillon's Rule** (Merriam v. Moody's Executors)

 **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

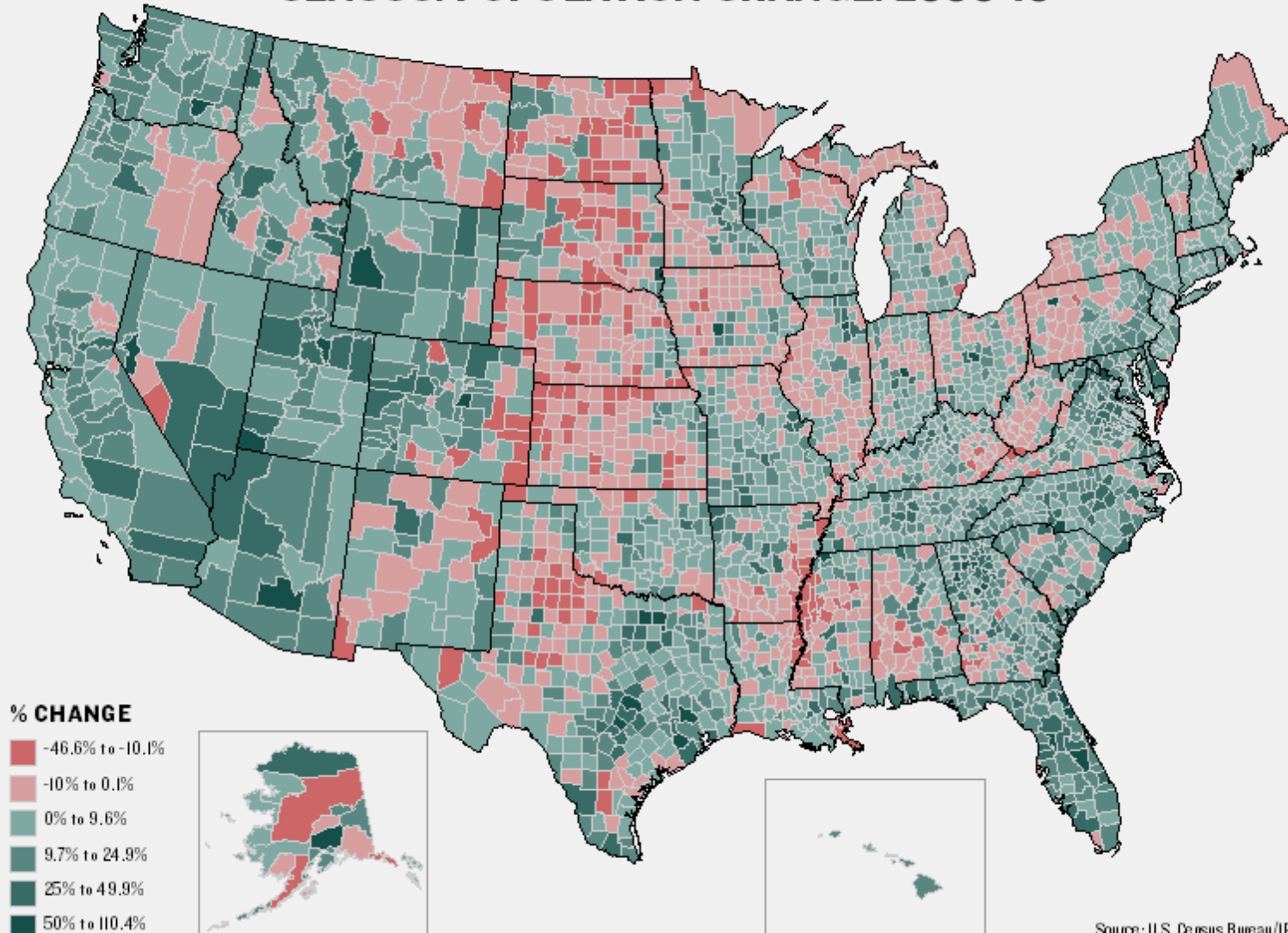
- ✓ Move to appoint more officials rather than elect them – reverse of previous century
- ✓ Salaried officials – less dependent on fees
- ✓ Increased professionalism – qualifications
- ✓ Home Rule



# Percentage Change in Total Population

U.S. Counties: 1990 to 2000

## CENSUS: POPULATION CHANGE: 2000-10



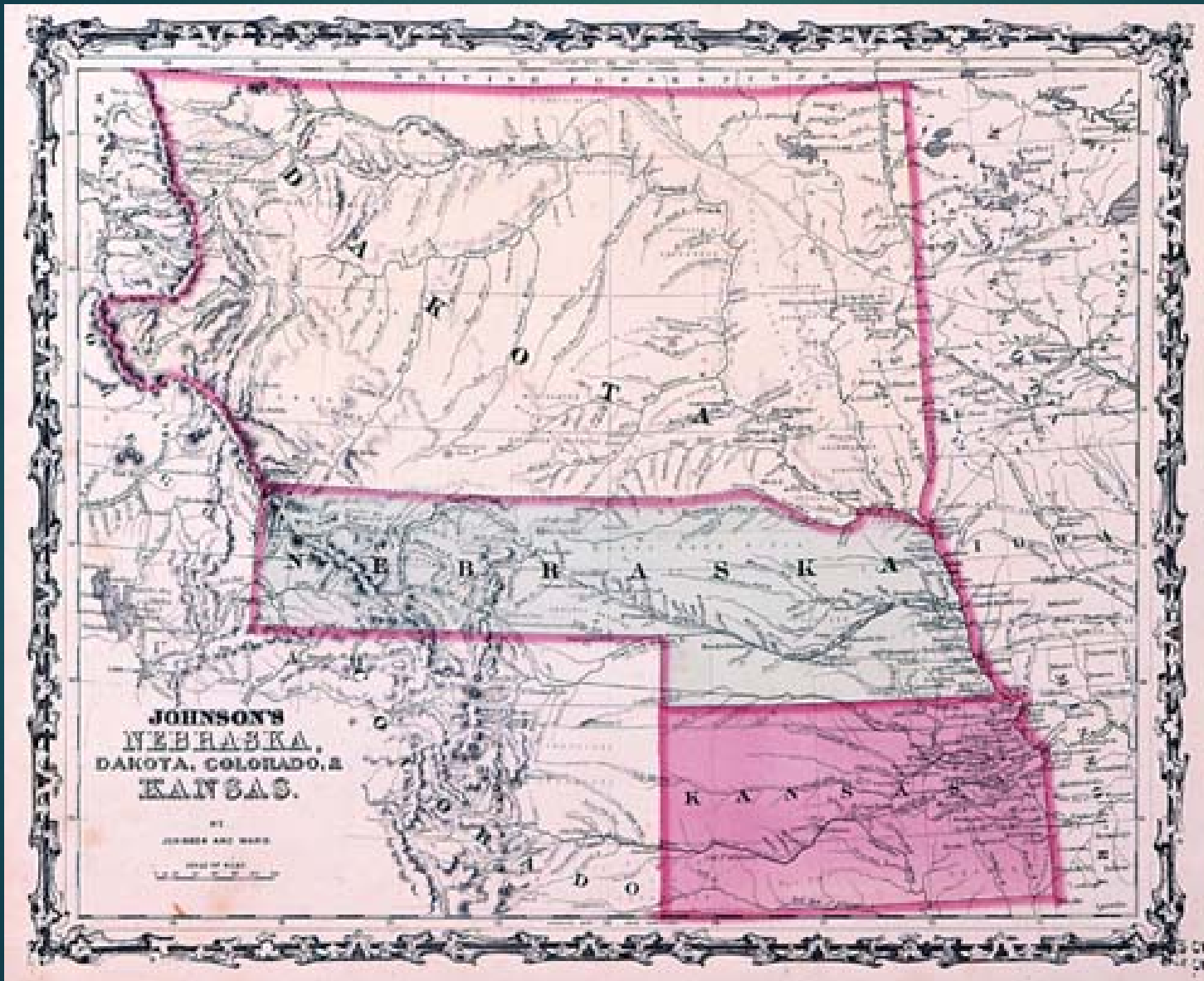
Source: U.S. Census Bureau/IRE



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# Counties – Dakota Territory



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1873

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1873

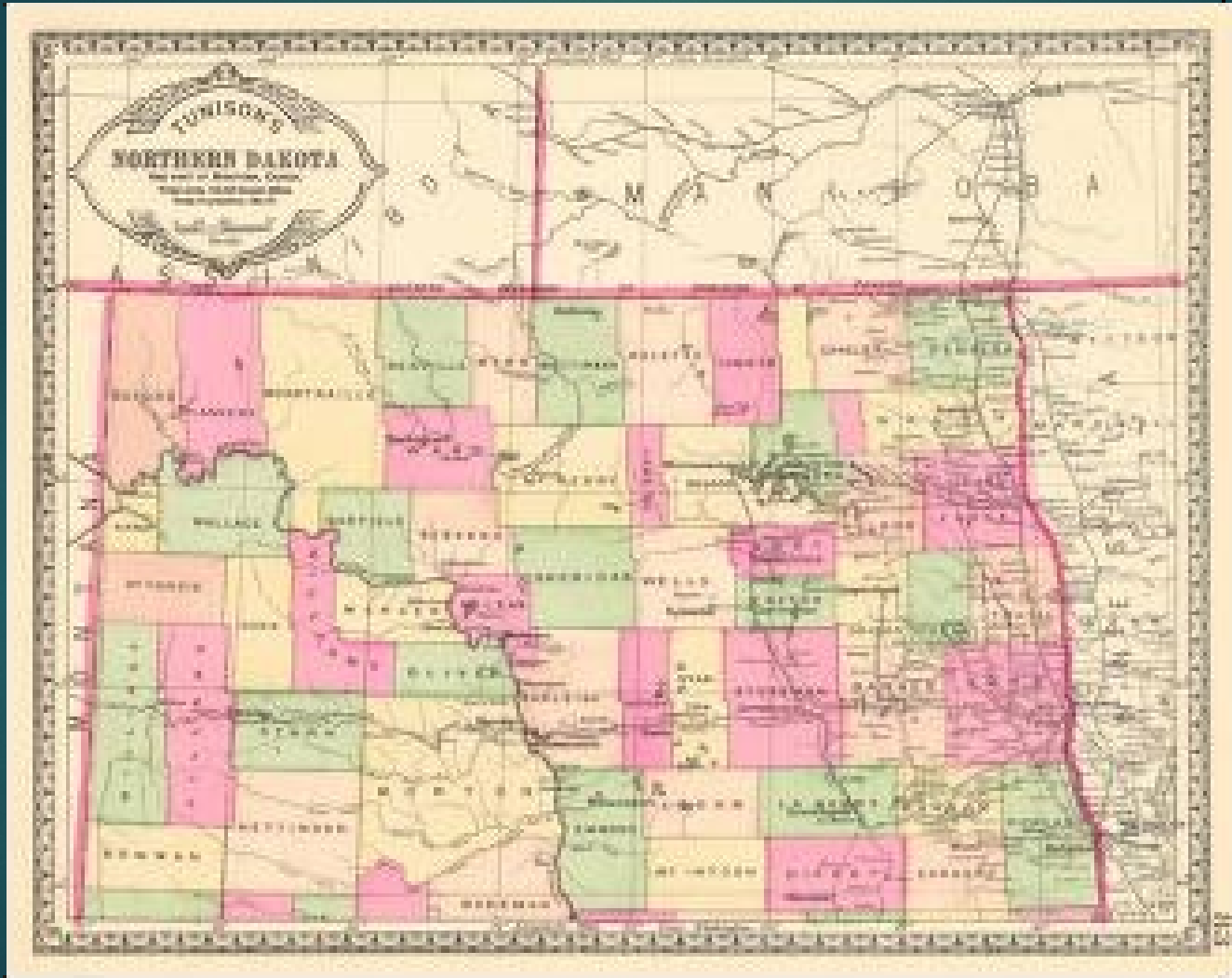
# Counties – Dakota Territory



1878

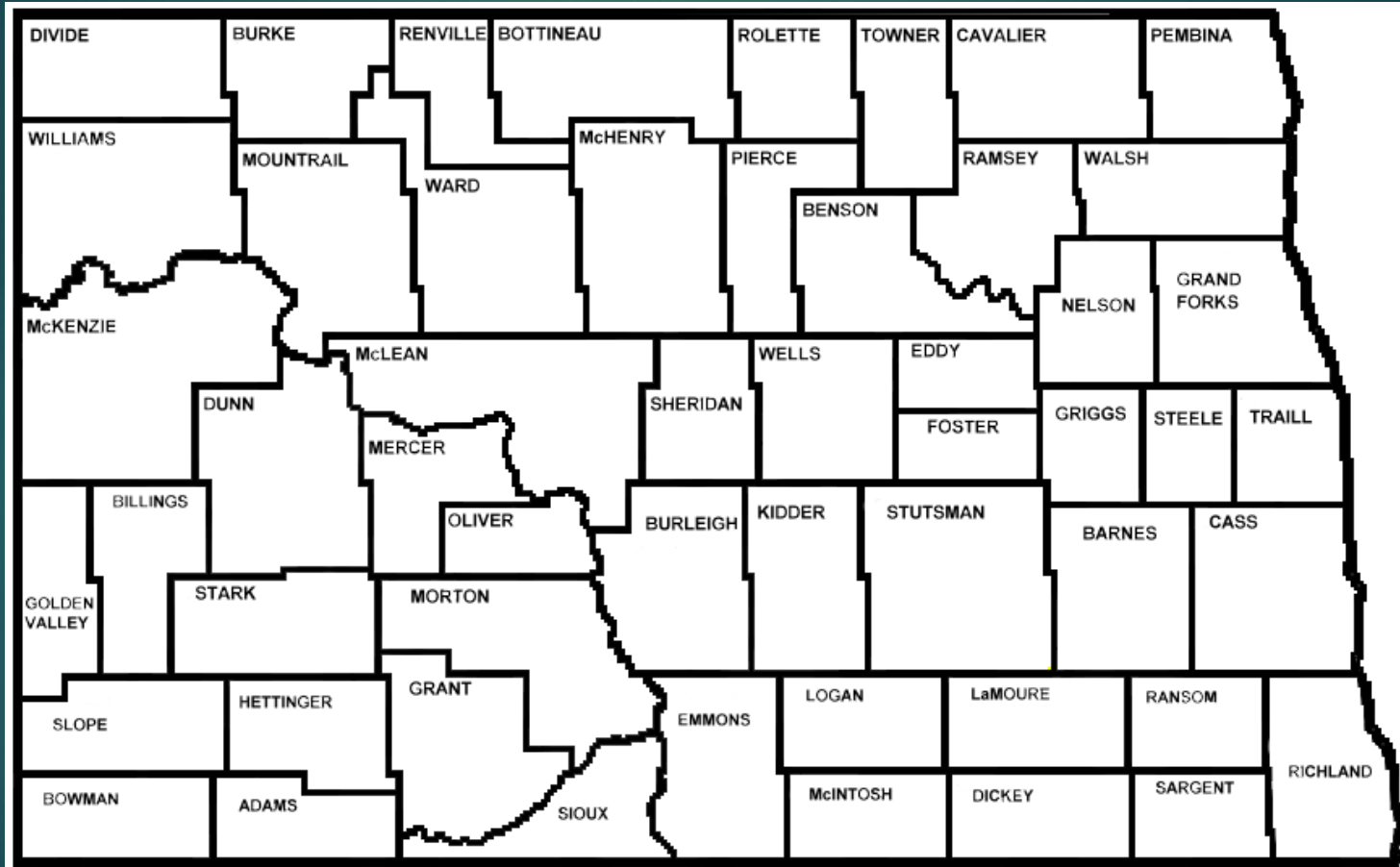


# Counties – Dakota Territory

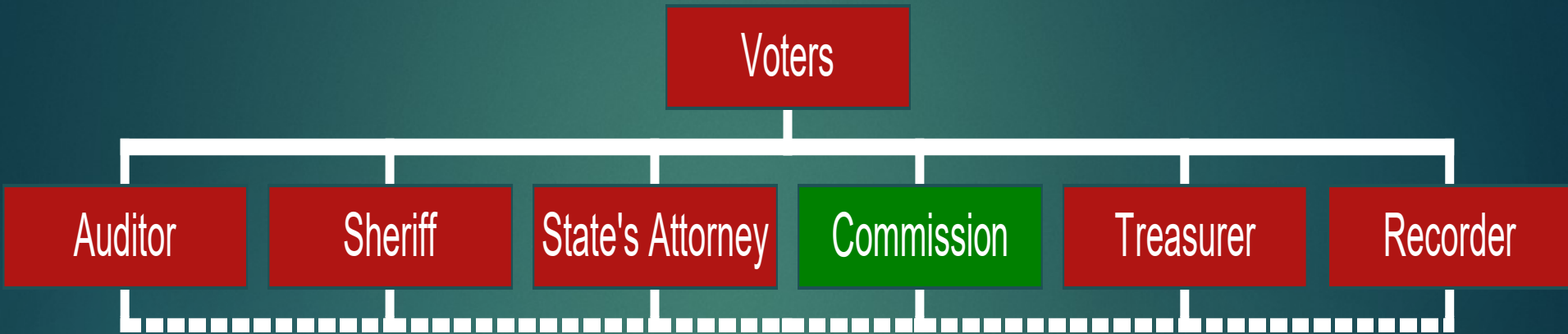


1888

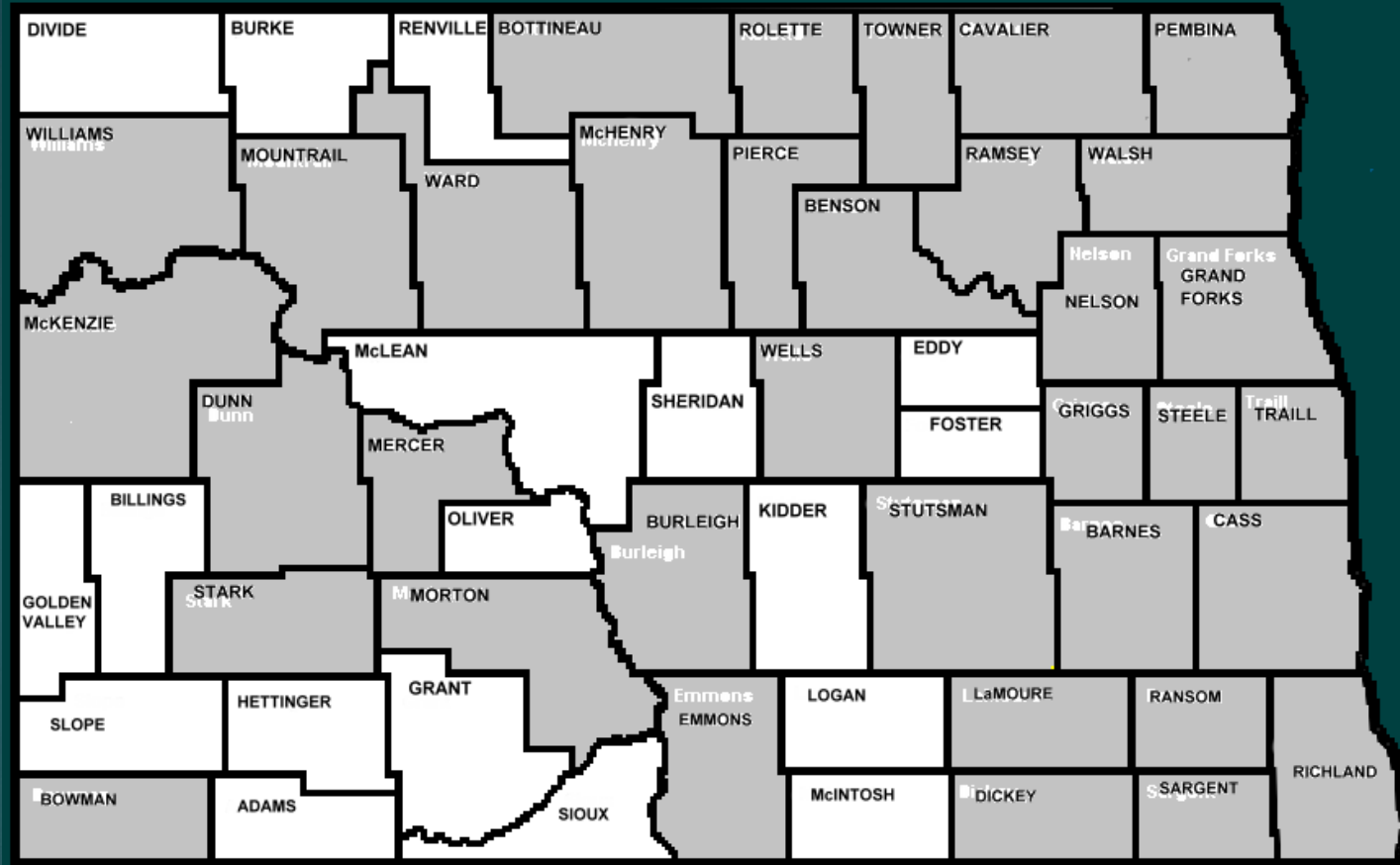
# North Dakota Counties - 53



# County Structure

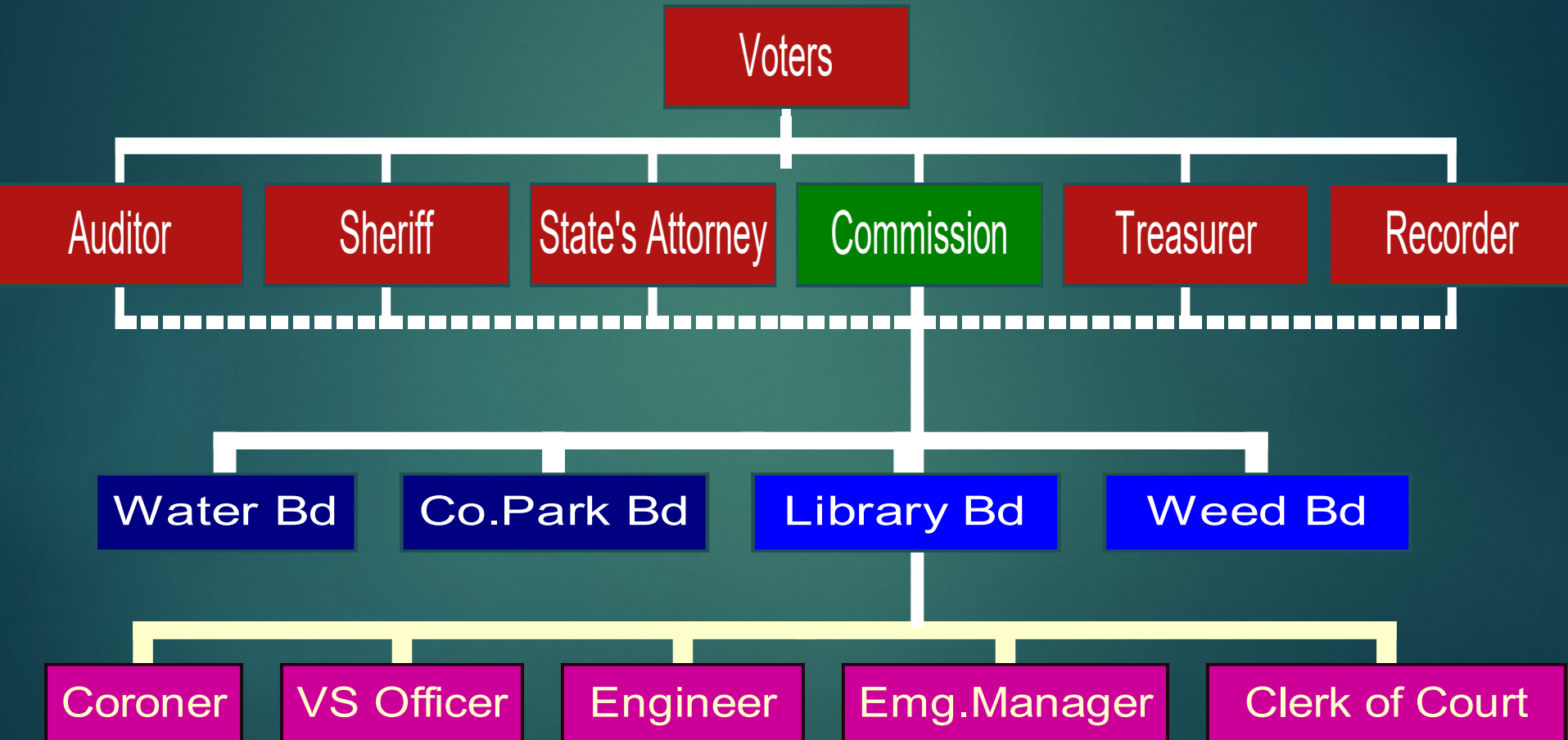


# County Structure - Commissions



3-Member Commissions

# County Structure





# North Dakota Association of Counties

- ✓ 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>