

COMPARISON OF POWERS & RESPONSIBILITIES

STATUTORY CITY and URBAN TOWNSHIP

	STATUTORY CITY	URBAN TOWNSHIP
Planning & Zoning	Must provide	Optional – can default to county
Planning & Zoning	Restricted only by state laws; independent of county	Must be at least as restrictive as the county
Annexation	Not subject to involuntary loss of territory	Subject to annexations, loss of territory, without consent
Enforcing nuisance ordinances	Levy administrative fines as standard practice	Must use court citations
Annual levy	Set by city council	Set by electors at annual town meeting
Local Government Aid	Receive annually	Not available
Special service districts	Can establish urban and rural services districts with different levies	Cannot establish rural and urban service areas but can establish subordinate service districts
Sewer Districts	Can establish	Can establish but risky because of unstable borders
Economic Development Authority	Can establish an EDA	Cannot establish an EDA
Tax Increment Financing	Available	Not available
Prosecuting non-building code or zoning misdemeanors	Responsible for the cost of prosecution	Cost paid by the county

Septic system compliance	Must enforce	Optional – can default to county
Building permits and inspections	Must provide	Optional – can default to county
Annual audit	Not required if clerk and treasurer are separate offices and either population is less than 2,500 or budget is less than \$1M (budget threshold changes annually)	Same as for statutory city
Data Practices Act	Must comply	Urban Towns outside the metro area are not required to comply.
MNDOT funds	May apply for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trunk Highway Account • Routes of Regional Significance Account • Small Cities Assistance • Transportation Revolving Fund 	Generally not available
Department of Employment and Economic Development funds	May apply for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota Investment Fund • Small Cities Development Program • Contamination Cleanup and Investigation Grants 	Only the Minnesota Investment Fund is available to townships
Borrowing	Various types of Bonds and Certificates of Indebtedness	Various types of Bonds and Certificates of Indebtedness
Elections	November – four council members and mayor are elected; clerk and treasurer are appointed.	March – three supervisors are elected; clerk and treasurer may be either elected or appointed; can choose to have a 5 member Board