



# Stearns ranked for economic growth potential

TIMES STAFF REPORT

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(Photo: Times graphic)

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An economic consulting firm has highlighted Stearns County as a community ideally positioned to attract modern investment and managed economic growth.

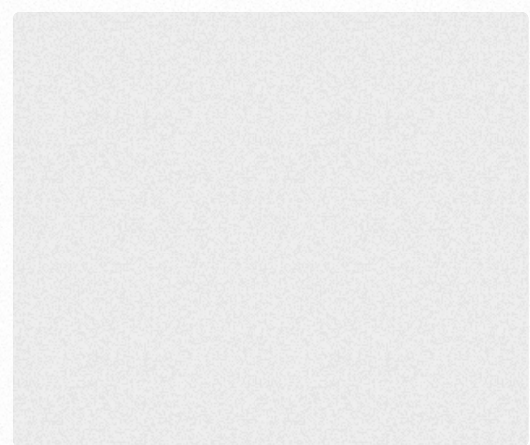
On Tuesday, Pittsburgh-based Fourth Economy Consulting ranked Stearns County as the tenth large-sized community in the nation poised to achieve sustainable growth while attracting people and business. Stearns County was compared to communities of similarly sized population.

According to the consulting company, the index ranks communities on factors such as wage and employment growth, education levels, home values, minority business ownership, entrepreneurship and population density. The company said Stearns County's policies on food and livestock manufacturing, Broadband access, workforce development and domestic violence were of particular interest. County recreational opportunities and cultural festivals were also noted.

### The top 10 large-sized communities for 2015:

1. Chittenden County, Vermont
2. Hampshire County, Massachusetts
3. Minnehaha County, South Dakota
4. Clackamas County, Oregon
5. Washtenaw County, Michigan
6. Cumberland County, Maine
7. Lancaster County, Nebraska
8. Forsyth County, North Carolina
9. Boone County, Missouri
10. Stearns County, Minnesota

Source: Fourth Economy Consulting



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