



**SCALE**  
Scott County Association For Leadership And Efficiency

On December 10, SCALE Chair (and Savage Mayor) **Janet Williams** convened the last general SCALE meeting of 2010 at Prior Lake City Hall. The two primary topics of the morning's agenda were community demographic trends and the proposed 2011 Legislative Priorities.

After a brief introduction from Scott County Community Development Director **Michael Sobota**, **Cathy Bennett** (Urban Institute of Minnesota, Regional Council of Mayors) and **John Carpenter** (Excensus) summarized the findings from a multi-year analysis of current and expected demographic trends. Using Excensus' own data — which differs from the national Census information, primarily in its ability to drill down to the parcel level of analysis — Bennett and Carpenter discussed residential changes observed throughout Scott County during the 2004 – 2009 period.

In several aspects — such as the aging of the “Baby Boomer” generation — the Scott County patterns mirrored national trends. In other ways, however, deviations from national averages were apparent; for example, the County has a larger proportion of “Gen Y” members (individuals under the age of 30 to 35), far more of them own their own homes (predominantly, single family houses), and a significant minority of this group own homes valued in the \$300,000-plus range. These Gen Y trends are notable, Bennett said, because the sheer number of individuals in this cohort are expected to overtake the Boomer generation in the near future, and their cultural preferences will likely guide their educational, work, and housing choices over the next few decades. Adding that Gen Yers tend to value choice, connectivity, and convenience; they tend to prefer proximity to destinations, such as the desire to live close to their place of employment.

However, the Boomers will still play a consequential role in the development of the community's characteristic for several years to come, they noted, particularly in their general preference to “age in place” nearer to grandchildren (instead of relocating south, as their parents' generation tended to do) and opt for a more low-maintenance, assisted lifestyle. Concluding their larger presentation with city-specific information about household age, housing retention rates, and property values, Bennett and Carpenter responded to several SCALE member questions about the application of their data in the development of forward-thinking policies. The full presentation can be viewed on the SCALE website at [www.scaleinfo.org](http://www.scaleinfo.org) (under “News”).

Following the demographic presentation, members were asked for a final review and approval of the draft 2011 SCALE Legislative Priorities. After some lengthy discussion regarding the state's projected \$6.2 billion biennial deficit (and its likely impact on local government), wording changes to a proposed clean water initiative put forth by Prior Lake Mayor Mike Myser, and other issues, the SCALE members unanimously adopted the amended Priorities. **Senator Claire**

**Robling**, who will be chairing the Senate Finance Committee in 2011, commended SCALE for avoiding many additional funding requests for the new biennium, as new revenue is likely not forthcoming.

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to committee and member comments, which featured updates on the expanding fiber optic ring, the proposed consolidation of the County's IT department with that of Prior Lake, and the ongoing development of "green ordinance" language for SCALE members to consider at a future meeting.

**The next SCALE meeting is scheduled for 7:30—9:00 a.m., Friday, January 14, 2011, at Prior Lake City Hall.** Please continue to check the SCALE website at [www.scaleinfo.org](http://www.scaleinfo.org) for agendas, news, information, and committee updates!

*"The mission of SCALE is to forge new and innovative ways in which government entities can collaborate to provide superior services while making the most of limited resources."* [www.scaleinfo.org](http://www.scaleinfo.org)