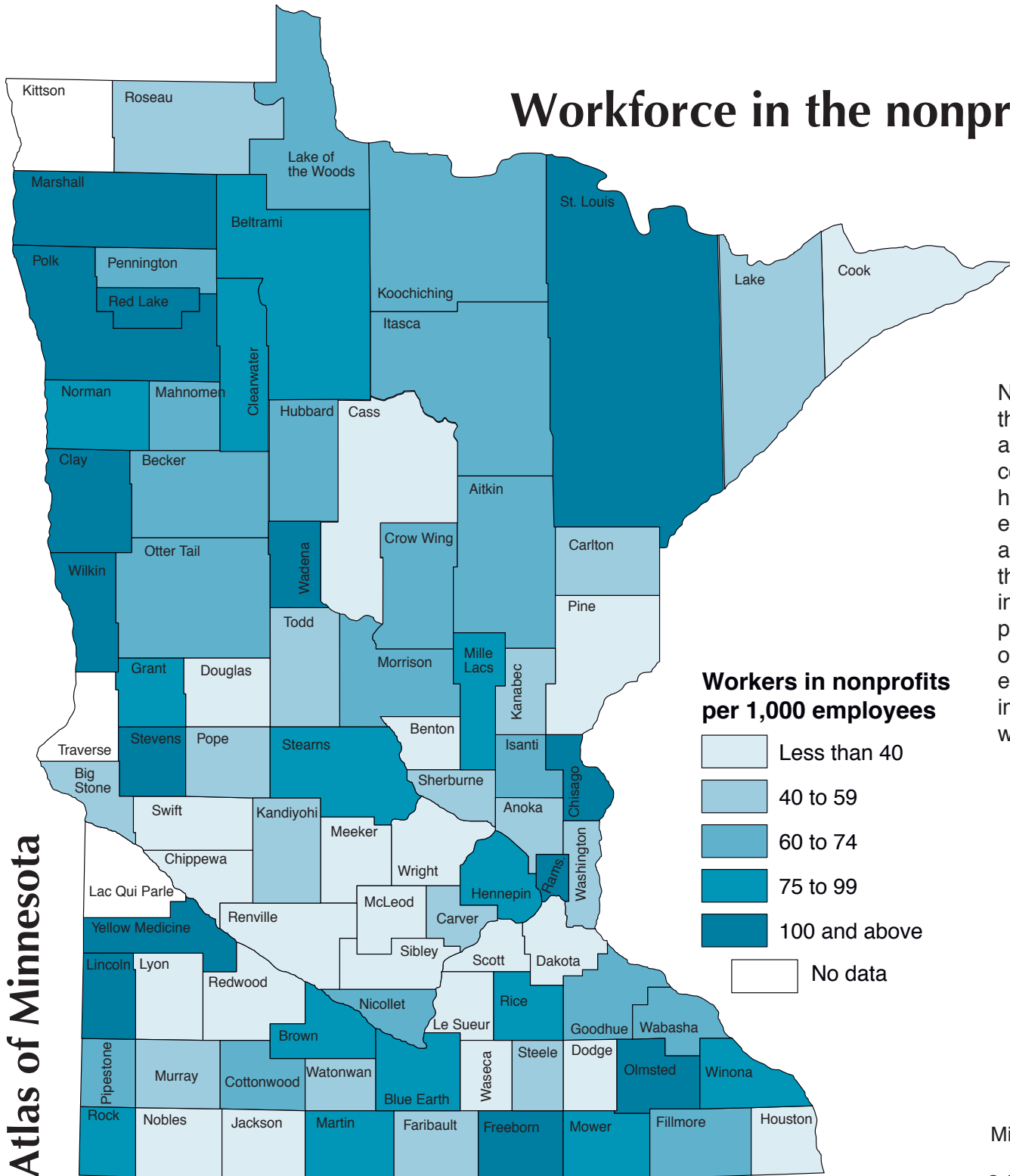
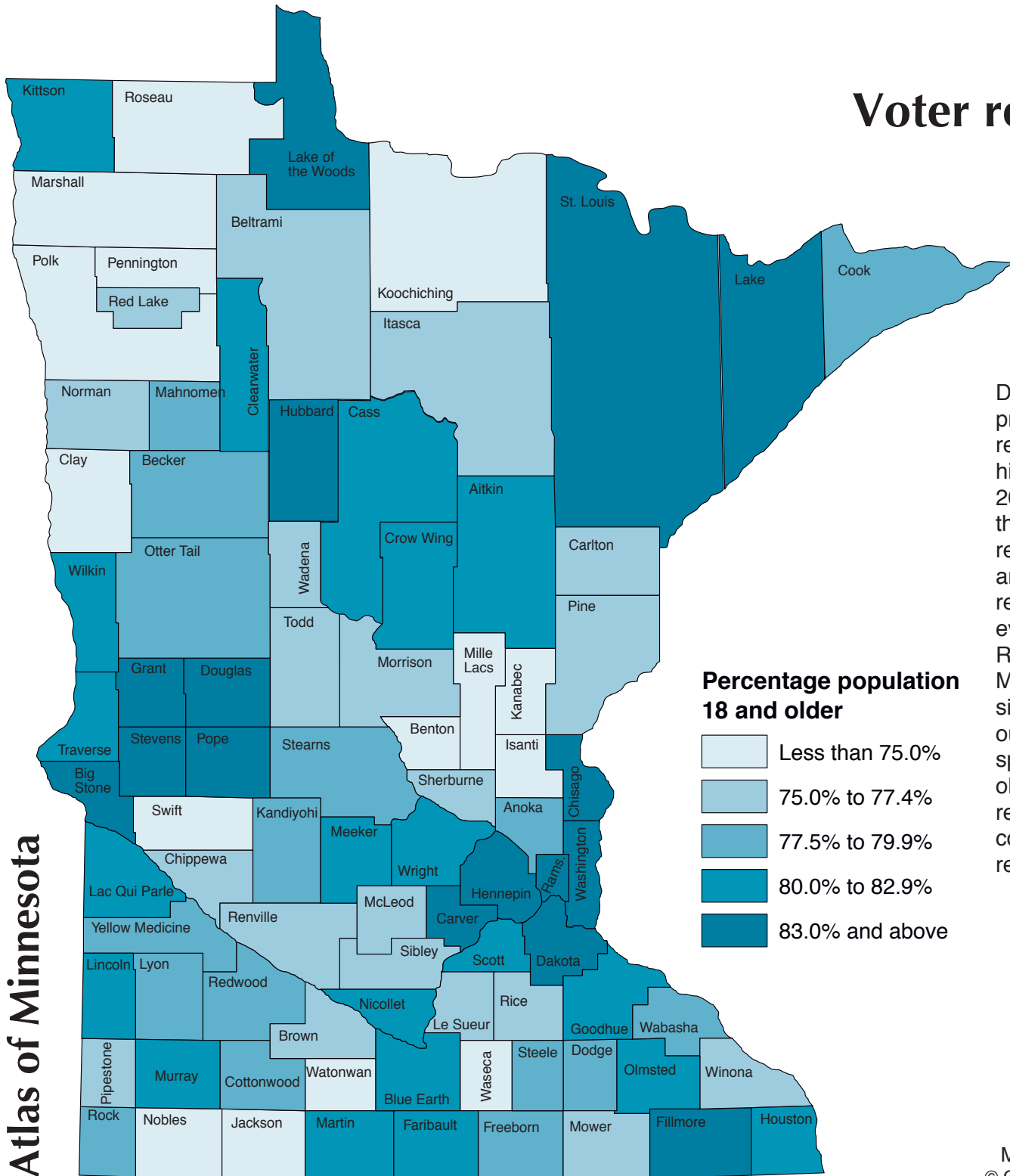


# Workforce in the nonprofit sector, 2007



Nonprofits play an important role in the state's economy as employers, as well as providers of services and contributors to our quality of life. A heavy concentration of nonprofit employment, such as in St. Louis and Olmsted counties, is generally the result of a large number of jobs in the health care industry or the presence of a large private college or university. Clearly, nonprofit employment constitutes an important component of the workforce throughout the state.

# Voter registration, 2008



Atlas of Minnesota

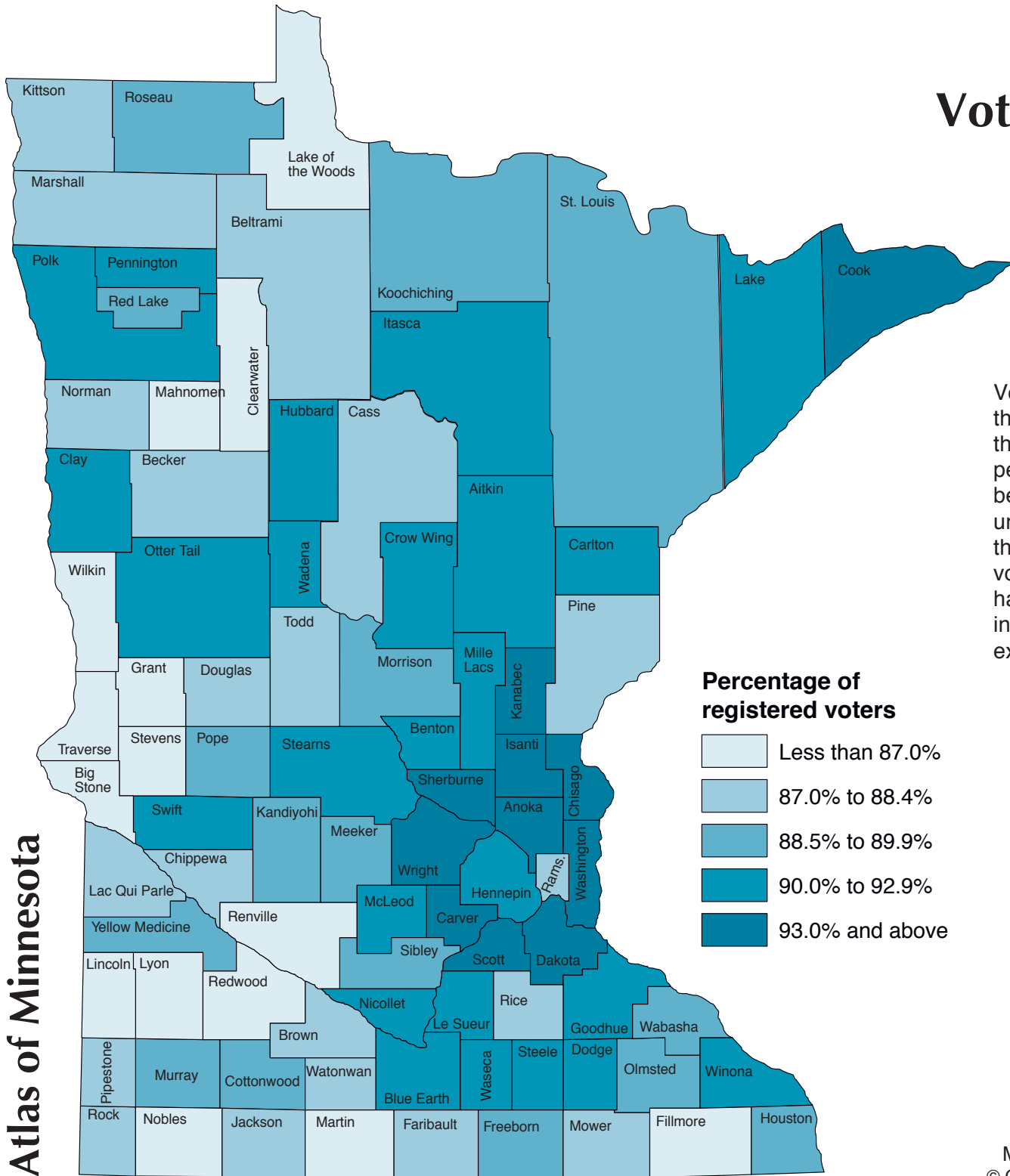
## Percentage population 18 and older

- Less than 75.0%
- 75.0% to 77.4%
- 77.5% to 79.9%
- 80.0% to 82.9%
- 83.0% and above

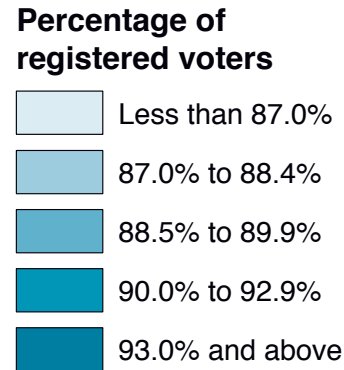
Due to the highly contested presidential election in 2008, voter registration rates were reported as higher that year than they were in 2004. While it is often understood that the highest concentrations of registered voters are found in urban areas, the map shows that registered voters are spread fairly evenly throughout the state. Registration efforts in Greater Minnesota can be more difficult since it can take more time to seek out and register a single voter in sparsely populated areas. However, older voters tend more to be registered, giving many rural counties a higher concentration of registered voters.

Data source:  
Minnesota Secretary of State's Office  
© Center for Rural Policy and Development

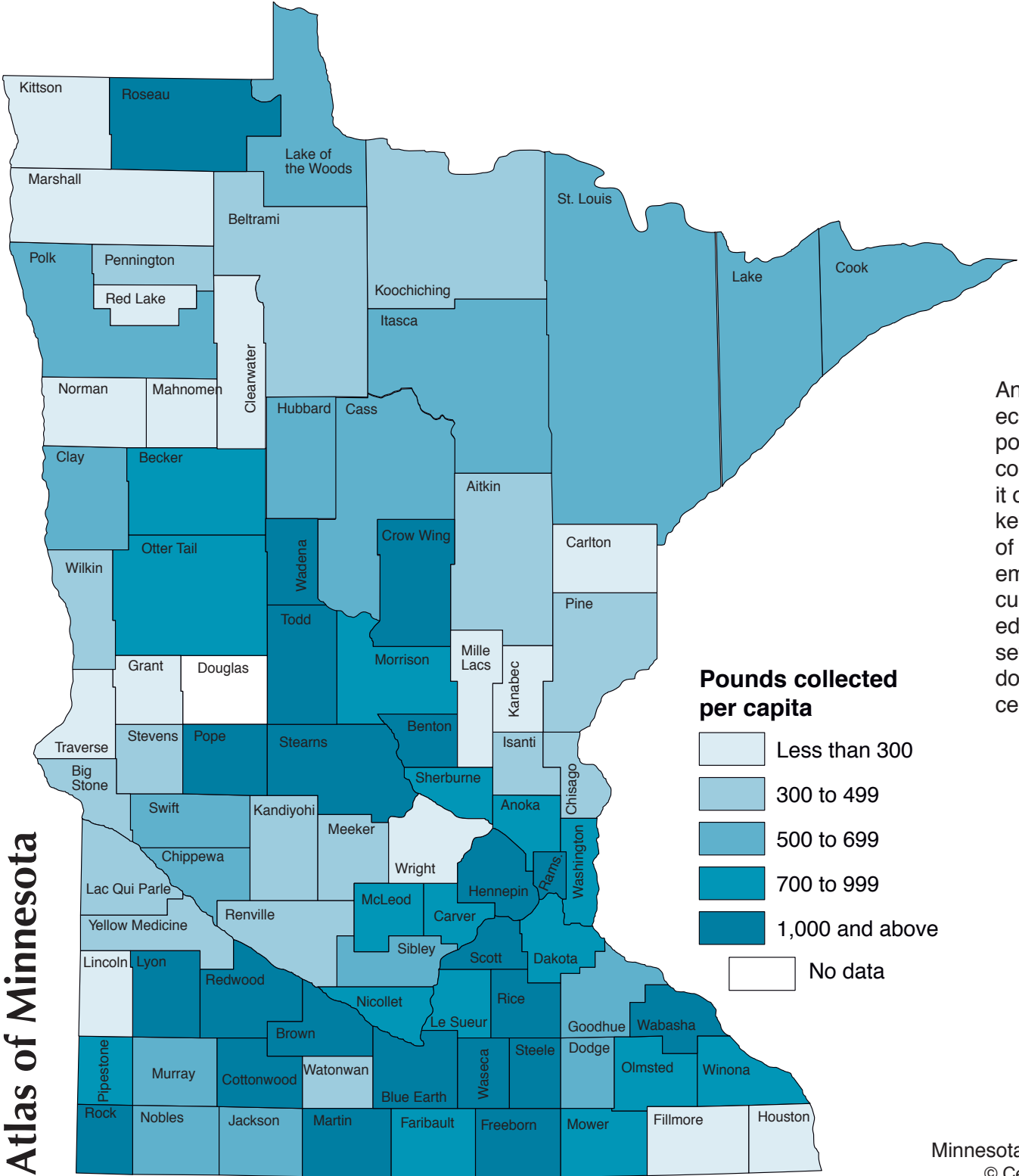
# Voter turnout, 2006



Voter turnout is measured here as the number of ballots cast divided by the voting-age population. Fewer people in Greater Minnesota tend to be registered to vote compared to the urban and suburban counties, and as the map shows, tend to have a lower voter turnout. But overall, Minnesota has one of the highest voter turnouts in the nation, and 2008 was no exception.



# Recycling, 2006



An important factor in recycling is economies of scale: the sparser the population, the more difficult it is to collect recyclables, especially when it comes to curbside pickup. Other key factors can be the commitment of the recycling staff and whether it employs convenient drop-off sites, curbside pickup and public education, which may explain why several of the top recycling counties do not have large population centers.