

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

A lifelong Dakota County resident and small business owner, Joe Atkins and his wife Julia grew up here, went to school and church here, and chose to raise their family here. Married 30 years, they have three children: John, Tom and Katie.

EDUCATION

Joe worked full-time to put himself through the University of Minnesota and William Mitchell College of Law, receiving his Juris Doctorate with *magna cum laude* honors.

WORK EXPERIENCE

For 25 years, Joe has owned and operated a successful small business and been a partner in Rogosheske, Rogosheske & Atkins in South St. Paul, one of Dakota County's oldest law firms.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Prior to serving on the Dakota County Board, Joe Atkins served as the Mayor of Inver Grove Heights for 10 years and as a state legislator. In the legislature, Joe represented residents of Inver Grove, South St. Paul, West St. Paul, Eagan, Mendota Heights and Sunfish Lake.

SIGNATURE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since Joe was first elected to the County Board in 2016, Dakota County has:

- Paid off all debt, making us one of the only counties in the country with zero debt.
- Been named the Best Local Health Department in the nation.
- Earned the nation's top award for public safety, beating out 3,000 counties nationwide. Commissioner Atkins was honored to accept the public safety award on behalf of Dakota County.
- Successfully fought off a proposal by an out of state investment company to pump and ship 500 million gallons of Dakota County groundwater to Arizona. Over 90% of Dakota County residents rely on groundwater for their drinking water.



PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

Joe Atkins has been recognized for his service to constituents. Examples include:

- American Cancer Society Lifetime Achievement Award – for leading a statewide effort to remove cancer-causing chemicals from children's products
- Elected Official of the Year by Minnesota Firefighters and Minnesota Nurses – for efforts to protect public safety
- US Jaycees Top 10 Americans Award – for organizing multiple efforts build public projects with private donations and non-tax funding sources, rather than property tax dollars