



# Engaging Minnesota to Help Property Taxpayers

September 24, 2026

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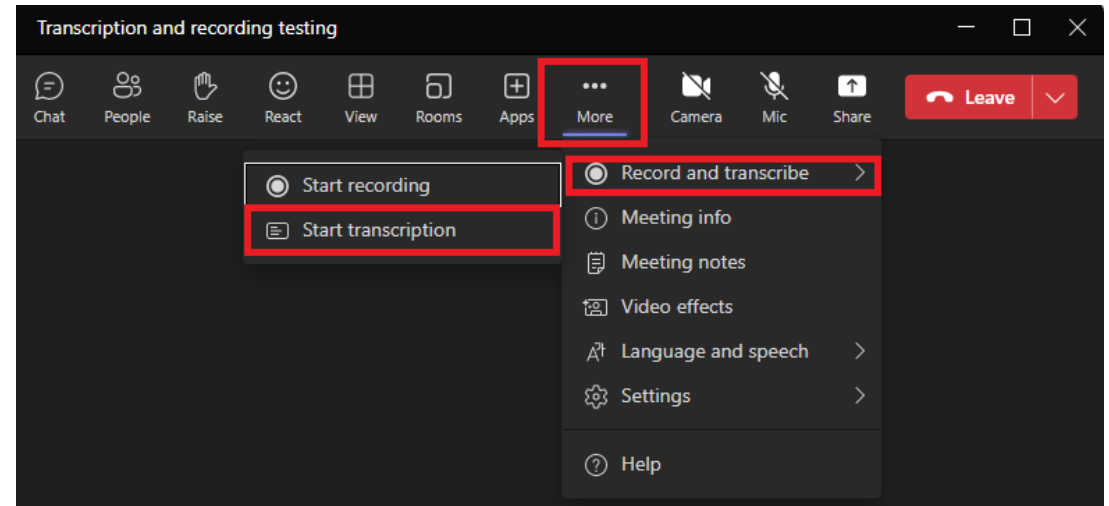
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- Select **More icon (...)** in your meeting controls.
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# Welcome to Engaging Minnesota to Help Property Taxpayers

Paul Marquart | Commissioner

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Poll launch
- Recap Previous Meetings
- Guest speakers reflecting on accountability
- Feedback session
- Next meeting
- Closing

# Questions We Will Explore

- What information would help property owners clearly see how levies are set and how tax dollars are used?
- What resources would help people understand why their property taxes change each year?

# Poll is Available!

- Our poll will be available until October 15
- It is quick and anonymous
- Agree or disagree: “I know how to find help when I need it.”
- Take a few minutes to [complete our poll](#).





# Previous Meetings Recap

# Refocusing on the Property Taxpayer

How can the state and local government, and the property tax system benefit property taxpayers?

- Most efforts look at **administrative and government perspectives**.
- This series of engagement looks from the **taxpayer's perspective**.

# Goals of these Sessions

Revenue wants ideas and recommendations to improve the property tax system. We strive for a system that is:

- Easy to understand
- Simple to use
- Responsive to taxpayer needs
- Simpler and less costly

# Structure of Meetings

Recommendations should:

- Be low to no-cost to implement
- Not shift property taxes from one group of taxpayers to another
- Prioritize beneficial impacts to the property taxpayer above all else

| Goals for the Property Taxpayer |                      |                 |                  |                         |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|
|                                 | Easier to Understand | More Accessible | More Accountable | Simpler and Less Costly |
| State                           |                      |                 |                  |                         |
| Local Governments               |                      |                 |                  |                         |
| Property Tax Process            |                      |                 |                  |                         |

# Recap: Valuation Notice, Proposed Taxes, Tax Statements

Minnesota law requires and standardizes three property tax documents:

- Valuation Notices
- Proposed Property Tax Notices (Truth in Taxation)
- Property Tax Statements

Revenue provides instructions, templates, and guidance.

# Recap: Reflections and Considerations

- These notices and statements have a lot of information.
- They **do not answer**:
  - What are the strategic goals around the local government's budget?
  - How were my local government's budget decisions made?
  - How else does my local government get funds?
- How does my local government's overall budget decisions help explain why my property tax amount changes?

# Recap: Meeting Resources

Visit [Engaging Minnesota to Help Property Taxpayers](#) or go to [revenue.state.mn.us](https://revenue.state.mn.us) and enter **Engaging Minnesota** into the Search box to see:

- Agendas
- Slides
- Minutes
- Recordings

# Reflections from guest speakers

- Matt Hilgart, Association of Minnesota Counties
- Nathan Jesson, Minnesota Inter-County Association
- Beth Johnston, League of Minnesota Cities
- Mark Haveman, Center for Fiscal Excellence

# Dakota County Property Tax Open House: Sept. 10

weststpaulreader.com · by Kevin D. Hendricks · September 4, 2026

Real life engagement examples



# Budget Process Recap



- **February 10** – Levy and General Fund Forecast
- **March 10** – Levy Forecast Update
- **May 12** – Transportation CIP Update
- **June 16** – Levy Forecast and Fund Balance Forecast Update
- **June 23** – Fund Balance Policy Update and Wheelage Tax
- **July 13** – Budget Workshop
- **August 4** – Budget Workshop
- **August 6** – Budget and Property Tax Open House
- **August 18** – 2027–2031 CIP and CEP
- **September 10** – Budget and Property Tax Open House
- **September 15** – Budget Workshop
- **September 22 – Recommended 2027 Maximum Levy**

## State budget proposals would affect county services and taxpayers



Dakota County's key legislative priority this year is to reduce state mandates and avoid shifting costs to taxpayers. Counties also want to be involved in the decision-making process. Let's work together toward solutions that help the state, minimize unfunded mandates on counties, serve our residents and respect our taxpayers.

### Potential state budget cut impacts

Dakota County will consider program cuts and property tax increases if leading state budget proposals become law.

Legislative budget plans would cut state funding or shift costs to Dakota County by \$11.3 million — nearly 7 percent — next year. That is on top of \$1.2 million in unfunded mandates previously approved by the Legislature. The county also faces \$17.9 million of its own cost increases as service demands grow.

As a result, the county would have to consider reducing services and raising property taxes for 2026.

### PROPERTY TAX INCREASES

As a result of state budget cuts, county property taxes could jump by up to 8 percent. That does not include any levy increases by cities, schools or others.

Potential county property levy increase due to state budget cuts



### COUNTY SERVICE REDUCTIONS

The county would need to consider reductions to non-mandated and levy-supported services. This is what \$11.3 million in state cuts could look like in Minnesota's third-largest county:

#### Homelessness prevention

End county funding that helps put families in emergency housing.



#### Extension

End county support for University of Minnesota Extension services in Dakota County.



#### Embedded social workers

End county funding for a partnership with local law enforcement to help people in crisis.



#### Truancy Reduction Program

Reduce funding for youth truancy cases.



#### Veterans Services

Reduce funding to help military veterans the benefits they deserve. Last year, we served 5,400 veterans.



#### Dakota County Fair and Dakota County Historical Society

Cut county funding to both organizations.



#### Juvenile offender services

Limit services to juvenile offenders and place them elsewhere.



#### Parks

Reduce funding to county park maintenance and programs.



#### Library

Reduce county funding for library services.



#### Snow plowing

Reduce funding to county road snow and ice removal, resulting in slower service.



### State mandates drive county operation costs

116 state-mandated services are performed by Dakota County.

Not all mandates are fully funded by the state.

75 percent of county employees provide mandated services.

66 percent of the county's operating budget covers mandated costs.

59 percent of county tax dollars fund mandated services.



**Heidi Welsch**

County Manager

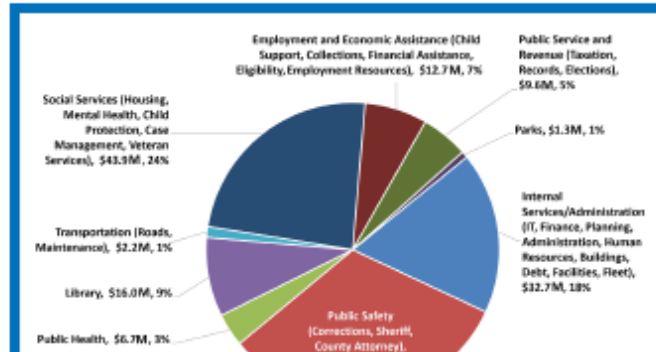
Heidi.Welsch@co.dakota.mn.us

651-438-4590

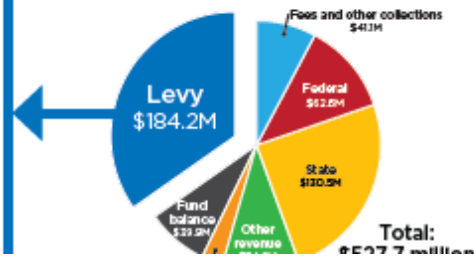
## Budget and Property Tax Open House

*Dakota*  
COUNTY

### 2026 Levy Spending



### 2026 County Revenue Sources



# DAKOTA

COUNTY NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2026

Mandates, added costs and growing service demands pose new challenges to the county budget

## A BIG SHIFT

**IN BRIEF**  
Turning the page  
Page 3

**PARKS**  
For all our visitors  
Page 15

**GO GREEN**  
PFAS data available online  
Page 20



# Hubbard County Tax Mailer (4 pages each year)



Showing what critical services are funded with (revenue) and what is left to taxpayers.

Note: social services and public safety spending.

| 2026 Proposed Budget and Levy |                  |                  |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                               | Expenses         | Revenues         | Levy             |
| General                       | \$ 11,123,173.00 | \$ 6,887,299.00  | \$ 2,944,096.00  |
| Public Safety                 | \$ 10,550,427.00 | \$ 1,285,008.00  | \$ 9,265,419.00  |
| Highway                       | \$ 17,181,678.00 | \$ 12,843,139.00 | \$ 3,650,000.00  |
| Human Services                | \$ 12,267,332.00 | \$ 7,043,472.00  | \$ 5,000,000.00  |
| Solid Waste                   | \$ 7,426,771.00  | \$ 7,464,146.00  | -                |
| NRM                           | \$ 2,119,331.00  | \$ 2,150,500.00  | -                |
| Debt Service                  | \$ 900,485.00    | -                | \$ 900,485.00    |
| HRA/EDA                       | \$ 200,000.00    | \$ -             | \$ 500,000.00    |
| Capital Reserves              | \$ -             | -                | \$ 640,000.00    |
|                               | \$ 61,759,197.00 | \$ 37,673,564.00 | \$ 22,900,000.00 |

# Opportunity to inform public of challenges AND progress



# Department Summaries

**Emergency Alert System — Stay Informed. Stay Safe.**

The Everbridge mass notification system is one of several tools used by the Hubbard County Sheriff's Office to notify the public about emergencies and other important community news. This system enables us to provide the public with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, natural disasters, missing persons, evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods and public safety emergency information. As a subscriber, you will receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, mobile or business phones, email address, text messages and more. You pick where, you pick how. Visit the Hubbard County Sheriff's Office website ([www.co.hubbard.mn.us](http://www.co.hubbard.mn.us)) to sign up.



## Natural Resource Management: Deep Lake Park - A Vision for Recreation and Conservation

Deep Lake Park is a major initiative by Hubbard County to create a year-round outdoor recreation destination that balances public access with environmental stewardship. Spanning 439 acres of forests, wetlands, and two undeveloped lakes, the park is designed to offer a peaceful, nature-based experience while preserving the area's ecological integrity. The park will feature a wide range of recreational opportunities, including hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and non-motorized water activities like canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. A variety of camping options—remote tent sites, RV campgrounds, and camper cabins—will make the park accessible to individuals, families, and groups.

To support both recreation and conservation, the park is divided into three zones. The RV/ATV Zone near the entrance will offer modern camping with trail access. The Park Development Zone will include the main campground, cabins, picnic shelters, and trailhead facilities. The Natural Resource Zone, the largest area, will focus on non-motorized trails, remote camping, and habitat protection. This layout ensures a balance between visitor use and natural resource preservation.



Deep Lake Park will also connect to regional trail systems, including the North Country Trail and the Heartland State Trail, enhancing its appeal to hikers, bikers, and campers. Community involvement has been central to the planning process. Hubbard County held public input sessions and collaborated with local schools and environmental organizations to ensure the park reflects community values. Funding has come from a mix of county funds, state grants, and private donations, with strong support from the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission.

As of September 2025, the park is in the construction phase. Trails, access roads, and infrastructure are being developed.

# Drivers outside control

Counties left with very minimal options to cut/change.

| CRT2030 - District Court > 1006      |    |                            |                            |                        |
|--------------------------------------|----|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
|                                      |    |                            |                            |                        |
| Account                              |    | Sum of 2023 Adopted Budget | Sum of 2025 Adopted Budget | Sum of 2025 YTD Actual |
| 53061 - NON BOARD PER DIEM           | \$ | -                          | \$ -                       | \$ -                   |
| 53009 - INTERPRETERS                 | \$ | -                          | \$ -                       | \$ 159.90              |
| 53019 - GENERAL SUPPORT              | \$ | 4,439.00                   | \$ 4,439.00                | \$ 13,687.50           |
| 57369 - ATTRY GUARD & CONSV.         | \$ | 152,189.00                 | \$ 165,780.00              | \$ 417,534.26          |
| 57370 - ATTRY COMMITMENT             | \$ | 122,333.00                 | \$ 122,333.00              | \$ 134,471.20          |
| 57371 - ATTRY HOUSING                | \$ | -                          | \$ -                       | \$ -                   |
| 57372 - ATTRY CHILD PROTECTION       | \$ | 138,959.00                 | \$ 151,368.00              | \$ 415,344.73          |
| 57373 - ATTRY CHILD SUPPORT CONTEMPT | \$ | -                          | \$ -                       | \$ -                   |
| 58107 - CO ATRY SOC SERV             | \$ | (49,877.00)                | \$ (53,119.00)             | \$ -                   |
| 53019 - GENERAL SUPPORT              | \$ | -                          | \$ -                       | \$ -                   |
| 57368 - ATTRY PATERNITY              | \$ | 58,615.00                  | \$ 58,615.00               | \$ 107,013.06          |
| 57369 - ATTRY GUARD & CONSV.         | \$ | -                          | \$ -                       | \$ -                   |
| 57372 - ATTRY CHILD PROTECTION       | \$ | -                          | \$ -                       | \$ -                   |
| 57373 - ATTRY CHILD SUPPORT CONTEMPT | \$ | 42,903.00                  | \$ 42,903.00               | \$ 39,523.05           |
| 53900 - INTEREST/LATE CHARGE         | \$ | -                          | \$ -                       | \$ 1,088.08            |
| 57011 - DIRECT PROGRAM               | \$ | -                          | \$ -                       | \$ 12,038.27           |
| 57011 - DIRECT PROGRAM               | \$ | -                          | \$ -                       | \$ 112.00              |
|                                      | \$ | 469,561.00                 | \$ 492,319.00              | \$ 1,140,972.05        |



## 2026 Proposed Budget Highlights

Minnesota Counties collect property tax payments for all taxing jurisdictions that certify a levy. For 2025, the total certified levies within Cass County totaled \$76,275,683. The breakdown is illustrated on the dollar bill to the right.

- ✓ Townships 11.25%
- ✓ Cities 9%
- ✓ School Districts 25.31%
- ✓ Special (Region 5 Development Commission, Solid Waste, etc.) .38%
- ✓ State 12.69%
- ✓ County 41.37%

*Where did our 2025 property taxes collected by Cass County go?*



Cass County  
41.37%

Schools  
25.31%

Cities  
9%

State of MN  
12.69%

Townships  
11.25%

### Definitions

#### Tax Rate

The percentage of  
the assessed value to

*Each taxing jurisdiction sets its levy and provides an opportunity for citizen input.  
Meeting times and locations are provided on each Truth-In-Taxation statement.*

*Cass County does an excellent job of utilizing other sources of revenue.  
For example, our 2025 budget was \$88,912,252 and our 2025 levy was only \$31,553,182*

# Cass Example Continued:

## *Two paths/directions*

- ***Budget input***

- What do you want the county commissioners to hear?
- What questions do you have about budget decisions?
- Learn more about county options. Chat with citizen committee.



- ***Valuation dispute/questions***

- Do you disagree with your value or have questions?
- Meet with an assessor live!

# *Engaging with other intergovernmental partners*

## County hosts informational session on state budget proposal and levy impacts

Otter Tail County Commissioners hosted an informational session on Tuesday, April 15, to provide insights into the state budget proposal and its potential impact on the county levy.

"We appreciate the opportunity to engage in open dialogue about the state budget," said Nicole Hansen, Otter Tail County Administrator. "It's critical that legislators understand that cost shifting to counties will strain local resources and could lead to higher property taxes for our residents."

Senator Jordan Rasmusson (Senate District 9) and State Representative Jeff Backer (District 9A) participated in the discussion and answered questions. Tom Murphy (District 9B) was invited but could not join the conversation.



### Boards

- [Board of Commissioners](#)

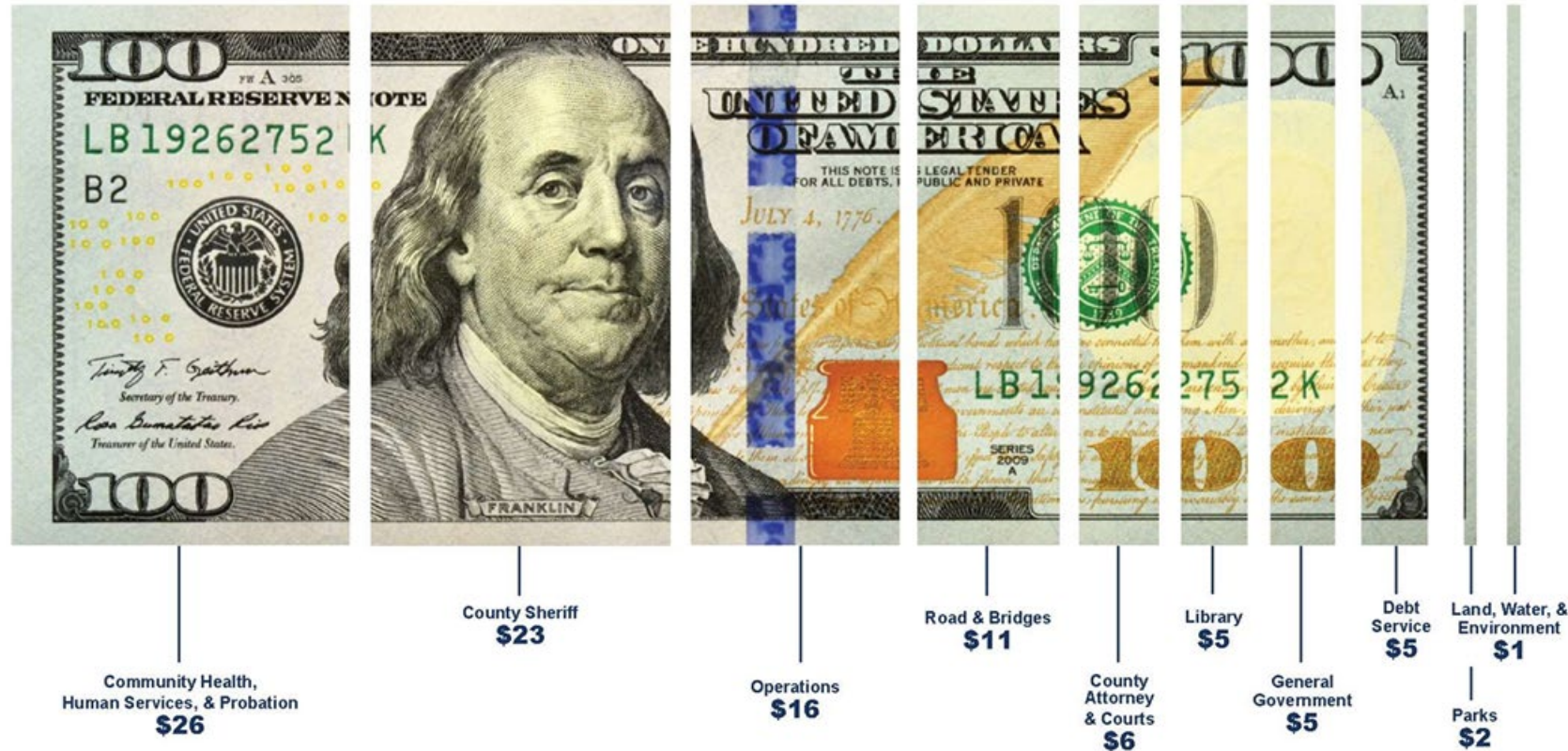
### Departments

- [Administration](#)

### Posted On

- 04-16-2025

# How \$100 of County Levy is Allocated



**Operations** includes: Administration, County Board, Communications, Finance, Information Services, Employee Relations, Facilities, and Other Services

**General Government** includes: Property Taxation, Assessor, Land Records, Veteran Services, Extension, and Other Services



# Anoka County-Cost, FTE, and Strategic Plans by spending area

[INDEX](#)[GENERAL GOVERNMENT](#) ▾[HUMAN SERVICES](#) ▾[PARKS](#) ▾[PUBLIC SAFETY](#) ▾[MORE](#) ▾[SELECT LANGUAGE](#) ▾

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#### **Human Services**

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#### **Transportation**

[Transportation Division](#)[County Surveyor](#)[Fleet](#)[GIS](#)[Highway](#)[Transit](#)

### Housing Redevelopment Authority

[HRA](#)



# Mandated Federal and State Cost Shifts



| Human Services 2027 Cost Shifts                              |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</b>      |                  |
| SNAP Administrative*                                         | 969,655          |
| SNAP Penalty (One Qtr)*                                      | 421,595          |
| <b>MN African American Family Preservation Act (The Act)</b> |                  |
| The Act Implementation                                       | 401,500          |
| <b>State Grant Reductions</b>                                |                  |
| Child Protection                                             | 96,000           |
| Crisis Response                                              | 180,000          |
| <b>Long Term Services and Support (LTSS)</b>                 |                  |
| LTSS Cost Share (1/2 Year)                                   | 800,000          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                 |                  |
| Subtotal                                                     | 2,868,750        |
| 2026 SNAP Levy Offset                                        | (307,400)        |
| <b>Total</b>                                                 | <b>2,561,350</b> |
| <b>1.72% Levy Increase</b>                                   |                  |

| Human Services 2028 Additional Cost Shifts              |                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</b> |                  |
| SNAP Administrative*                                    | 48,483           |
| SNAP Penalty (Full Year)*                               | 1,301,039        |
| <b>Long Term Services and Support (LTSS)</b>            |                  |
| LTSS Cost Share (Full Year)                             | 1,100,000        |
| <b>Total</b>                                            | <b>2,449,521</b> |

| Levy Held within 2027 Budget for 2028 Shifts |         |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|
| .65% Levy Increase                           | 963,300 |

| Total Cost Shift New Levy Included in 2027 Budget |  |
|---------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>1.72% plus .65% = 2.37%</b>                    |  |

# Mandated Services

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Mandated Services – services the County is required to provide under State or Federal laws:

- Public safety, jail operations, criminal prosecution, & court support
- Child & adult protection and mental health & disability services
- Elections, finance, & property tax administration
- Highway roads & snow removal
- Public health & veterans services

Core Support Services – services not specifically required by law but necessary to deliver mandated services:

- Information technology & cybersecurity
- Facility maintenance & utilities
- Fleet management & capital improvement projects

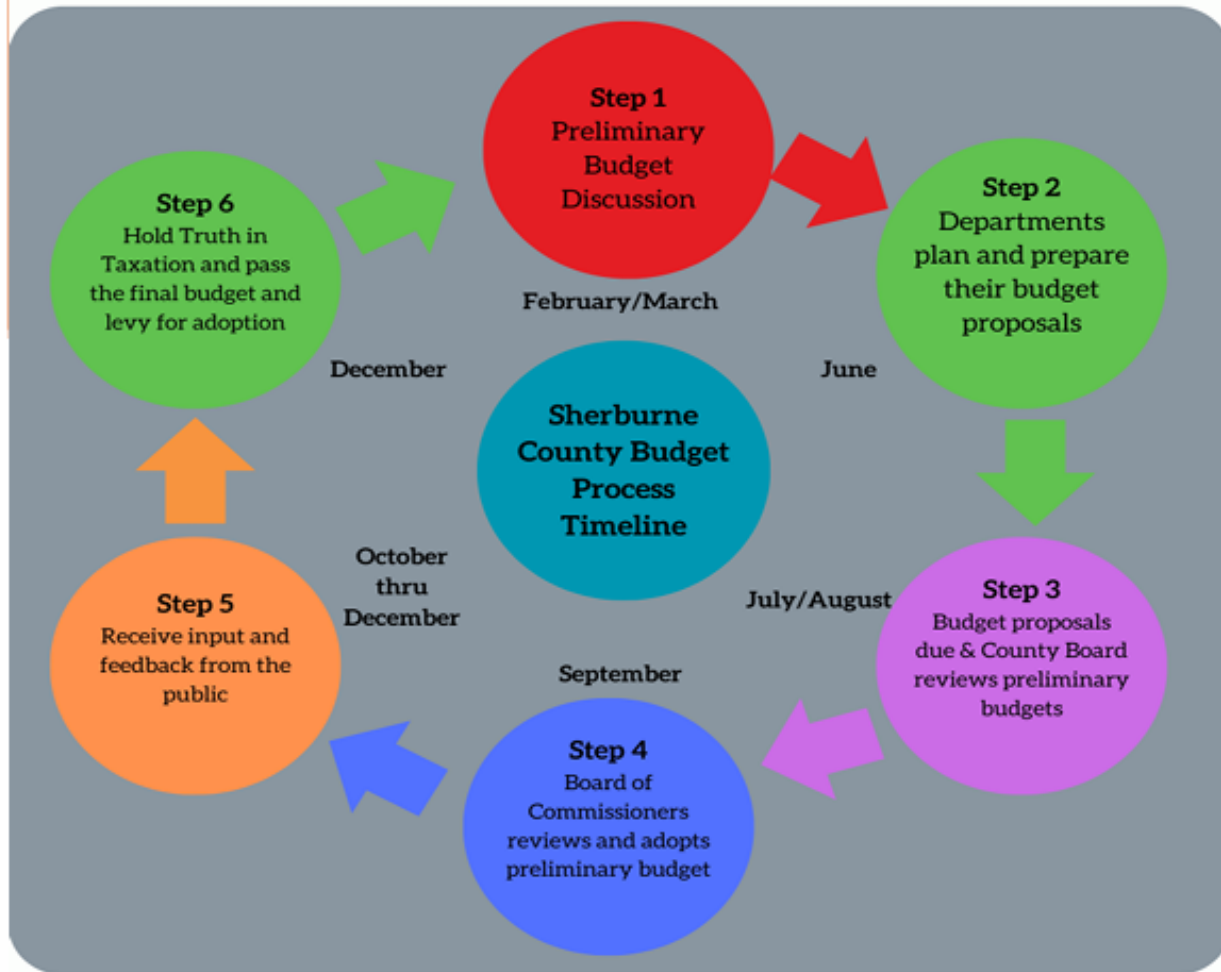
Discretionary Spending – programs the County Board chooses to support:

- U of MN Extension & County Fair
- Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport
- Crow Wing County Historical Society

For every \$1.00 the County spends:

- **79.5¢ supports mandated services.**
- **20¢ supports core support services.**
- **.5¢ supports discretionary spending.**

# Core Services & Strategic Plan

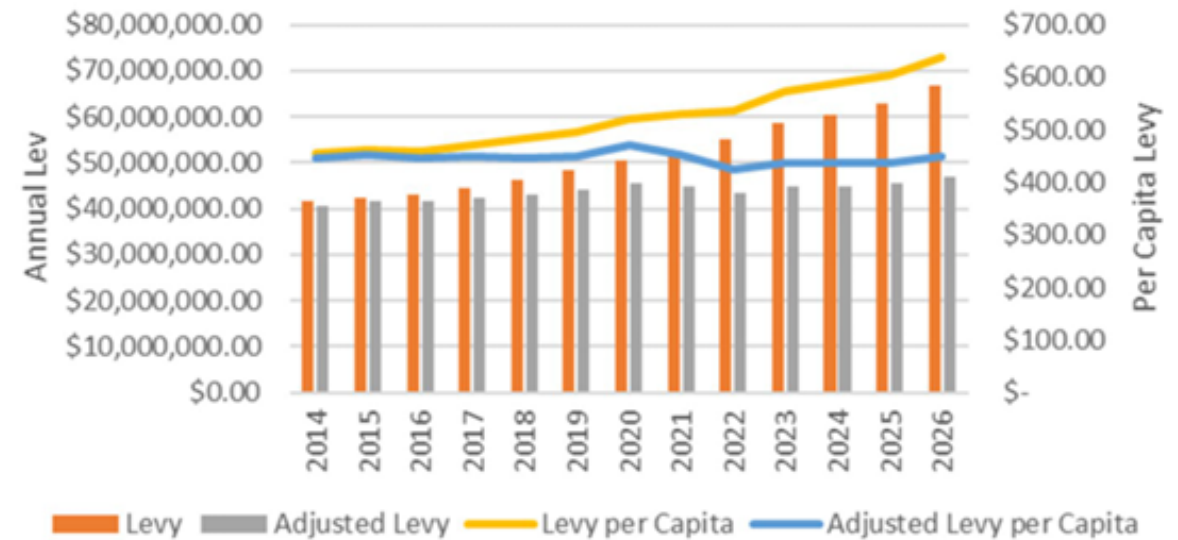


| Year (FY/CY) | Levy Amount   | % Increase over previous year | Tax Rate | Tax Capacity  | Adjusted Levy per Capita |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------|----------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 2015         | \$ 42,323,421 | 2.18%                         | 51.979   | \$ 81,424,783 | \$ 450.80                |
| 2016         | \$ 42,915,694 | 1.40%                         | 50.478   | \$ 85,016,954 | \$ 445.79                |
| 2017         | \$ 44,482,537 | 3.65%                         | 50.460   | \$ 88,154,298 | \$ 448.03                |
| 2018         | \$ 46,350,191 | 4.20%                         | 49.356   | \$ 93,911,430 | \$ 446.55                |

## Sherburne County

### A Track Record of Fiscally Responsible Stewardship

**Sherburne County Levy (2014-2026)**



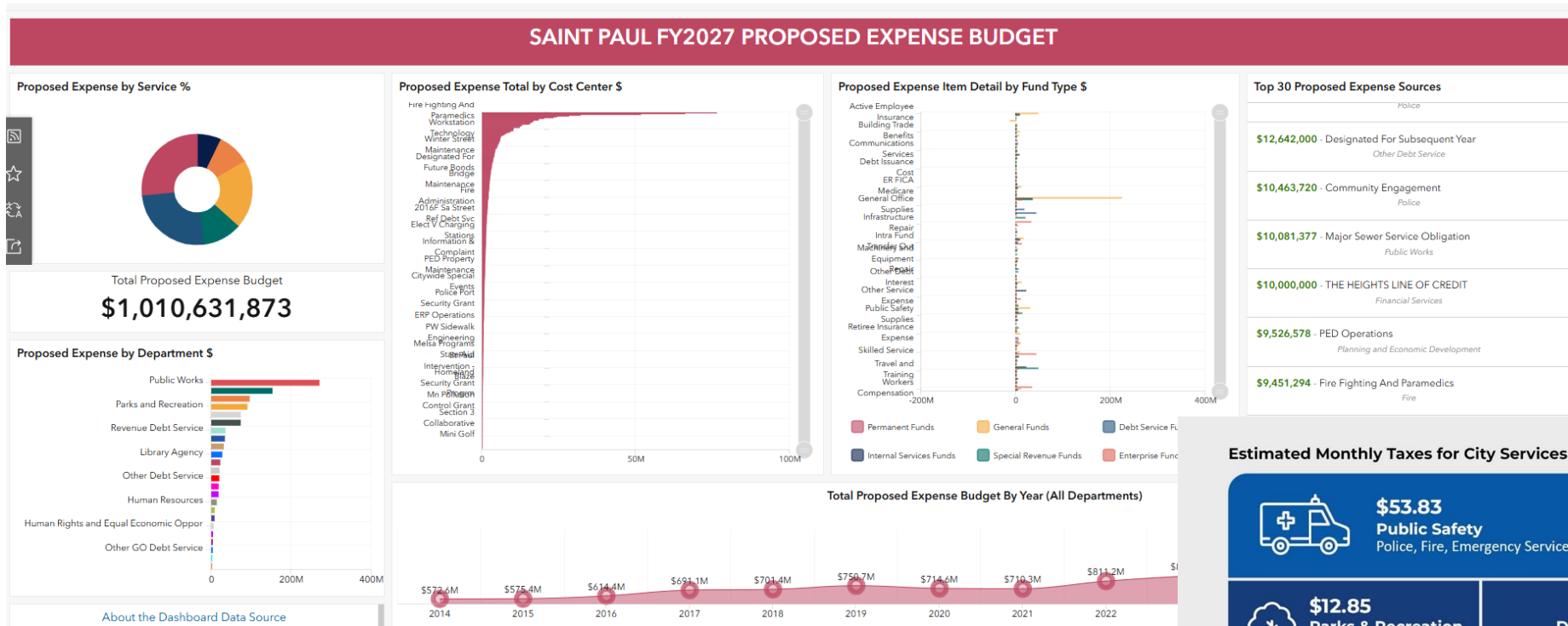
**Sherburne County Tax Rate (2014-2026)**



# Cities in Minnesota

| Population<br>Range | Cities | Share of<br>Population |
|---------------------|--------|------------------------|
| Under 500           | 356    | 1.484766               |
| 501-2500            | 262    | 6.022929               |
| 2,501-10,000        | 135    | 13.65161               |
| 10,001-50,000       | 85     | 37.49699               |
| 50,001-100,000      | 16     | 23.53322               |
| Over 100,000        | 3      | 17.81049               |

# Information Sharing



## Estimated Monthly Taxes for City Services

|                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>\$53.83</b><br><b>Public Safety</b><br>Police, Fire, Emergency Services                |  <b>\$19.38</b><br><b>Public Works</b><br>Streets, pathways, snowplowing      |                                                                                                                                                              |
|  <b>\$12.85</b><br><b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b><br>Parks, trails, facilities, activities | <b>\$17.93</b><br><b>Debt Service</b><br>Pays for capital infrastructure (streets and buildings)                                                                  | <b>\$12.07</b><br><b>General Government</b><br>Administration, communications, finance, information technology                                               |
| <b>\$1.31</b><br><b>Economic Development and HRA</b> (Housing Redevelopment Authority)                                                                                         |  <b>\$2.07</b><br><b>Contingency</b><br>Funds allocated for unexpected costs | <b>\$0.06</b><br><b>Community Development</b><br>Building and planning  |

Based on the median Cottage Grove single-family home valued at \$369,200.

# Gathering feedback

- Online forms for comments before the preliminary levy is set
- Community outreach at farmers markets and festivals to gather input from residents on top budget priorities

**Open Budget Feedback**

Thank you for providing feedback on the City of Saint Paul's Open Budget portal. To return to StPaul.gov, click this link: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/financial-services/saint-pauls-budget>.

When you submit this form, it will not automatically collect your details like name and email address unless you provide it yourself.

\* Required

1. Name

2. Email

3. Did you find that the information presented on Open Budget was valuable? \*

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Other



# Property Tax Timeline

| Date          | Activity                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan. 2        | Assessment date for both real and personal property.                                                                                              |
| Jan. 15       | Last day for owners to apply for class 1c or 4c(5) resort classification.                                                                         |
| Feb. 1        | Last day to file for tax-exempt status with the assessor.                                                                                         |
| 31-Mar        | Last day for county treasurers to mail Property Tax Statements to property owners.                                                                |
| March - April | <b><u>Valuation Notices are mailed to property owners.</u></b>                                                                                    |
| April - May   | <b><u>Local Boards of Appeal and Equalization convene.</u></b>                                                                                    |
| 30-Apr        | Last day to file Tax Court petition for dispute over value that affects the taxes payable in the current year.                                    |
| 15-May        | First-half real property taxes due (except for class 1c or 4c seasonal commercial and some class 3a commercial property which have until May 31). |
| June          | <b><u>County Boards of Appeal and Equalization convene.</u></b>                                                                                   |
| Aug. 15       | <a href="#"><u>Property Tax Refund Returns (Form M1PR) due</u></a>                                                                                |
| Oct. 15       | Last day to pay second half of real estate taxes unless part of the parcel is classified 2a agricultural land.                                    |
| Nov. 1        | Last day for senior citizens to file for property tax deferral (for the next year's tax).                                                         |
| Nov. 10-25    | <b><u>Truth-in-Taxation notices sent to all property owners.</u></b>                                                                              |
| Nov. 25       | <b><u>Truth-in-Taxation meetings may occur on or after this date.</u></b>                                                                         |

# Public Engagement: Property Taxes vs Income Taxes

| Public Engagement                 | Receive advance notice of your tax                                                                                                             | Contact government before final                                                                                                     | Public meeting specifically devoted to the tax?                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Property taxes — valuation</b> | <b>Yes.</b> Valuation/classification notice is provided before the valuation is final.                                                         | <b>Yes.</b> Taxpayer can contact the assessor and attempt to resolve valuation/classification questions.                            | <b>Yes.</b> Local and county Boards of Appeal and Equalization provide formal opportunities to challenge assessments.                            |
| <b>Property taxes — levy</b>      | <b>Yes.</b> Parcel-specific proposed-tax notice shows current vs. proposed taxes for the major taxing jurisdictions.                           | <b>Yes.</b> The TNT notice provides contact information and information about the public meeting.                                   | <b>Yes.</b> Counties must hold a Truth-in-Taxation meeting and allow the public to speak at that meeting, as well as other budget/levy meetings. |
| <b>Individual income tax</b>      | <b>No.</b> There is no annual notice telling an individual taxpayer what their proposed income-tax liability will be before the tax year ends. | <b>No,</b> only after paying. Closest thing is likely Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, which is not an official government function | <b>No.</b> There is no comparable public meeting for individual income taxes or for the state portion of the state general levy.                 |

# City Takeaways



CITIES COME IN ALL SHAPES AND  
SIZES AND THEIR SERVICES AND  
NEEDS ARE DIFFERENT



COST AND STAFFING TO PROVIDE  
MATERIALS



TIMELINE – INHERENTLY COMPLEX

# County Takeaways:

- **Customization is important.**
  - Counties do best by meeting the needs, interests, and engagement preferences of their communities.
- **This work is already happening.**
  - Counties are engaging with taxpayers in their community. Generally local officials have a better read on how to engage with the public than mandated requirements from the state, which we're seeing play out this year.
- **Our system complexity does cause confusion, frustration, and a lack of awareness for input.**
  - More education at a higher level could be used to educate public on system. More local engagement to encourage participation prior to fall budget/levy season?
- **The Legislature is a partner in this.**
  - Are local impact notes relevant and taken seriously enough? Are there other mechanisms available to protect taxpayers from laws that may have consequences?
- **High levies drive more public engagement than new steps in process**



# Making the Property Tax System More Accountable

# Goals Defined: More Accountable

Reinforcing the ways in which property taxpayers provide input on:

- Property tax levy decisions
- Budget decisions
- Property tax processes
- **Examples:** Revenue's [Appealing Property Value And Classification Information](#), citizen advisory boards

# Ideas You Shared With Us

- Allow people to vote on mandates, having a voice
- Transparency on how tax funds are being used
- Transparency on reasons for increases
- Follow notification deadlines to allow for challenges to valuation
- Caps on debt levels at the county, local government, and school district levels

Note: This is feedback we received. It does not reflect a position by Revenue.

What information would help property owners clearly see how levies are set and how tax dollars are used?

What resources would help people understand why their property taxes change each year?

# Next Meeting

## **Making the Property Tax System Simpler and Less Costly**

**Date:** Thursday, October 15

**Time:** 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**In person:** Room 2040, Stassen Building, 600 N. Robert St., St. Paul, MN 55101

**Virtually:** Link provided when you register

**Questions:** Email [public.engagement.mdor@state.mn.us](mailto:public.engagement.mdor@state.mn.us)

For meeting and registration information, visit [Engaging Minnesota to Help Property Taxpayers](#) or go to [revenue.state.mn.us](http://revenue.state.mn.us) and enter **Engaging Minnesota** into the Search box.



**Thank you!**  
Commissioner Paul Marquart