# Thank You for Joining Us

We will begin soon.




# Engaging Minnesota to Help Property Taxpayers

October 27, 2026

# Recording Notice

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By attending or participating in this meeting, you consent to its recording and transcription.

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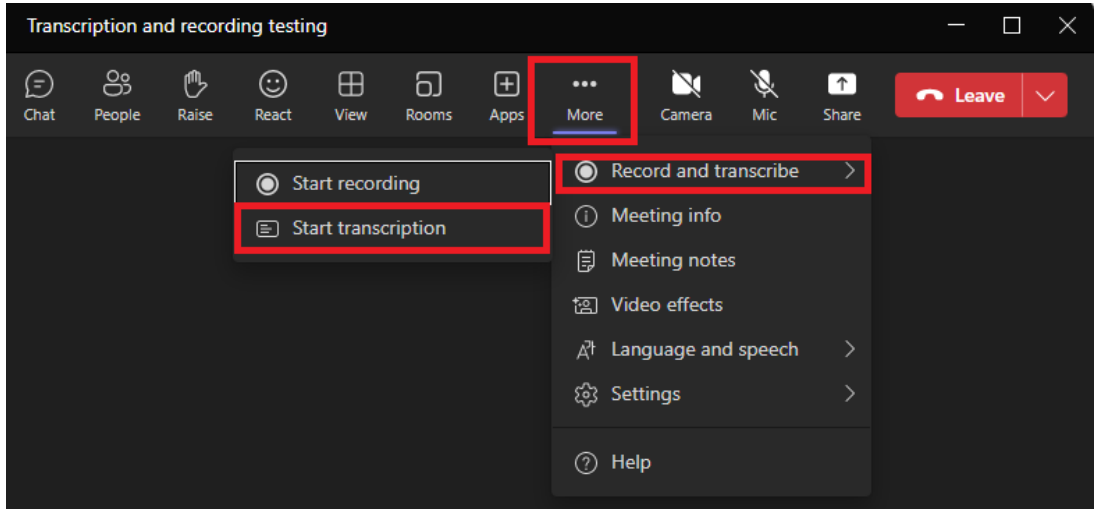
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# Welcome to Engaging Minnesota to Help Property Taxpayers

Paul Marquart | Commissioner

# Agenda

- Recap of meetings
- Guest speaker
- Engagement series overview
- Draft recommendations overview
- Next meeting and closing



# Previous Meetings Recap

# Recap: Meeting Resources

- On October 15 we:
  - Reviewed reports on innovation
  - Discussed mandates, levy limits, and soft costs
  - Heard from Nathan Jesson and Paul Egers

Visit Engaging Minnesota to Help Property Taxpayers or go to revenue.state.mn.us and enter **Engaging Minnesota** into the Search box to see:

- Agendas
- Slides
- Minutes
- Recordings

# 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
- More accessible
- More accountable
- 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 | | | | |

# Guest Speaker: Dawn Crowe



# Engagement series overview

# Engagement Overview

**Hybrid Sessions**

**6 meetings**

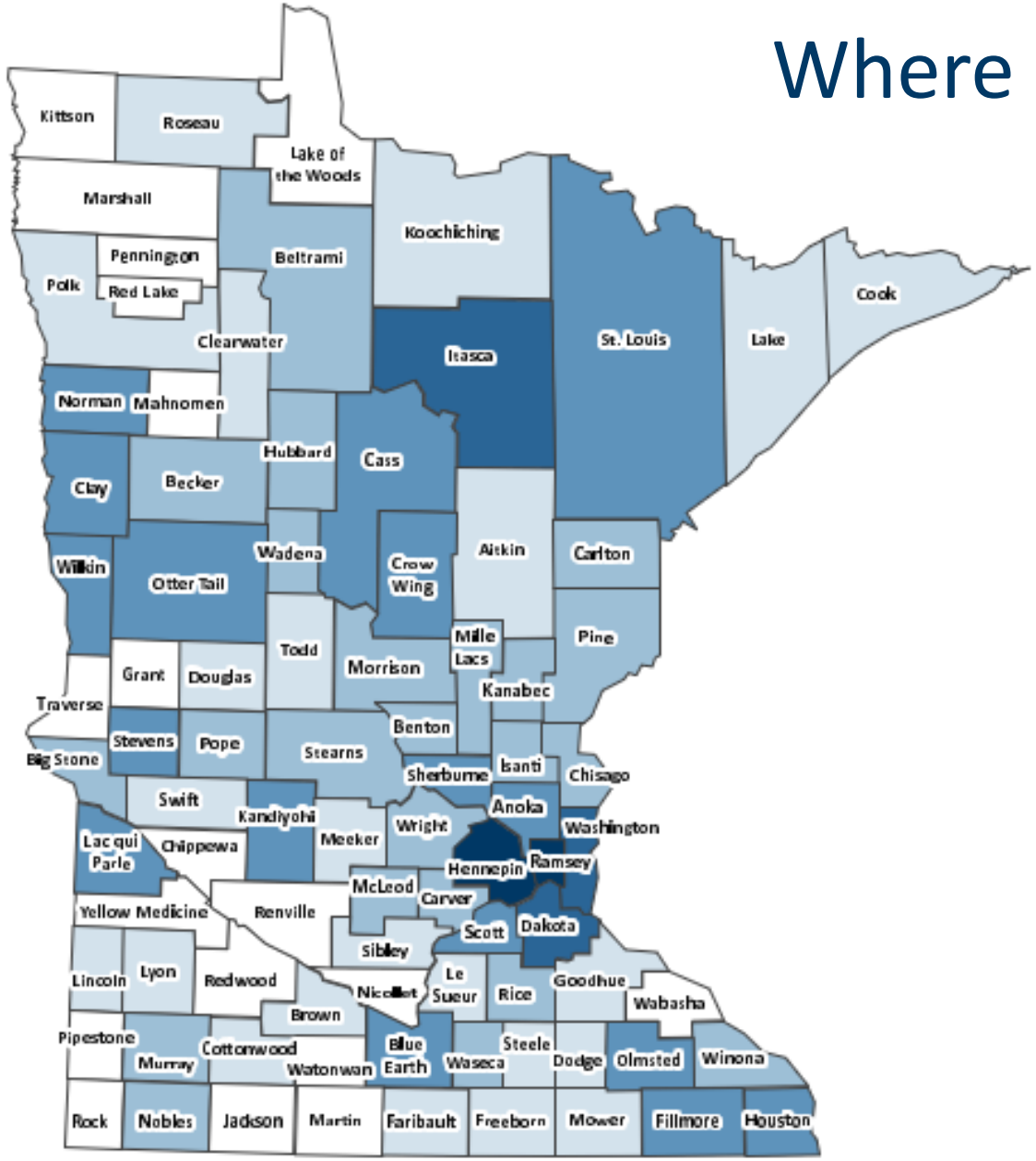
**Feedback**

**353 comments**

**Survey**

**1,209 responses**

# Where session participants came from?




- RSVP from 833 participants with a Minnesota zip code came from 68 of 87 counties.
- 54% came from the seven-county metro, a broader statewide reach than the survey (78%).
- Largest: Hennepin (159), Ramsey (126), Dakota (59), Washington (49), Itasca (33).
- 88 participants gave no zip code and 14 were from outside Minnesota.

**Participants per county**

- None
- 1–2
- 3–9
- 10–29
- 30–99
- 100+

Counties assigned from each participant's zip code (the county that holds most of the zip code).

# Who wanted to join us?

**53%**

**work in or represent government**

495 of 936; county government alone is 280

**49%**

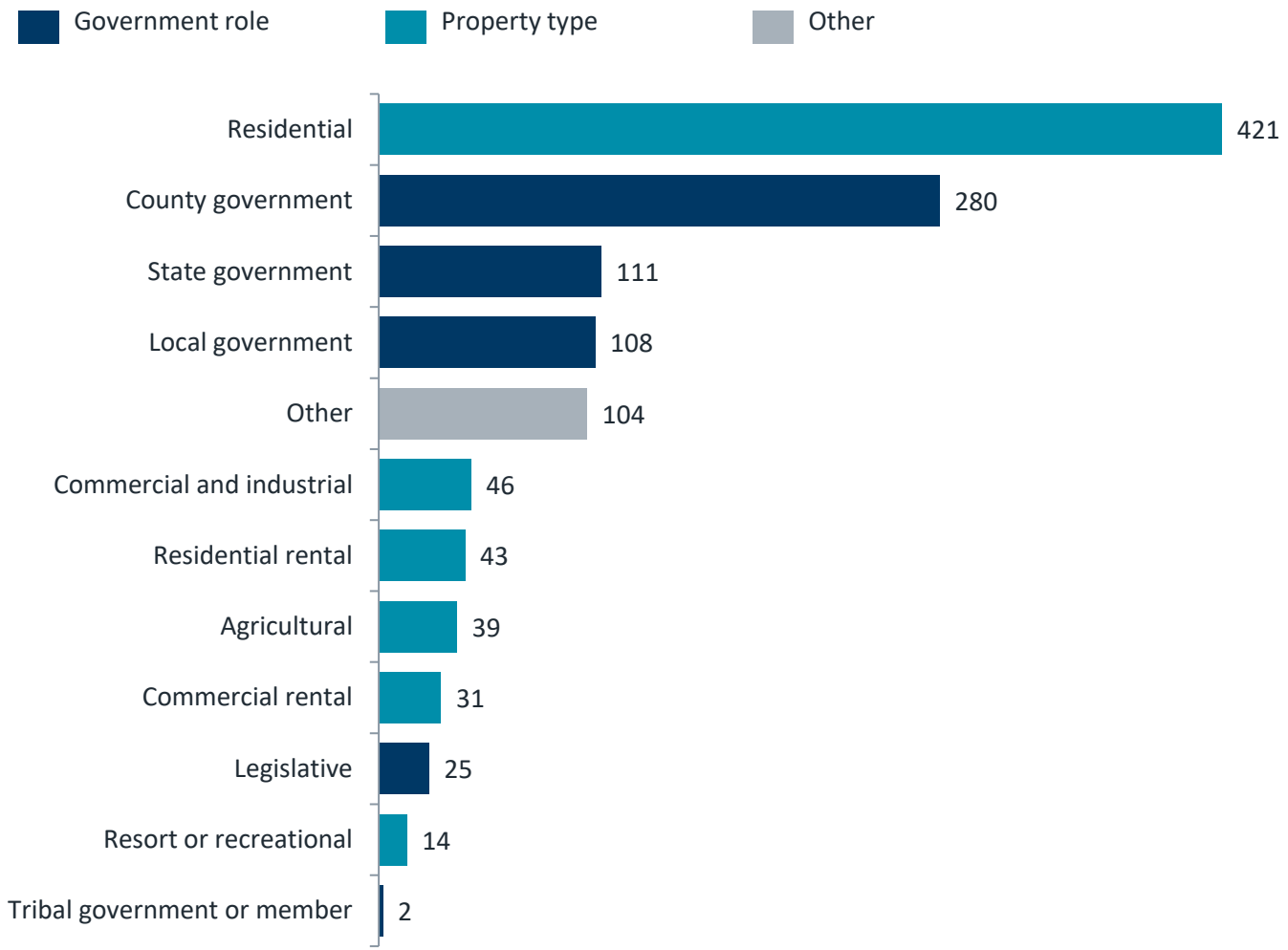
**joined as property taxpayers**

456 of 936; residential owners are 421

**11%**

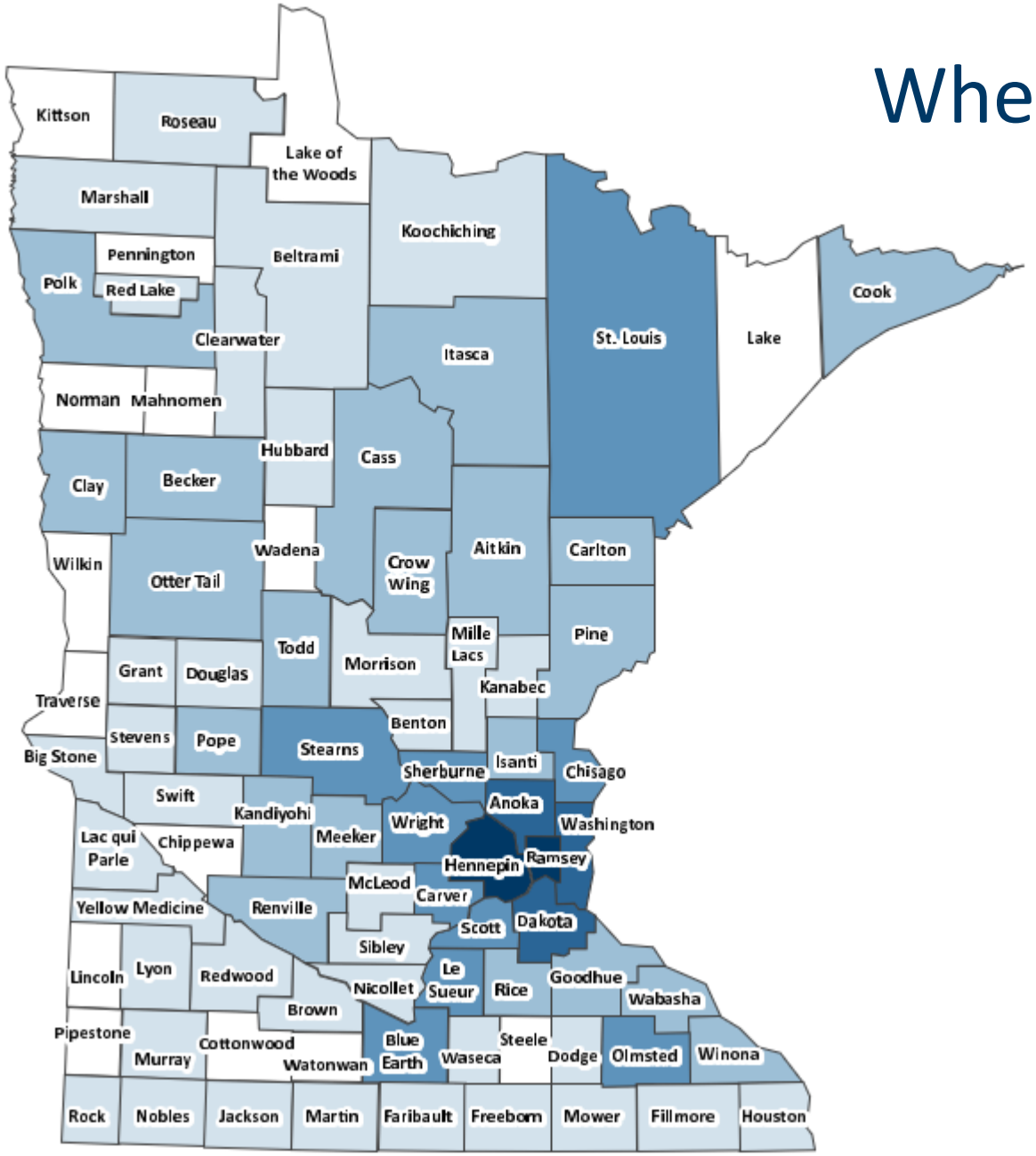
**are both**

99 registrations marked a government role and a property type




936 registrations. Registrations could mark more than one type, so counts add to more than 936. 12 gave no type.

# Where survey responses came from?




- Responses came from 72 of Minnesota's 87 counties.
- Around 78% of responses from the seven-county metro.
- Largest: Hennepin (324), Ramsey (268), Dakota (110), Washington (79), Anoka (75).
- 119 responses did not provide county information.

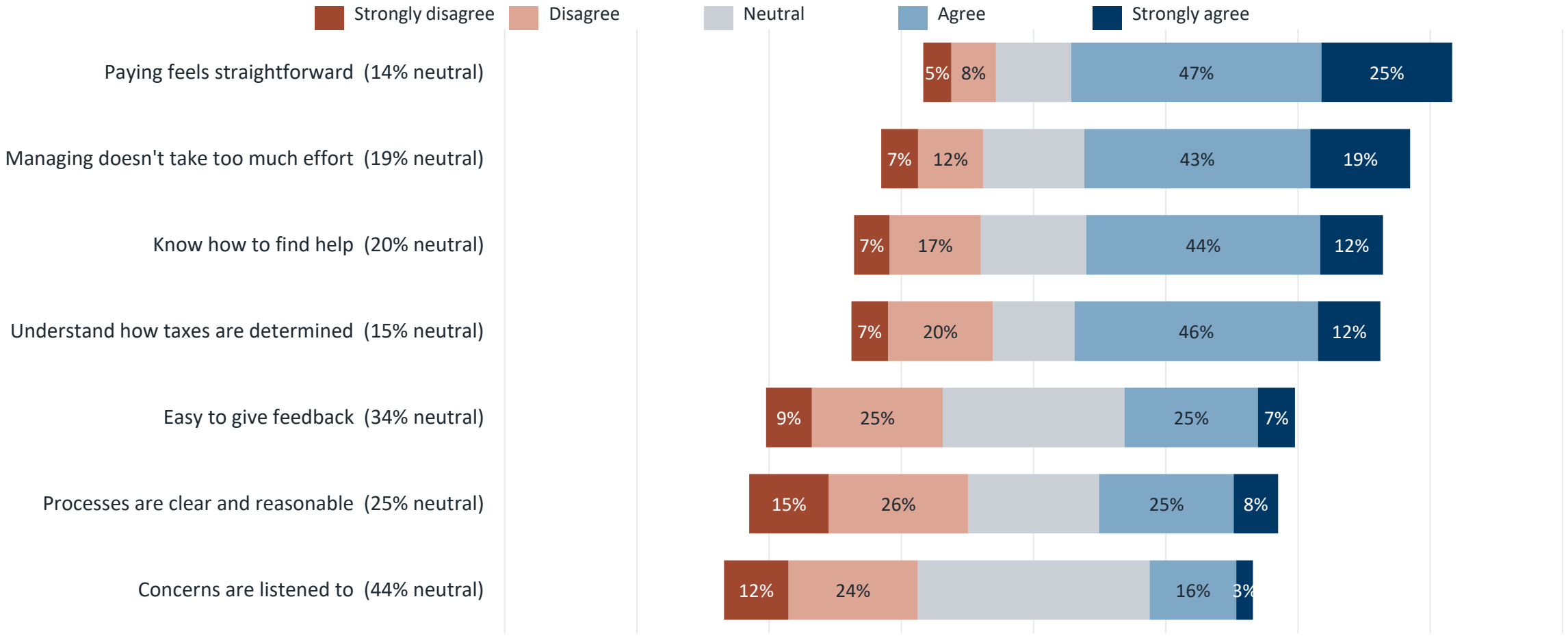
**Survey responses per county**

- None
- 1–2
- 3–9
- 10–49
- 50–149
- 150+

Counties as respondents wrote them; city names were matched to their county. A respondent who listed several counties counts in each.

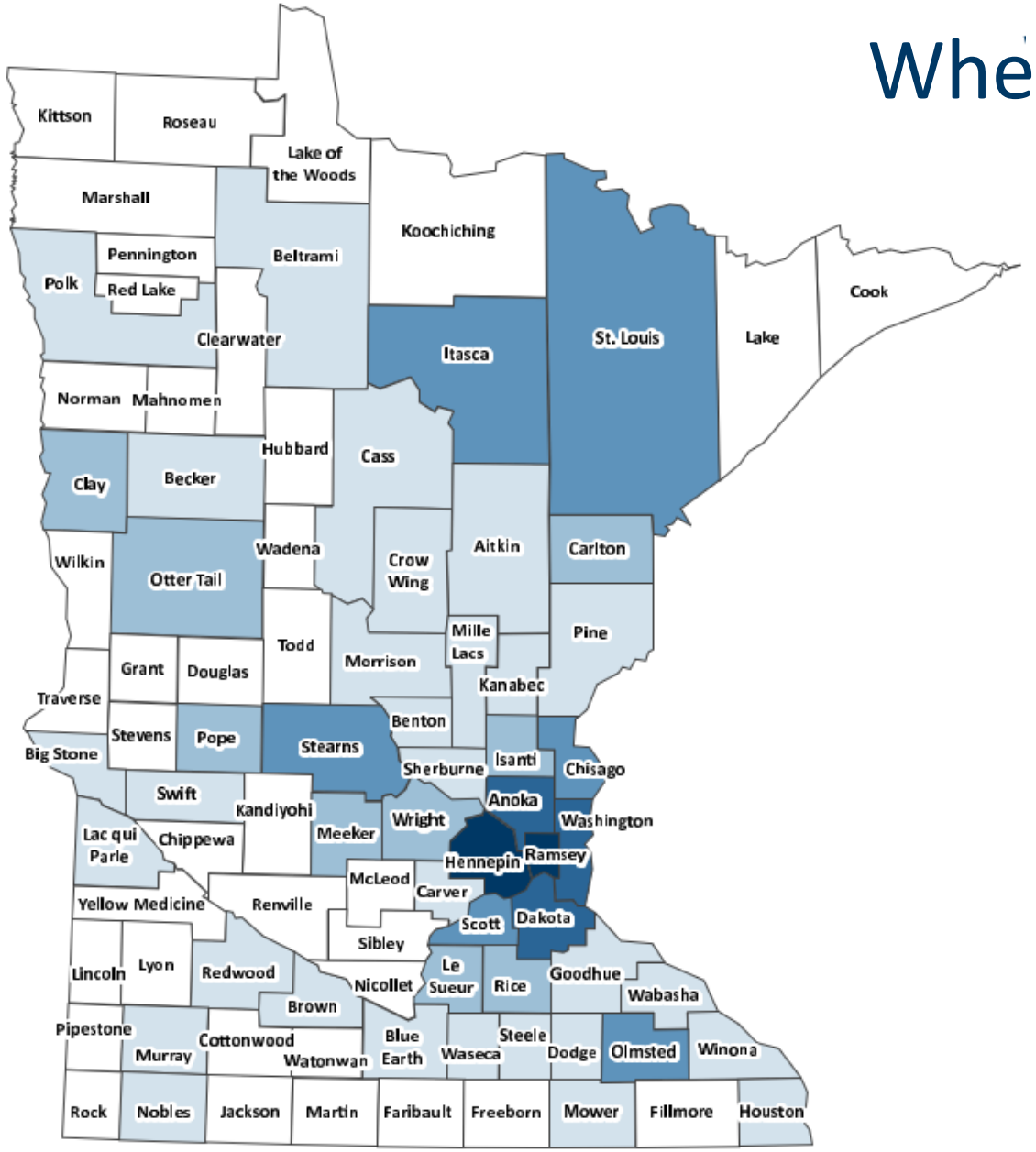
# Survey: Paying works; being heard does not

All survey respondents. Disagree to the left of center, agree to the right; neutral answers are split across the center line. Sorted by net agreement.




1,209 respondents answered at least one statement; n per statement 1,182 to 1,197. Answers with two boxes marked are excluded.

# Where did comments come from?




- Comments came from 49 of Minnesota's 87 counties.
- Hennepin (79) and Ramsey (77) together account for 44% of comments.
- Dakota (27), Anoka (21) and Washington (15) are next; most other counties sent 1 to 5.
- 15 comments gave no location and 1 said only "USA."

**Comments per county**

- None
- 1–2
- 3–5
- 6–10
- 11–30
- 31+

Counts use the location each respondent gave, with zip codes converted to counties. A respondent who listed several counties counts in each.

# Cost comes up in 7 of 10 comments

Share of the 353 coded comments that raise each category. A comment can raise more than one, so shares add to more than 100%. These include in- and out-of-scope comments.

**Simpler and Less Costly**

**71%**

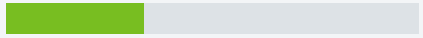
250 of 353 comments



**Understandable**

**33%**

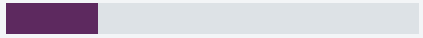
118 of 353 comments



**Accountable**

**22%**

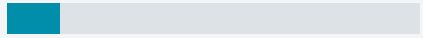
78 of 353 comments



**Accessible**

**13%**

45 of 353 comments





# Draft Recommendation Themes and Areas

# State: faster refunds and a better calendar

## Easier to understand

22 ideas

- Revenue explainer videos counties can link to
- Explain how state funding drives local taxes
- Clearer refund form guidance
- More outreach on the senior deferral program

## More accessible

14 ideas

- Easier online refund filing; M1PR in tax software
- Refund status updates and deposit dates
- Reach people missing refunds they qualify for

## More accountable

10 ideas

- Review what notices include and when they arrive
- Line-item budget additions on notices
- See tax impact before the appeal deadline
- Review mandates with public input

## Simpler and less costly

27 ideas

- Faster, predictable refunds
- Check refund math at filing
- Streamline homestead re-applications
- Fewer program and deadline changes
- Net penalties against refunds, not deny them
- More consideration to impact of mandates

# Local governments: a say in spending

## Easier to understand

19 ideas

- Show where the money goes
- Explain values with nearby comparables
- Explain how the county set taxes; multi-year history and taxing districts on the bill

## More accessible

14 ideas

- Hearings at 7 p.m. or later, no overlaps
- Remote options for meetings
- Better-publicized budget meetings
- A person on the phones; provide records online

## More accountable

25 ideas

- Public input on spending priorities
- Explain why increases are needed before deciding
- Dollar-by-dollar spending breakdown
- No budget windfalls in reassessment years
- Coordinate across taxing governments

## Simpler and less costly

13 ideas

- Earlier statements, including mobile homes
- Email reminders and e-delivery
- No-fee online and monthly payment
- Combine statements for several parcels

# Process: a clearer statement in plain language

## Easier to understand

24 ideas

- Redesign the statement: who levies what, values, rates
- Plain-language guide to classification, valuation, and homestead

## More accessible

14 ideas

- Infographics and translated materials
- One place for forms; easier website; reminders

## More accountable

4 ideas

- Clearer ways to dispute an assessment
- Show who is responsible for each levy on statements

## Simpler and less costly

10 ideas

- Simplify without shifting the burden to residential owners
- Reminders on deadlines, aids, and penalties

# Where the recommendation are thin

| | |
|---|---|
| **4 ideas** | **Property tax process: More accountable**<br>Remember: The survey responses “my concerns are listened to” had the weakest score (net −17) |
| **General only** | **Property tax process: Simpler and less costly**<br>Only broad calls to simplify. Specific ideas, such as fewer classifications, failed the tax-shift guardrail. |
| **Recurring** | **Ideas that span several areas**<br>Spending transparency, the Truth-in-Taxation notices and timing, and statement timing each appear throughout. |

# Important topics, out of scope for Minnesota Revenue

Themes that came up often but fail at least one guardrail: low or no cost, no shifting of taxes between groups, taxpayer benefit first.

# Out of scope, with an in-scope angle (1 of 2)

| Theme | Comments | What people asked for | Guardrail it fails | In-scope angle |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Relief for seniors and fixed-income homeowners** | **26** | Freezes, exemptions or cuts at 65 or 70 | Shifts taxes to other owners | **Promote senior deferral; explain its lien plainly** |
| **How property is valued** | **20** | Purchase price, income or size instead of market value | Shifts taxes among owners | **Explain how market value is set** |
| **Assessment accuracy and appeals** | **19** | Values too high; comparables ignored | Individual complaints, not proposals | **Clearer disputes; later appeal window** |
| **Fewer property classifications** | **17** | Collapse to 3–4 classes; one ag rate | Shifts taxes between classes | **Explain classification on statements** |
| **Who pays? Commercial, nonprofit, seasonal, nonresident** | **17** | Tax these owners more | Explicit shift between groups | **None; refer to lawmakers** |
| **Spending decisions and trust** | **16** | Cut waste and fraud; spend differently | About spending levels, not the process | **Public input on priorities; spending breakdowns** |

# Out of scope, with an in-scope angle (2 of 2)

| Theme | Comments | What people asked for | Guardrail it fails | In-scope angle |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Homestead and veteran exclusions** | **15** | Raise or index the exclusions | Cost and shift | **Plain-language homestead rules** |
| **State funding and mandates** | **12** | State pays for schools and mandates | High cost; shifts to other taxes | **Explain state funding's effect** |
| **Refund program design** | **8** | Wider eligibility; renters credit parity | High cost; shifts | **Automatic and up-front refunds moved to cost evaluation** |
| **Caps on annual increases (Levy or market)** | **8** | Cap at inflation or a set percent | Market caps create shifts to owners. Levy caps do not have this consideration. | **Show yearly change clearly** |
| **Delinquency and forfeiture** | **1** | Help seniors and heirs avoid forfeiture | Cost | **Outreach to residents at risk** |

# Cost items that need further evaluation

Ideas whose cost could be low or high depending on design.

| Item | Why the cost is unclear |
|---|---|
| **Automatic refunds, no application needed** | System implementation costs |
| **Refund paid up front or alongside income tax refunds** | Changes when the state pays and how counties and the state coordinate |
| **State grant for free legal help: outreach, clinics** | Depends on the funding dedicated to the grant |
| **Statewide reporting and review of special assessments** | New reporting work for local governments and review work for the state |
| **Line-by-line public vote on spending** | A major change to how governments make budget decisions |
| **Equal levy limits across cities, counties and schools** | Requires new law; cost depends on the design |

# What did we get right?

# What is missing?

# Next Steps

We will take some time to review and finalize our recommendations.

We are aiming for 15-20 total recommendations.

We will host one more session in late November, early December.




# Thank you!

Commissioner Paul Marquart