Minutes: Engaging Minnesota to Help Property Taxpayers Meeting 6 – Wrap-up and Reflections

Date: 10/27/2026
Minutes prepared by: Minnesota Department of Revenue
Location: Hybrid – Stassen Building, Room #2000/Microsoft Teams

Agenda

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

Welcome

Commissioner of Revenue Paul Marquart welcomed the in-person and virtual guests of the sixth meeting in the Department of Revenue's "Engaging Minnesota to Help Property Taxpayers" series. He reiterated the purpose of the meeting is to focus on property taxpayers and how to make the system easier to understand, more accessible, more efficient, and more accountable.

This meeting looked back on the entire engagement series, the feedback Revenue has received so far, and previewed the recommendations that will be included in the final report.

Previous Meetings Recap

Commissioner Marquart reviewed the Goals for the Property Taxpayer chart to reiterate the purpose of this series: to identify ways that the state, local governments, and the property tax system can be made easier to understand, more accessible, more accountable, and simpler and less costly. The objective is that these recommendations be low to no-cost, don't shift burden of property taxes from one group to another, and prioritize beneficial impacts to the property taxpayer.

The previous meeting heard from guest speakers representing Nathan Jesson, from the Minnesota Inter-County Association, and Paul Egers of the Minnesota Realtors Association.

Nathan Jesson provided information on the role of counties in implementing state and federal mandates, the impact of those mandates on county budgets, and potential sources of cost shifts that impact property taxpayers.

Paul Egers provided data showing the increased budget pressures facing first time homebuyers and current homeowners. He reviewed the relation between homeowner's property tax burdens and their monthly mortgage payments. Materials from both guest speakers can be found on the department's website.

Commissioner Marquart briefly reviewed five different reports produced in the last 20 years to improve local government service delivery. These reports are linked in the PowerPoint presentation that coincided with this roundtable meeting.

The overview was meant to show the interest in recent years in making service delivery more efficient and remind everyone of the importance of this effort during and outside of periods of budget constraints. Each of the reports mentioned can be found in the slide deck for the October 15 meeting. The group also discussed potential sources for "soft costs" taxpayers face when trying to engage with the property tax process.

Guest Speaker: Dawn Crowe

Residential property taxpayer, Dawn Crowe, provided recommendations to improve the transparency and accountability of the property tax process. The recommendations included a centralized hub containing property tax and local government budget information. This hub could provide a high-level overview for taxpayers to find information regarding their property tax burden, levy amounts, what has changed about their property tax burden from previous years, and simple explanations as to why these changes have happened.

A more detailed snapshot of property tax information could also be available for interested taxpayers detailing more influences for property tax changes, levy changes per taxing authority (city, county, school district), historical information about levies, and who are the officials that can be contacted if a taxpayer has questions.

These recommendations touched on both the efforts to improve the accountability and transparency of the property tax system. Comments from attendees agreed a centralized hub of standardized information would be helpful but should not replace in-person outreach and opportunities to connect with property tax administrators.

Engagement Series Overview

This portion of the meeting provided data on attendees and the responses we've received from participants thus far. This data can be found in the slide deck for the October 27 meeting on the department's website.

In summary, the department has held six meetings in this engagement series and received 353 comments and 1,209 survey responses.

State: Fast Refunds and a Better Calendar

Reviewed example recommendations Revenue has received that could be implemented by the state to make the property tax process more efficient by improving the property tax process calendar. This set of recommendations primarily focused on taxpayers' desire to have a more user-friendly and easier to understand calendar for the property tax process. Each of these example recommendations can be found in the slide deck for the October 27 meeting on the department's website.

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

Local Governments: A Say in Spending

Reviewed example recommendations that local governments could implement to improve the property taxpayer's say in budgeting and spending decisions. Feedback gathered by the department centered primarily

on taxpayers' desire to provide more input into spending decisions made at the local government level. Each of these example recommendations can be found in the slide deck for the October 27 meeting on the department's website.

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

Process: A Clearer Statement in Plain Language

Reviewed example recommendations to make the property tax process easier to understand by improving the accessibility of information and how it is communicated to taxpayers. Feedback primarily focuses on simplifying how property tax information and local government budget information is communicated to taxpayers. Each of these example recommendations can be found in the slide deck for the October 27 meeting on the department's website.

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

Where Recommendations are Thin

- **"More Accountable":** Survey responses for "my concerns are listened to" had the weakest score (net –17).
- **"Simpler and Less Costly":** Only broad calls to simplify. Specific ideas, such as fewer classifications, failed the tax-shift guardrail.
- **Recurring:** Multiple ideas that span several areas for improvement. For example, spending transparency, TNT notices and timing, statement timing, appear throughout recommendations of different categories.

Important Topics Out of Scope

Reviewed out-of-scope recommendations that failed one or more guardrails but are important to include in discussion. Revenue attempted to provide an "in-scope" angle for each of these recommendations that could be included in the final report and do not fail the guardrails. Each of the out-of-scope recommendations reviewed can be found in the October 27 slide deck on the department's website.

What Did We Get Right? What is Missing?

Commissioner Marquart asked attendees to review the draft recommendations discussed and determine if they accurately reflect the needs of property taxpayers. The areas that had fewer recommendations could be improved so participants were encouraged to reach out with additional thoughts, especially in these areas, to ensure the final report is well-balanced.

Comments can still be submitted over the next few weeks via the department's website or reaching out to Revenue directly.

Next Meeting

Date: TBD
Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
Location: Hybrid – Stassen Building Room/Microsoft Teams
Agenda items: Final Meeting and Recommendations Review