

From: [Le MAC](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: City's 2023 Budget and Tax Levy Comment
Date: Monday, November 28, 2022 9:12:50 AM

Attention Council Board Members

I am a resident of Saint Paul in District 3 within the Frogtown area. Based on your recommended tax increase, my property tax will increase 19% which will be an additional \$700. Last year my property taxes increased 15%, in 2021 the property taxes increased 13%. In 2020 the taxes also increased over 10%. Over the last 3 years, my property taxes have more than doubled while the value of my home only increased 9.5%.

As a first time homeowner I was not prepared for such progressive changes in my taxes. This new 2023 proposal for property tax will force me to sell my home because the reality is I cannot afford the 15% and more tax increase.

This new proposal is unrealistic. Ramsey County is the ONLY county in the metro where the cost of living is higher than the median income. This tax increase is not helping but hindering. I am above the median income yet I am finding myself like many financially strained with the ongoing excessive tax increases as well as cost of simple living. Inflation of food, housing, gasoline, utilities, and other goods, rose over 10% over in the last 12 months and for some odd reason our local government is content with increasing taxes penalizing taxpayers like myself.

Property tax is to generate revenue for local governments for schools, maintaining roads and parks and providing services as police protection. But last year five schools in St. Paul closed; in Frogtown alone two schools were closed (Jackson Elementary and Galtier Community Elementary School). 80% of residential streets in St Paul are saturated with potholes, poor infrastructure and poorly maintained for snow removal. The crime is increasing dramatically. St. Paul has lost a total of

64 police officers in September. We are told taxes are to "aid these services". We are told by local politicians and board members that if we increase taxes then more can be done but where I am standing the increased taxes is outrageous. The board "suggested" budget is not working. It has not been working for the locals years. Board members need to be realistic and FAIR. Please reduce the property taxes.

Alteria McCalister
Resident of Saint Paul, MN