

A constituent of Ward 6 (with a local phone number) left a message saying she was in favor of passing the 7% levy.

Roger Hallman (12xx Payne Avenue) is retired and can't afford the tax levy the mayor is proposing. He says people like him who are on a fixed income are being taxed out of their homes.

They can't afford the high taxes and can't afford to move. He would like the increase to be no more than 3%.

From: CenturyLink Customer
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 10:21 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: 7% Property Tax Levy on St. Paul Homeowners

I write this to inform the council how disappointed and upset I am regarding the above tax levy you will be voting on tomorrow, September 28, 2016. Apparently the council has not taken into account that many **homeowners** are **retired** and living on a **fixed income**. This is a huge increase and will affect their lives dramatically. Keeping this in mind, **city fees increased** this year and **city water** has been approved **for another increase**. **Xcel** will also probably receive its **request for an increase**. I feel the City of St. Paul and its utility companies are driving people out of their homes. What is the \$3 million dollars you say you need going to be used for? Why were the homeowners in the City of St. Paul not informed of this? I heard about it in a 3 second spot on the news! Is this not something that should be put on a referendum for the people to vote on? For myself, my property taxes have increased well over 50% in the last two years. How much more do you think you can get out of homeowners? Perhaps the city council should look elsewhere to raise the \$3 million it needs? Again - no explanation as to what you need this amount of money for. Perhaps you need to go back to the State Legislature and ask again for the money you need instead of punishing homeowners.

Leslie Rada

20xx Clear Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55119

Gregory Clark from 4xx Summit Avenue is not in favor of the tax levy for Libraries.

Caller feels the proposed tax increase would be a burden on the poorest residents as well as middle class families on a budget. It is too much, and there are other ways to balance the budget, including making cuts, which families have to do.

Beverly Dougherty of E 5th Street would like be on the record that she is against the 7% increase in taxes. She will already have an increase for schools, Ramsey County, and street assessments. It is getting hard for her to stay in her house. As far as playgrounds, we had a beautiful one, but they gave it away to a private company.

Summit University resident Carl Walker called to say he hopes CM Thao will fight for his community when it comes to the levy increase. Mr. Walker is a senior and can't afford more taxes.

Cathedral Hill resident called and said there is already a tax increase by virtue of the law, and the Council doesn't need to make it bigger.

From: Joan Simpson
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 2:30 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: 7% property tax increase

Just found out that there's a meeting tonight; I'm unable to attend. I do, however, wish to voice my objection to the size of the increase .

At the very least, it will cause an unreasonable hardship for those of us still with mortgages and no comparable increase of income. I understand that the East side remains underfunded but to keep raiding the property tax piggy bank is to undermine what's left of the stable backbone that anchors the neighborhood.

Please consider a more reasonable amount.

Thank you,

Joan Simpson, lifelong Eastsider.

From: Cheryl Hanzlik

Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 2:25 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council

Subject: property tax levy

As a long time homeowner on the East Side of St. Paul, I urge you not to raise our property taxes beyond what is truly necessary. Although it may seem that our property taxes on the East Side are lower than other parts of the city, we did have an extremely large increase the year before last (I believe ours increased over 50%). Seniors in our area just cannot afford these types of increases when they are living on a fixed income. I find it interesting that when property taxes are discussed and cuts have to be made, that the city goes first to saying it will have to cut police and fire. Why is that???? I'm sure there are other expenditures that are less vital that could certainly be cut without decreasing these vital services! We need to start looking at ways to cut spending in the city if the taxes that are currently being collected are not enough to fund our needs. It would be quite helpful if the city would produce a document showing specifically where every tax dollar goes...then the citizens of this fine city could look at it and decide whether or not such individual services should be kept or cut. We really have no idea where the money is going and how much is being wasted on non-vital items! Please, think of those on fixed or low incomes who cannot afford these large increases. Don't price us out of our homes by raising our taxes so high that we cannot afford to live in the city any longer!

Cheryl Hanzlik

St. Paul 55119