

Good afternoon,

I am unable to attend this evenings public hearing because I am in class.

I would like to express my concern about the continued hike in property taxes and my opposition to them.

I understand the city needs money to function. However, it is unfair to balance so much of this funding needs on the backs of the property owners. Rates have gone up from around \$700 a year when I bought my house 23 years ago to nearly \$4000 now if you include other special assessments. In this timeframe, salaries have certainly not increased this much. In fact with the poor economy, most have not had raises or lost their jobs and many lived on fixed incomes. This spiral in taxes is going to result in middle class homeowners to have to decide if they can afford to live in St. Paul anymore. I do not think this is fair, especially for those who have lived here for many years and want to continue to live here.

Again, I would like to express my opposition to any raise in property taxes and that a major effort be considered to re-vamp the entire process.

Ann Johnson
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St. Paul