

From: [Polly Heintz](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: SPAAR's Comments on Tax Levy Increase
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 3:23:32 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

From: Becky Wegscheid <bwegscheid@spaar.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 2:37 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Biftu Adema-Jula <Biftu.Adema-Jula@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: SPAAR's Comments on Tax Levy Increase

You don't often get email from bwegscheid@spaar.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

Hello Councilmember Bowie,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Becky Wegscheid and I am reaching out on behalf of the members of the Saint Paul Area Association of Realtors® (SPAAR) in response to Mayor Melvin Carter's recent budget proposal. We sincerely appreciate the Mayor and City Council's dedication to housing, especially in regards to office-to-residential conversions, downpayment assistance funds, and the Inheritance Fund. Thank you for continuing to keep housing as one of Saint Paul's top priorities.

While SPAAR and our members understand that property taxes are an inevitability and help to fund important community resources, we encourage you to keep the 2026 property tax increases to a minimum. The increase to property taxes will unduly affect the communities of Frogtown, Payne-Phalen, North End, and the West Side, as outlined in the Pioneer Press article from September 5.

As you know, the cost of living in our area has reached an all-time high with individuals and families already struggling to make ends meet. While Saint Paul's tax levy may only slightly increase the amount that the average household per year, this, coupled with the proposed \$264 from Ramsey County, will place additional stress on already cost-burdened families. Even the slightest increase can lead to a surge in vacant properties, foreclosures, or new residents simply avoiding the City.

SPAAR appreciates the opportunity to voice our concerns and work together to ensure that all Saint Paulites have access to safe, affordable, and available housing. Please let me know how I and SPAAR's members can be of assistance as you work towards approving the 2026 City Budget.

Thank you for the time and consideration,

Becky Wegscheid

Government Affairs Director

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