

Audit Committee - Topic Suggestions

as of May 1, 2023

ID	Ward	District Council	I am:	Department interested in	What question would you like the Saint Paul City Council Audit Committee to explore?	Why do you think this question should be explored?	Please tell the Audit Committee what the city is doing well.	Please tell the Audit Committee what the city needs to do better.	Preferred Pronouns	How do you identify?	Interested in learning more about serving on the Audit Committee
1	Ward 6	Payne-Phalen (District)	Resident;	Mayor's Office;Financial Empowerment;Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity;Planning & Economic Development;	1. Performance audit of the city of Saint Paul's human rights and equal opportunities office. I am curious about what MEASURABLE impacts this department has had on the city of Saint Paul. 2. Performance audit of the city of Saint Paul's Mayor's office. I am curious about the spending of his office and if cuts can be made to positively impact the cities budgets. I also am curious to learn about the effectiveness of his large advisory counsel and if they actually produce measurable results.	Significant expenditures are made in these offices with little to no public facing reports of measurable impact to the community.	The city is doing well at increasing bike lanes, trying to reduce car traffic/slow it and revitalize areas (Vandalia Towers, ect.)	Taxes are increasing at rates that are unsustainable for most families. This needs to be addressed or we could face a crisis of higher earning tax payers fleeing the city (their costs are increasing while services are not being administered i.e. streets are not being maintained, crime is increasing, school outcomes are reducing all while St. Paul pays some of the highest tax rates)	she/her/hers	White (Caucasian);	Yes
2	Ward 5	North End (District)	Resident;	Mayor's Office;	Why a raise in sales tax?	It seems like a raise in sales tax would unfairly effect people who don't have cars to go across city lines to buy goods at a lower tax rate.	Police dept does a good job under tough conditions.	Increase value to those paying taxes.	they/them/their	Black (African-American);	No
3	Ward 6	Greater East Side (District)	Resident;	Citywide;	Audit of street maintenance, plowing, repairs, sweeping, etc.	Services have declined since this Mayor came into office. They only budget for a handful of snow emergencies....this is MN! It snows a LOT here and there were times when it snowed above the amount for a snow emergency and yet they did not plow. We sat with 12" of snow on our street for weeks waiting for it to melt because they decided not to plow. It's ridiculous!	I can't think of one thing they are doing well. City services are a failure!	The city's main function should be safety. We have fewer cops, fewer fire fighters and more criminals being released with no consequences! Stop with all the social justice nonsense and start locking up criminals!	Flamingo...why does it matter?	This doesn't matter to me	No
4		I prefer not to say.		Mayor's Office;City Council/City Clerk;Financial Empowerment;Financial Services;Neighborhood Safety;Parks and Recreation;Planning & Economic Development;Citywide;	How is it not a conflict of interest between Husband-and-wife team, Council president Brendmoen and head of Park and Rec when filtering money around?	Rumors over the past few years from someone that works closely and knows of some issues.	If our police department had all the resources it needs, it could be able to deal with more calls and issues for public safety than what is able to do now.	I alone with many others believe that most the departments in our city need to be audited..	she/her/hers	White (Caucasian);	No
5	Ward 5	North End (District)	Businessowner;	Neighborhood Safety;Mayor's Office;Parks and Recreation;	Performance audit of the city council and Mayor	How much money is being spent on personal aids that are working for these departments. Why so much wasted tax payers money on special committees that aren't making a difference?	From being a business owner and seeing the decline in the city, I can't think of anything the city is doing well.	Needs to make the city a safer place.			No
6	Ward 5	North End (District)	Resident;Businessowner;	Mayor's Office;City Council/City Clerk;City Attorney's Office;Financial Services;Neighborhood Safety;Parks and Recreation;Planning & Economic Development;Police;Public Works ;	Audit of mayors office and city council	Crime is way up , roads are junk , taxes increased but nothing to show for it. I have 3 city lights burnt out for weeks now. My vehicle is being broken in to. Safety is 0	Honestly nothing	Maybe get out in the REAL community and see what's going on day to day. Don't just hide behind a desk	she/her/hers	White (Caucasian);	No
7	Ward 7	Greater East Side (District)	Resident;	Public Works ;Planning & Economic Development;Mayor's Office;Safety of Inspections;	Why are they not completing Flandrau street between Wilson and Old Hudson?	It would complete the flandrau bikeway in 1 block instead of having people travel up to Kennard	Plowing, ticketing and towing vehicles this winter.	Hire more workers/laborers to keep up with the demands of the existing infrastructure	she/her/hers	White (Caucasian);	No
8	Ward 1	Summit-University	Resident;Businessowner;	Citywide;	City's transparency and response time when faced with requests by citizens for public data.	See the 2022-2023 data requests related to the "proposed" Summit Avenue bike trail that the City's planners seem to be actively and aggressively avoiding in order to push through a predetermined political agenda.	Smokescreen tactics.	Listening to and actually incorporating ideas from community members.	he/his/him	White (Caucasian);	No
9	Ward 3	Macalester-Groveland	Resident;	Public Works ;	Performance audit of the City of Saint Paul's street maintenance.	The streets are not regularly maintained, they are in terrible condition right now and snowplowing has been terrible for the past several years. Some say we don't have the right equipment. What needs to be done to get on track?	Affordable housing projects.	Basic services -- streets, plowing, more policing.	she/her/hers	White (Caucasian);	No

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10	Ward 7	Eastview - Conway	Resident;	Mayor's Office;Neighborhood Safety;Public Works ;	Street maintence	The potholes are terrible.	Removal of fallen tree branches from the April storm	street Maintenace	he/his/him	White (Caucasian);	No
11	Ward 3	Highland Park (Dist	Resident;	Mayor's Office;Financial Empowerment;City Council/City Clerk;Financial Services;Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity;	The examples listed just say "performance audit of..." I don't know what that means. I would like to see a comparison between several cities in the U.S that are similar in size to see how much money was spent on the departments that I have selected.	I feel that Saint Paul spends too much money on departments. This is reflected in the year over year percent increase in property taxes which is disproportionate to like sized cities elsewhere in the country.	Attempting to be fair, honest, open and transparent and provide good government.	Making tough decisions about where to cut costs. It would be ideal to give unlimited raises and fund every need in the city but it is not realistic. Cuts need to happen.	he/his/him	White (Caucasian);	No
12	Ward 3	Highland Park (Dist	Resident;District Council Board Member;	Financial Empowerment;Financial Services;Library;Neighborhood Safety;Parks and Recreation;Planning & Economic Development;Police;Public Works ;Safety of Inspections;Water;Citywide;	New options for Public Works regarding plowing and potholes--we're going to continue to get weird winters, we need to be prepared. Equity review of Parks and other infrastructure projects (why is a \$100million bike path project in summit being pursued before building equitable access in Frog Town, for example) Similarly, the CIB process is depressing. All 17 dcs have to fight over \$1million when we all have projects needed to help out most vulnerable neighbors--Highland Park is a pretty wealthy neighborhood, but we also have an area of concentrated poverty. Addressing the housing crisis.	See above	Happy to see a lot of pedestrian improvements going in, investment in infrastructure. Excited about the Rondo Reparations efforts. Will be happy to see the 1-4unit infill zoning adopted, but needs to come with encouragement to build more diverse housing options	she/her/hers	Asian or Pacific Isla	No	
13		Downtown (District	Resident;	Mayor's Office;Library;Neighborhood Safety;Parks and Recreation;Planning & Economic Development;	Performance audit of the mayor's office	Too many new initiatives and not enough creative use of existing resources and program	Some. New trees	Safety. Ground level businesses	she/her/hers	White (Caucasian);	
14	Ward 7	Frogtown (District	Resident;	Mayor's Office;	I would like to know when Mayor Carter is going to stop being a community services person and realize he is running an entire city. We all pay taxes	Because our roads are a disaster, not enough police to deal with gangs, people are afraid to go into the city, and he wants to.raise taxes. I would also like an audit of the directors he has appointed. Cut his own staff that must bs a million plus.	Garbage pick up	Service all members of St Paul.	she/her/hers	White (Caucasian);	Yes
15	Ward 3	Highland Park (Dist	Resident;	Public Works ;	Why doesn't the public works department listen to the residents when they attend meetings, and why to they tell lies when they are asked a direct question. Why don't they hold the private contractors accountable for the terrible work they do?	Because public servants should actually SERVE the public, honor those who pay for their work and be truthful about how tax dollars are spent. Public servants should also hold the private contractors they select accountable for quality work.	The city maintains the parks and recreation facilities beautifully.	Repair the roads, not impose new and unwanted concrete into neighborhoods, protect the trees and add more trees.	she/her/hers	White (Caucasian);	No
16	Ward 5	North End (District	Resident;	Citywide;	Restructuring the trash pickup. And the lack of customer service from WM.	The fact we have to pay out of pocket for a service that we can't control, pick my own garbage service. This should be included service just like recycling.			she/her/hers	White (Caucasian);	Yes
17	Ward 2	Downtown (District	Resident;	Public Works ;	When will the pot holes in our streets be dealt with?	Pot holes in our streets are a danger to vehicles as well as pedestrians.		Keep the citizens better infomed of plans for addressing issues.	he/his/him	White (Caucasian);	No
18	Ward 2	Downtown (District	Resident;	Mayor's Office;Neighborhood Safety;Parks and Recreation;Planning & Economic Development;City Council/City Clerk;	What is the City willing to do in order to restore growth Downtown - residential and commercial.	Because it is critical for Saint Paul and any US City and because there is a Downtown crisis that has gone unrecognized by Saint Paul's current government.	Parks. Fire.	Getting more performance out of the Police Department without their asking for budget increases	he/his/him	White (Caucasian);	Yes
19	Ward 4	Como (District Cour	Resident;	Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity;Police;	Performance audit of equal economic opportunity work focusing on long term financial benefit provided to residents vs cost to implement and cost imposed on the community.	To build confidence in government systems it is necessary to have easily quantifiable metrics to judge performance. HR & EEO is an area that is historically based on personal judgement and tends to lack well defined performance metrics. The proposed audit would work to change that by showing the value it provides to residents.		Cleaner/simpler explanations for continuous increasrs in property tax when no improvements are made of an area that requires improvement			No

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20	Ward 4	Union Park (District)	Resident;	Mayor's Office;City Council/City Clerk;Financial Empowerment;Neighborhood Safety;Parks and Recreation;Water;	I would like to view ALL the job description the Mayor is hiring and the departments they are hiring for. I want the Mayor's budgets audited for new personal and how the money is spent.	I have lived in St Paul my entire life. I believe the Mayor is out of control on all the personal he has hired. It's more than any other Mayor.	Not much. the are lack with the audits. We pay more and more on taxes and the services get worst. Why does the Mayor need more taxes for his personnel wants? I would like to see evaluation of all the departments. Yes, it will take a while but this is needed. All nonprofits are audited yearly if not more. The Mayor need provide answers.	Put some control on the Mayor, who does he answer too, if not the citizen of St Paul.	Female	White (Caucasian);	Yes
21	Ward 1	Eastview - Conway	Businessowner;Resident;	Neighborhood Safety;Mayor's Office;	Why isn't more money going to take care of our youth. We need a totem town back. Ask anyone educated in youth problems and they will tell you they need to be incarcerated for 6 months in a drug abuse program away from their bad friends and relatives. Give them a focus in life. So many blue collar workers will pay and train young people just to get workers...	Because we closed Totem town and the new place in Richfield never came to fruition...they need a place to be incarcerated for 6 months to stop all the horrible behavior.	Spending money on rocks on Johnson Parkway	Focus on people not rock and Rondo etc.	she/her/hers	White (Caucasian);	Yes
22	I do not know.	Highland Park (District)	Resident;	Public Works ;	Performance audit public works	Audit public works. - snow removal and road repair	Planting trees	Snow removal and road repair	she/her/hers	White (Caucasian);	No
23	Ward 2	Greater East Side (District)	Resident;	Neighborhood Safety;Planning & Economic Development;City Attorney's Office;	Performance and audit of the city attorney's office.	I want to know there is consistency in who gets charged, for what, with what evidence, and who is offered plea deals based on what information.	The city is getting better to seek public input from residents.	Manage money better. This city's tax burden on residents is to much especially for low income and seniors.	she/her/hers	White (Caucasian);	Maybe
24	I do not know.	Downtown (District)	Resident;	Human Resources;	Homeless	Because we need help			she/her/hers	Black (African-American);	Yes
25	Ward 2	Greater East Side (District)	Resident;	Public Works ;Police;Safety of Inspections;Planning & Economic Development;Neighborhood Safety;Mayor's Office;City Council/City Clerk;Parks and Recreation;	1) How is it the city employees from each department I listed above can give it citizens the rundown when I reached out them for service and don't seem compeld to serve its citizens? HOW DO WE GET ACCOUNTABILITY? 2) Why can I only ask only 1 question? 3). How can I find out what percent of city employees are residence of St. Paul? 4) How many employees work for St.Paul? 5). What is the city doing to let unions that represent city employees know thier members are failing the citizens they serve? 6) As a union member myself, I recognize the union looks after its members more than the citizens its member are paid well to serve? 7) What leverage does city leadership have over unions unwilling to work with us to address citizens dissatisfaction for inadequate service? 8) What is city leadership doing to fill city job vacancy with qualified city residents? 9) Why isn't the contact information for all city department heads readily available so as a citizens I can have direct contact to them without going though a general info line or DSI?	Because without finding the answers to them, you will not make a positive deference and this city will soon become unlivable for me personally. I have lived here my whole live. 53 of my 62 years have been in the same home.	I have been let down by every department I contacted or worked with for City services over life time living in St. Paul.	It appears to me, based on a lifetime of experiences, city employees are not accountable to its citizens and as a citezen I live with the consequences. I was reluctant to get involved by fillingvout this formg because a positive change has never been the results from my past involment.		White (Caucasian);	Maybe
26	I do not know.	Dayton's Bluff (District)	Resident;	Financial Services;Financial Empowerment;Neighborhood Safety;Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity;Police;Water;Citywide;	Performance Audit of the City of Saint Paul's police department	Everything that has been happening in the metro and beyond in recent years.	Having park security around	Fix the roads. They're so so bad.	she/her/hers	White (Caucasian);	No