

From: [sara lindquist](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Assessment #255501, 2024 Mill and Overlay Cretin/Bayard Area
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 6:15:37 AM

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To the Members of the St. Paul City Council,

We are writing in regard to the Ratification of Assessment for the 2024 Mill and Overlay project of the Cretin/Bayard Area. We were pleased to see that the price of the Mill and Overlay project was reduced from \$26.55/foot to \$15.15/foot. However, in our opinion, an additional payment for this project over what we already pay in property taxes and an increased sales tax is still too much.

Since 2021, our property taxes have risen from \$9952.64 to \$13,202.38 in 2025. That is an increase for 33% over 5 years, or 7.3%/year. At its peak in 2021, the rate of inflation was 7%. Since that time, it has stabilized to about 3%. Likewise, our estimated home value only increased by 22% in that same timeframe. Simultaneously, in 2024 the sales tax in St. Paul increased by 1%, bringing our local sales tax to 9.88%, the highest in Minnesota. That additional tax was to be earmarked, in part, for street improvements.

We have lived in our home in St. Paul for 24 years. We have had many winters of burst pipes in the street and potholes filled in the spring. This was the first improvement of any significance in the time we have been here. We have paid our assessment for this project many times over.

We understand and support the need for taxes to help pay for police, fire, schools, and other support services in our city. However, it seems that every time someone has an idea to get something done, our property taxes are treated like an ATM. As of this morning, voters elected Kaohly Her as our new mayor. Her policies were not that much different from Mayor Carter, outside of her promise to stem the rate of property tax increases. Voters also passed the public school levy referendum, so billing us for an assessment that should have been funded through property taxes and an increased sales tax, is redundant.

At the end of the day, we keep paying more for every service. So we begin to wonder what our property taxes are being used for when we "pay by the drink" for schools, road improvement, etc.

We would like to reiterate that we believe that taxes are an important part of a functioning government, and we believe in services to help support our neighbors. However, as citizens whose income did not match the rate of inflation, and certainly not the rate of property tax increases, we would like our government to be more fiscally responsible with our money.

Sincerely,

Sara Lindquist and Ryan Steines
2088 Watson Ave.
Saint Paul 55116