

From: Paul Calvin <calpau@mac.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2024 3:55 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1
Cc: Margaret Anne Calvin
Subject: property tax increase!

Importance: High

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

Dear Council member Bowie,

My wife and I were alarmed when we read the proposed property tax assessment that we received for 2025. We have lived in St. Paul for 20+ years, the first 15 years in Frogtown/Midway and the past five years in Summit/University neighborhoods. Since 2020 our property taxes have increased 20% and the 2025 proposal would add a ~16% increase. The combination of soaring property taxes and a nearly 10% sales tax in St. Paul were not expenses that we imagined when we considered the long term affordability of our current home five years ago and our incomes in ministry and education will take a long time to catch up with these unexpected financial burdens – if ever.

Between 2019 and 2023, St. Paul's city budget grew by 30.1% while the Consumer Price Index increased by 19.2%. I urge you and the rest of the city council to resist Mayor Carter's proposed levy increase, prioritize municipal spending on essential services, and **reject policies that drive property development and business from St. Paul**. Residential property taxes are not the solution to our city's fiscal challenges.

best regards,

Paul Calvin
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