

From: E. S. Fletcher <esfletcher@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2024 1:34 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1
Subject: Proposed 2025 Property Tax Assessment

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Dear Council Member Bowie -

My husband and I were shocked to open our proposed 2025 property tax assessment last week. We have lived in St. Paul for 10 years. During this time, our property taxes have increased 87%. If the current proposal is enacted, that number will jump to a staggering 126% in 11 years. This escalation in property taxes is unsustainable for our family.

St. Paul already boasts the highest sales tax in the state, and this additional burden makes the city increasingly unaffordable. Much as we love our house and neighborhood, we are reluctantly exploring a relocation elsewhere, driven by concerns that the city's tax burden will continue to be disproportionately shouldered by homeowners.

Between 2019 and 2023, St. Paul's city budget grew by 30.1% while the Consumer Price Index increased by 19.2%, indicating that the city's spending is out of balance. 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.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Elizabeth Fletcher
796 Laurel Ave
St. Paul 55104