

From: Dobby Gibson <dobbygibson@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2024 11:32 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1
Subject: Residential taxes: my concerns

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Dear Council Member Bowie,

My wife and I are alarmed and concerned by the proposed property tax assessment that we received for 2025. We have lived in the city for almost 20 years in two different houses and have never received a tax increase the size of which is proposed for 2025. The combination of residential tax increases and sales taxes being levied at the citizens of St. Paul is untenable and unsustainable. And it's regressive, in that this burden most affects our most vulnerable homeowners and citizens.

In the past three years, the city's budget has increased at 2x the rate of the Consumer Price Index. Now is a moment for bold action. I urge you and your colleagues to consider the following:

- Focus on the essentials and cut everything else. This fiscal crisis is not the time for launching new and expensive programs such as guaranteed income.
- Repeal rent control. This policy has been a disaster for the city. The abandoned development in Highland Park is an embarrassment. Work with -- not against -- developers to get housing construction going again in our city, which is good for our citizens AND good for our tax base.
- Partner with business (again, not AGAINST business) to drive investment in our city, especially along Grand Ave. and the downtown core. These horrible residential tax increases are the result of a deteriorating business tax base.

I'm a proud Democrat and have voted for Democrats in every election at every level in my adult life. However, the city's condition is making me ask hard questions about whether one-party control of St. Paul is taking us in the right direction. We need business working with us -- not against us. Raising residential property taxes at this rate is a doomed strategy.

Regards,

Dobby and Kathy Gibson
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