

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Agenda Item #: IX. A.

From: Debra Mangen
City Clerk

Date: December 17, 2013

Subject: CORRESPONDENCE

Action
Discussion
Information

Action Requested:

Attached is correspondence received since the last Council Meeting.

No action is requested.

December 4, 2013

Mayor James Hovland
City of Edina
Edina City Hall
4801 W. 50th St.
Edina, MN 55424

RE: 2014 proposed property taxes

Dear Mayor Hovland:

I intended to personally attend the December 3, 2013 Edina City Council meeting regarding the above referenced matter, but was not feeling well.

Enclosed is a copy of my 2014 proposed property taxes for 6600 Field Way. It reveals an increase from 2013 by 8.8%, which, in my opinion is extremely excessive in view of the research I have done, copies of which are enclosed.

Please review the enclosed Star Tribune editorial dated November 13, 2013 entitled "Property tax hikes? It's time to speak up." At the top of the second column of the editorial are the aggregate property tax increases that were projected for 2014 as follows: Cities-2.1% increase; Counties-1.5% increase; Townships-2.1% increase; Schools-2.6% increase and Special taxing districts-2.3% increase.

While doing some research on the internet I learned that the Preliminary County Levy Change for property taxers in only Hennepin County in 2014 is a mere 1.0%. Enclosed is a copy that information.

I am also enclosing a copy of the Preliminary 2014 Property Tax Levies from the Minnesota Revenue property tax website, which corroborates the Star Tribune aggregate property tax increases.

Lastly, I am enclosing a copy of the US Inflation Calculator which reveals a 1.7% inflation rate between 2012 and 2013.

For all the above comparisons to my property tax increase of 8.8% you can understand why I believe the percentage increase for 2014 is extremely excessive and should be reduced accordingly.

Very truly yours,


Melvin Ogurak

cc: Jonie Bennett w/enc.
Mary Brindle w/enc.
Josh Sprague w/enc.
Ann Swanson w/enc.



Hennepin County

A-600 Government Center
300 S. Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487-0060
612-348-3011 www.hennepin.us

Proposed levies & taxes

2014

2013 values for taxes payable in 2014

MELVIN OGURAK
6600 FIELD WAY
EDINA MN 55436-1717

Property ID NO: 31-117-21 24 0008
6600 FIELD WAY

Property taxes statement schedule

Step 1 Value & classification

TAX YEAR PAYABLE CLASS:	2013 HOMESTEAD	2014 HOMESTEAD
Estimated Market Value:	\$628,400	\$668,300
Homestead Exclusion:	\$0	\$0
Other Exclusion/Deferral:	\$0	\$0
Taxable Mkt Value:	\$628,400	\$668,300

Step 2 Proposed levies & taxes

2013 TAX	\$9,060.90
2014 PROPOSED	\$9,855.89
Percent change	8.8%

incrd
\$794.99

Now is the time to provide feedback on proposed levies. It is too late to appeal your value or classification without going to Tax Court.

Step 3 Property tax statement

Coming March 2014, due May 15, 2014 and Oct 15, 2014

THIS IS NOT A BILL — DO NOT PAY

Addresses for correspondence	Actual 2013	Proposed 2014	Meeting date & location
Hennepin County A2400 Government Center Minneapolis MN 55487 612-348-3011	\$3,369.99	\$3,667.93 <i>8.8%</i>	Nov 26, 2013 6:00 PM Commissioner Board Room A2400 Government Center Minneapolis MN 55487
City of EDINA Edina City Hall 4801 W 50th Street Edina MN 55424 952-927-8861	\$1,840.98	\$2,021.29 <i>9.8%</i>	Dec 3, 2013 7:00 PM Council Chambers Edina City Hall 4801 W 50th Street Edina MN 55424
STATE GENERAL TAX			No meeting required
School District 273 Voter Approved Levy: Other Local Levies: School District Total Edina Public Schools 5701 Normandale Rd Edina MN 55424 952-848-4916	\$2,193.19 \$1,001.37 \$3,194.56	\$2,015.22 \$1,418.02 \$3,433.24 <i>7.5%</i>	Dec 16, 2013 7:00 PM Room 349 Edina Community Center 5701 Normandale Rd Edina MN 55424
Metro Special Taxing Dist. Metropolitan Council 390 Robert Street North St Paul MN 55101-1805 651-602-1647	\$214.13	\$236.42 <i>10.4%</i>	Dec 11, 2013 6:00 PM Metropolitan Council 390 Robert Street North St Paul MN 55101-1805
Other Spec. Taxing Dist: Fiscal Disparity Tax: Tax Increment Tax:	\$441.24	\$497.01 <i>12.6%</i>	No meeting required No meeting required No meeting required
TAX EXCLUDING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	\$9,060.90	\$9,855.89	

Check out the convenient payment options available to pay NEXT YEAR's property taxes
<http://www.hennepin.us/propertytaxpayments> or call 612 348-3011

Editorials

Editorials represent the institutional voice of the Star Tribune. They are researched and written by the Editorial Department, which is independent of the newsroom.

StarTribune

MICHAEL T.P. SWEENEY, Chairman
MICHAEL J. KLINGENSMITH, Publisher and CEO
SCOTT GILLESPIE, Editor, Editorial Pages

Property tax hikes? It's time to speak up

- New state spending should end the long run of local increases.

You're irritated that the "Truth in Taxation" statement you recently received shows a property tax increase coming next year? You've got company. The State Capitol is full of annoyed DFL-majority politicians who beefed up state aid to cities, counties and schools last spring in the expectation that most of those jurisdictions would curb or cut their levies in response.

Instead, preliminary totals show more increases than rollbacks, enough to produce projected average statewide increases of 2 percent, state revenue officials reported last week. (See box, right.)

Republicans, too, are outraged — or so several of them said in statements that barely hid their glee over the possibility that they can make political hay with higher property taxes next year.

All that angst may be overwrought. "Truth in Taxation" statements aren't the final word on 2014 taxes. They are preliminary bids that serve as a high-water mark from which, in most years, actual tax bills recede before they are issued in March. What's more, the numbers omit the enriched refunds that the Minnesota Budget Project says will reach 550,000 renting and owning households next year, 140,000 more of them than in 2013.

Further, in many parts of the state, responsibility for higher property taxes lies not with elected officials, but with voters themselves. Nearly a quarter of the state's school dis-

AIMING HIGH

These aggregate property tax increases were projected last week for 2014:

- **Cities:** \$1.97 billion, a 2.1 percent increase.
- **Counties:** \$2.75 billion, a 1.5 percent increase.
- **Townships:** \$234 million, a 2.1 percent increase.
- **Schools:** \$2.38 billion, a 2.6 percent increase.
- **Special taxing districts:** \$328 million, a 2.3 percent increase.

Minnesota Department of Revenue.

nesses to pay for a major increase in pre-K-12 school funding (\$485 million over two years), a sales tax exemption for local governments (\$129 million) and increases in city (\$80 million) and county (\$40 million) program aid.

The Revenue Department said in July that it expected the city and county share of those aid increases to translate into property tax cuts of at least \$121 million next year. It still can, provided local governments act accordingly between now and the Dec. 27 levy certification date.

Some jurisdictions are showing the way. (To see your local jurisdiction's preliminary numbers, visit <http://tinyurl.com/olksutc>.) State Revenue Commissioner Myron Frans was in Hastings this week to praise its projected 2.5 percent levy reduction

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Further, in many parts of the state, responsibility for higher property taxes lies not with elected officials, but with voters themselves. Nearly a quarter of the state's school districts went to their voters on Nov. 5 to request either higher or extended levies; in 90 percent of those districts, voters answered yes. The result, the Revenue Department projects, is a \$60 million school levy increase statewide, compared with a projected \$59 million drop before the election.

Still, we're not urging that concern about higher property taxes be stifled. We recommend the opposite. The stewards of local government budgets deserve to hear promptly from property-owning and renting constituents who consider their Truth in Taxation bids too high. (Information on how and when to register concern is printed on Truth in Taxation forms.) Minnesota taxpayers endured 11 straight years of property tax increases while a squeeze on the state budget deprived schools and local governments of needed support. That squeeze ended with the 2013 legislative session. The string of tax hikes ought to run out, as well.

Unhappy state leaders, starting with Gov. Mark Dayton, are also right to jawbone local officials to rein in their appetites for higher taxes. Dayton and the 2013 Legislature's DFL majority put themselves at political risk for local governments' sakes. They raised taxes on high-end individuals, smokers and some busi-

nesses to pay for a major increase in pre-K-12 school funding (\$485 million over two years), a sales tax exemption for local governments (\$129 million) and increases in city (\$80 million) and county (\$40 million) program aid.

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Some jurisdictions are showing the way. (To see your local jurisdiction's preliminary numbers, visit <http://tinyurl.com/olksutc>.) State Revenue Commissioner Myron Frans was in Hastings this week to praise its projected 2.5 percent levy reduction, which when combined with Dakota County's 0.5 percent rollback and the Hastings school district's estimated 3.8 percent cut should bring its property owners and renters smaller tax bills next year. (Those are averages; individual tax bills also depend on property valuation changes and shifts within jurisdictions, and can vary widely.)

The commissioner also had praise for Minneapolis. Its city levy is projected to fall by 0.9 percent next year. By comparison, St. Paul's projected levy is unchanged from 2013.

To be sure, local circumstances vary. In many places, a pent-up demand is waiting to be satisfied. Equipment purchases, infrastructure repairs, building improvements, new hires and salary increases were put on hold as state officials squeezed local aid to cope with recurring deficits from 2002 through 2012. One more year of increases is needed to catch up, many are likely thinking.

They should also think this: In 2014, they won't be able to credibly deflect responsibility for higher taxes to St. Paul. Minnesota taxpayers are informed citizens who know that the 2013 Legislature set the table for property tax restraint. If restraint doesn't ensue, citizens will know who to ask "Why not?"

Preliminary County Levy Changes for CY 2014

November 12, 2013

COUNTY NAME	Pay 2013 Final Levy	Pay 2014 Preliminary Levy	\$ Change Levy	% Change Levy
TOTALS	2,703,942,268	2,744,530,438	40,588,170	1.5%
AITKIN	11,725,696	11,725,696	0	0.0%
ANOKA	118,392,892	119,359,397	966,505	0.8%
BECKER	18,592,732	19,064,032	471,300	2.5%
BELTRAMI	17,486,013	17,486,013	0	0.0%
BENTON	20,228,287	19,821,893	(406,394)	-2.0%
BIG STONE	4,386,372	4,602,481	216,109	4.9%
BLUE EARTH	29,036,661	29,036,661	0	0.0%
BROWN	11,384,513	11,747,300	362,787	3.2%
CARLTON	21,599,075	22,906,025	1,306,950	6.1%
CARVER	45,629,720	47,546,920	1,917,200	4.2%
CASS	20,046,613	20,046,613	0	0.0%
CHIPPEWA	8,165,769	8,598,679	432,910	5.3%
CHISAGO	31,397,021	31,347,021	(50,000)	-0.2%
CLAY	24,294,546	25,151,532	856,986	3.5%
CLEARWATER	5,357,857	6,135,730	777,873	14.5%
COOK	6,109,103	6,286,357	177,254	2.9%
COTTONWOOD	7,949,571	8,191,154	241,583	3.0%
CROW WING	34,737,542	34,737,542	0	0.0%
DAKOTA	129,152,073	128,506,313	(645,760)	-0.5%
DODGE	10,765,634	11,361,884	596,250	5.5%
DOUGLAS	24,548,839	26,655,090	2,106,251	8.6%
FARIBAULT	9,236,472	9,551,480	315,008	3.4%
FILLMORE	8,435,205	8,435,205	0	0.0%
FREEBORN	19,457,478	19,457,478	0	0.0%
GOODHUE	26,936,658	27,399,013	462,355	1.7%
GRANT	5,309,244	5,761,613	452,369	8.5%
HENNEPIN	674,616,060	681,253,275	6,637,215	1.0%
HOUSTON	10,473,779	10,855,549	381,770	3.6%
HUBBARD	11,850,000	12,400,000	550,000	4.6%
ISANTI	15,476,446	16,479,667	1,003,221	6.5%
ITASCA	31,544,803	32,984,087	1,439,284	4.6%
JACKSON	9,200,194	9,704,487	504,293	5.5%
KANABEC	10,717,954	10,717,954	0	0.0%
KANDIYOH	28,670,611	29,008,411	337,800	1.2%
KITSON	3,115,563	3,324,902	209,339	6.7%
KOOCHICHING	4,032,063	4,019,469	(12,594)	-0.3%
LAC QUI PARLE	4,882,431	5,084,355	201,924	4.1%
LAKE	8,006,192	8,266,472	260,280	3.3%
LAKE OF THE WOODS	2,448,318	2,497,284	48,966	2.0%
LE SUEUR	14,720,132	15,574,323	854,191	5.8%
LINCOLN	4,561,658	5,013,823	452,165	9.9%
LYON	12,164,341	12,730,746	566,405	4.7%
MCLEOD	18,293,585	18,709,215	415,630	2.3%
MAHNOMEN	4,065,096	4,067,046	1,950	0.0%
MARSHALL	5,251,059	5,513,612	262,553	5.0%
MARTIN	11,444,862	11,805,424	360,562	3.2%
MEEKER	12,499,671	12,708,485	208,814	1.7%
MILLE LACS	14,726,000	14,726,000	0	0.0%
MORRISON	16,221,756	16,600,172	378,416	2.3%
MOWER	17,224,698	17,603,221	378,523	2.2%
MURRAY	5,786,582	6,014,632	228,050	3.9%

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Property tax

Last Updated: 11/12/2013

Preliminary 2014 Property Tax Levies

Every year at this time, the Minnesota Department of Revenue releases a list of the **preliminary** maximum property tax levies that have been reported by local governments and have been passed by local school referenda. Local governments are required to set their preliminary levies by September 15 to provide citizens an opportunity to learn of and comment on proposed tax levels at Truth-in-Taxation hearings.

Cities

The 2014 preliminary property tax levies for cities will total approximately \$1.967 billion compared with \$1.927 billion in 2013, a 2.1% increase.

Counties

The 2014 preliminary property tax levies for counties will total approximately \$2.745 billion compared with \$2.704 billion in 2013, a 1.5% increase.

Townships

The 2014 preliminary property tax levies for townships will total approximately \$234 million compared with \$229 million in 2013, a 2.1% increase.

Schools

The 2014 preliminary property tax levies for schools will total approximately \$2.377 billion compared with \$2.317 billion in 2013, a 2.6% increase. School levies were set to decline by \$59 million. Voters approved \$119 million in new and renewed referenda, for a net increase of \$60 million in 2014.

Special Taxing Districts

The 2014 preliminary property tax levies for special taxing districts will total approximately \$328 million compared with \$321 million in 2013, a 2.3% increase.

US Inflation Calculator

Easily calculate how the buying power of the US dollar has changed from 1913-2013; get inflation rates, and inflation news.

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The US Inflation Calculator measures the buying power of the dollar over time. To begin, just enter any two dates between 1913 and 2013, an amount, and then click 'Calculate'.

Inflation Calculator

If in (enter year)

I purchased an item for \$

then in (enter year*)

that same item would cost: **\$20.34**

Cumulative rate of inflation: **1.7%**

**Learn how this calculator works. This US Inflation Calculator uses the latest US government CPI data published on November 20, 2013 to adjust for inflation and calculate the cumulative inflation rate through October 2013. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) and inflation for November 2013 is scheduled for release by the United States government on December 17, 2013. (See [inflation rates](#) since 2003.)*

MINNESOTA • REVENUE

December 2, 2013

The Honorable James Hovland
Mayor City of Edina
4801 W 50th St
Edina, MN 55424-1330

Dear Mayor Hovland:

I am writing to provide information about the new sales tax exemption for cities and counties to help you implement the change fully and accurately.

Since 2002, statewide property taxes have increased over 80% as state aid to cities and counties was cut eight times. This year was different. In May, the Governor and Legislature provided tools to rebuild the state-local fiscal partnership, including: (1) a \$129 million sales tax exemption; (2) a \$140 million increase in direct property tax refunds to homeowners and renters; (3) a \$130 million increase in local government aid to townships, cities, and counties; and (4) an increase in local school aid.

Starting January 1, 2014, most city and county purchases will be exempt from sales tax, except on purchases used to provide services that are commonly provided by private businesses (such as a golf course). For example, cities and counties will no longer pay state sales tax on:

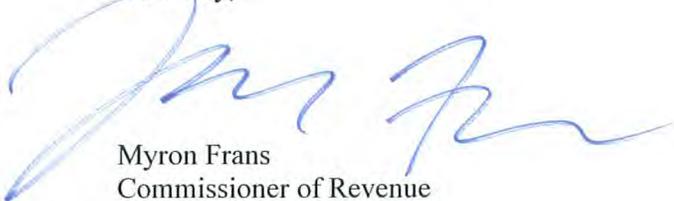
- Office supplies, equipment, telephone service
- Machinery and equipment, accessories for public safety, road/bridge maintenance
- Lawn care, tree, bush, stump removal services
- Gravel, sand, salt, salt/sand mixtures
- Qualifying public transit vehicles, fire trucks, marked police cars, ambulances
- Construction materials used by city or county workers
- Fuel (state road tax still applies)

You can find detailed information about the exemption by reading Fact Sheet 176 or visiting our website. To access the fact sheet and related information, go to www.revenue.state.mn.us and type "local government exemption" in the Search box.

As you set final 2014 tax levies, please contact us if you have any questions about how the sales tax exemption will apply to your budget. My direct dial phone number is 651-556-6003.

We are committed to working with you to make sure this new exemption functions as intended. Your hard work in serving the public is vital to Minnesota's success. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,



Myron Frans
Commissioner of Revenue

Hello Jim!

Deb Mangen

From: johnsnow1984@gmail.com on behalf of Yaohua Sun <ysun@cs.umn.edu>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 4:08 PM
To: Edina Mail; jonibennett12@comcast.net; Mary Brindle (Comcast); joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann1@gmail.com
Subject: plea from a MN taxpayer regarding the edina eminent domain dispute
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi, City Council members of Edina,

I am an Engineer, an immigrant-to-be from China, and an MN resident and tax payer for the past 5 years. I found your contact info from the City council member directory in the Edina City government website.

I read from the newspaper that you are going to try to use eminent domain to condemn the property on 3944 W. 49½ St:

<http://www.startribune.com/local/west/233888061.html>

while the negotiation is still going on(if broken, you will go to pursuit eminent domain), I want to sincerely remind you that this isn't just a dispute about a parking lot, or a family's property. this is a dispute that will possibly fundamentally changes my view towards the core value of the United States, that is , freedom and individual rights for every law abiding citizen.

and that is why I choose to emigrate out of communist China, this past September, my parents house in Jiangsu Province, China, was broken in by 8 gang members in the middle of the night, trying to demolish my house(which I lived for 18 years until I went to college), and they are in the righteous side of the Chinese government, who asks my parents to "support the city construction" and "make necessary sacrifice of their own".

cases like this in China is numerous.

I feel so disgusted about the Chinese government, and I choose to leave it for now; I thought I am in a land where this kind of thing might never happen again, but I am stunned after reading this article from the Star Tribune.

this is wrong, please stop trying to condemn this small property using eminent domain, this is so un-American and so wrong. as a taxpayer, I urge you to stop going on this path, for this family, for other MN citizen, and also for the protection of individual rights of every citizen, including yourselves.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Yaohua Sun
ysun@cs.umn.edu
507-407-0264

Deb Mangen

From: dmswan2124@aol.com
Sent: Monday, December 09, 2013 3:37 PM
To: Cary Teague; Kris Aaker; Jackie Hoogenakker; Edina Mail; jonibennet12@comcast.net; Mary Brindle (Comcast); joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann1@gmail.com
Subject: 6609 Blackfoot Pass

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

In talking with our neighbors there is still a great disappointment as to the outcome of the decision to subdivide 6609 Blackfoot Pass.

One of our friends who is a civil engineer looked at it and could not believe that there would not be major drainage problems.

Many of us felt a bit short changed as the City Engineer did not attend this final meeting and some of the questions council members had about drainage and topography could not be answered because of his absence.

It also seemed strange that planning and zoning had voted not to subdivide because of the topography. There was one engineer and one architect on the planning and zoning board who both immediately deemed it unbuildable for a second home after visiting the property.

We had a neighbor, a well esteemed retired professional engineer, who was to speak at the meeting. Unfortunately he passed away the day before the meeting. He would have explained from a professional viewpoint the reasons the lot was unbuildable for two homes.

Many of us would have accepted this decision much better if we felt that we had good engineering input. This was denied to us and many of us felt the resulting decision to subdivide was very unfair.

After the water problems begin, it is too late and Pat Kreizinger will pay the price once again. She now has a huge drain in the back of her lot with a 200 ft pipe to the street after assurances from the builder behind that it would not happen.

None of those in favor of this subdivision will live in our neighborhood or deal with water issues. It was to them, simply about money.

We all hope the 500ft means ordinance will be changed so that our special neighborhoods will not fold in to the center and destroy the unique character of Indian Hills and others like it.

Yours truly,

Mary Swanson
6617 Cheyenne Tr
Edina, Mn

Deb Mangen

From: John A. Palmer <jpalmer@usfamily.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 10:25 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Mayor Jim Hovland

Dear Mayor Hovland,

I was at the public hearing on the Roadway Improvements Project for the Birchcrest B neighborhood this evening and I simply wish to say - thank you Mr. mayor! I believe you made imminent sense of a difficult situation and I truly applaud your resolution of the issues.

Sincerely,
John Palmer

Deb Mangen

From: Griffiths, Barbara <Barbara.Griffiths@district196.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 11:20 AM
To: jonibennett12@comcast.net
Cc: Edina Mail
Subject: city turned off water without notice

Sent from my iPad

Hello Joni, Not another good day for Creek Valley neighborhood.

Flushed toilet at 8:20Am today- no water return, then no water out of faucet. At 10:00AM a city worker came to the door saying they had to turn off our water for a project and they were hopeful it would maybe get turned back on in 4 hrs. I have company coming at noon today. Went to grocery store to get water and asked elderly neighbor if she needed water too. I expect better communication and notification and from our City.

In addition when driving back on Tracy at the Countryside school there was a new Edina pick up truck in front of me and they went right through the stop sign and rolled through the next. Unfortunately I did not get the license plate number.

Thanks for your help

Barbara Griffiths
5844 Creek Valley Road
Edina MN 55439

Deb Mangen

From: Jean Colwell <jeancolwell13@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2013 10:17 AM
To: Edina Mail; Joni Bennett; Mary Brindle (Comcast)
Subject: 54th Street reconstruction

Dear Jim, Joni and Mary,

I attended the *City Council* meeting Tuesday night and want to thank you for listening to the needs of the neighbors who live along 54th street and will be most directly effected by this project. I also want to thank you for your dedication and commitment to the City of Edina. It can not be easy to sit through six to seven hour meetings!
Happy Holidays to you All!

Jean Colwell
5401 Oaklawn Ave S

Brian Hanrahan
Fire Dept.

fire truck was a Bonus!
That's all we could talk
about the next day!

Truly,

First Graders
from C. V.

Dear Fire Fighter Hanrahan

Thank you for your fabulous
and interesting presentation on
Fire Safety! We were fascinated
by your fire fighting gear and
learned how to stay safe in
case of a fire! Burgers the