



***OUCH!* NEW REPORT FROM IN\$IGHT FINDS SAINT PAUL BEARS COUNTY'S HIGHEST PROPERTY TAX BURDEN**

Saint Paul Combines the Highest Property Taxes with the Lowest Household Incomes Among All Sixteen Ramsey County Cities

ST. PAUL, MN – JUNE 9, 2026 – InSight St. Paul today released a new report highlighting the fact that St. Paul residents pay more in property taxes compared to household income than any of the county's other sixteen cities. The report cites aggressive local government levies and structural tax shifts as key drivers in household budgets being stretched to unsustainable limits.

Key Findings:

- **Alarming Tax Spikes:** In 2026, a median-valued Saint Paul residential homestead saw a 10.8% property tax spike, compounding an 8.0% increase from the prior year and outpacing CPI inflation by three and a half times.
- **Shifted Tax Burden:** This spike is driven by an 8.7% countywide total tax levy increase combined with sharp valuation decreases in commercial (-4.3%) and apartment (-5.9%) properties, forcing ordinary homeowners to absorb an unfair share of the burden.
- **The Affordability Gap:** The property tax on a median Saint Paul homestead reached \$5,607, consuming a staggering 7.3% of the city's median household income (\$76,359). In stark contrast, suburban Ramsey County tax burdens ranged from a low of 1.6% to 6.0%.
- **Erosion of Homeownership:** High property taxes are suppressing local homeownership. Only 79% of Saint Paul's 1-3 family residential tax capacity is owner-occupied, compared to an 87% average in the suburbs.
- **The TIF Subsidy Burden:** Over 6.1% of Saint Paul's 2026 tax base is locked up in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts. Consequently, outside property owners must pay a 7% premium on their annual bills to subsidize these non-contributing development zones.

Proposed Recommendations: To restore affordability, InSight St. Paul has delivered a suite of Common Sense Property Tax Lowering Recommendations to local officials. Key proposals include:

- Mandating city departments to model 5%, 10%, and 15% budget reductions.
- Executing immediate hiring freezes.
- Placing a salary freeze on city positions paid over \$153,000.
- Aggressively pursuing State Complex Aid to compensate for non-taxable state property.

About InSight St. Paul: *InSight St. Paul is a non-partisan citizen advocacy committee dedicated to promoting fiscal responsibility, government transparency, and property tax affordability for all homeowners and renters living in the Capital City. The report they provided to city leaders is available at www.insightstpaul.org.*