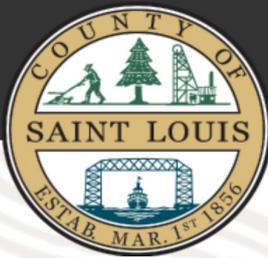


# Citizens' Guide to the St. Louis County Budget



[www.stlouiscountymn.gov](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov)

The mission of St. Louis County is to promote health and safety, ensure sound infrastructure, embrace our natural resources, and support an environment where communities prosper.

2017

We serve the public in a manner that earns trust by incorporating these values:



People Focused



Integrity



Fairness



Stewardship



Innovation

## Budget Highlights

St. Louis County's 2017 budget of \$387,159,183 reflects the need to: make investments in children and family services, strengthen the county's health insurance fund, support unfunded state mandates, and make up for the unsigned tax bill that had contained about \$3 million in funding support for St. Louis County.

The levy—the portion of the budget that comes from property taxes—accounts for approximately one third (33%) of St. Louis County's budget. Following a year in which there was no change in levy amount, there will be an increase of 8.5% in 2017—bringing the total levy to \$126,550,079. This amount is divided among all property owners based on the assessed value and classification of their property. The 8.5% levy increase will be somewhat offset by the county's growing property tax base of approximately 8.0% in the last two years; this tax base expansion reduces the impact on county taxpayers.

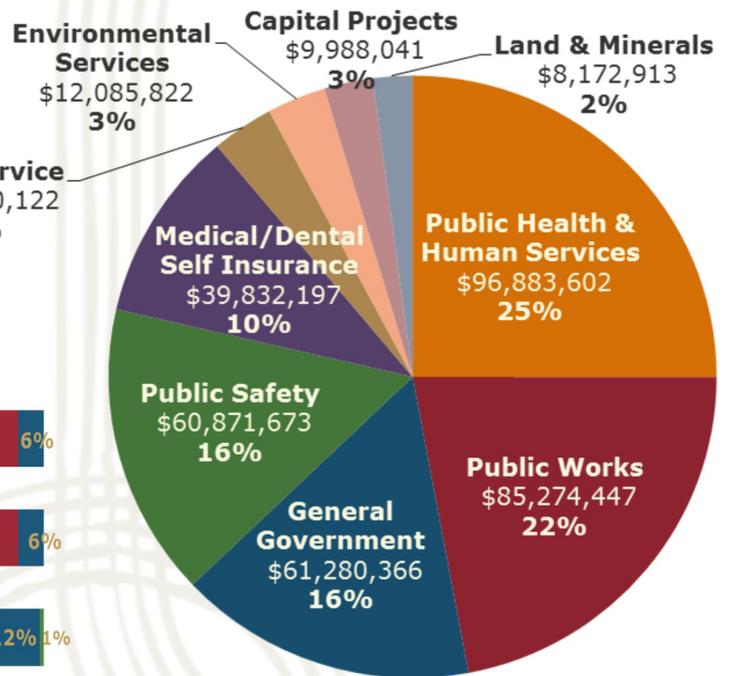
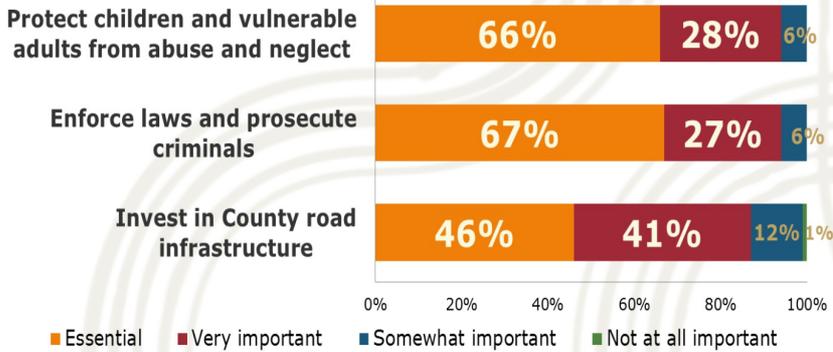
To learn more about the county's budget, go to the online interactive tool, Budget Explorer, at [stlouiscountymn.gov/budgetexplorer](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/budgetexplorer).



St. Louis County, located at the western tip of Lake Superior and stretching to the Canadian border, is geographically the largest county east of the Mississippi River. The county encompasses about 7,000 sq. miles and is larger than three states. St. Louis County employs more than 1,800 individuals serving a population of over 200,000 people.

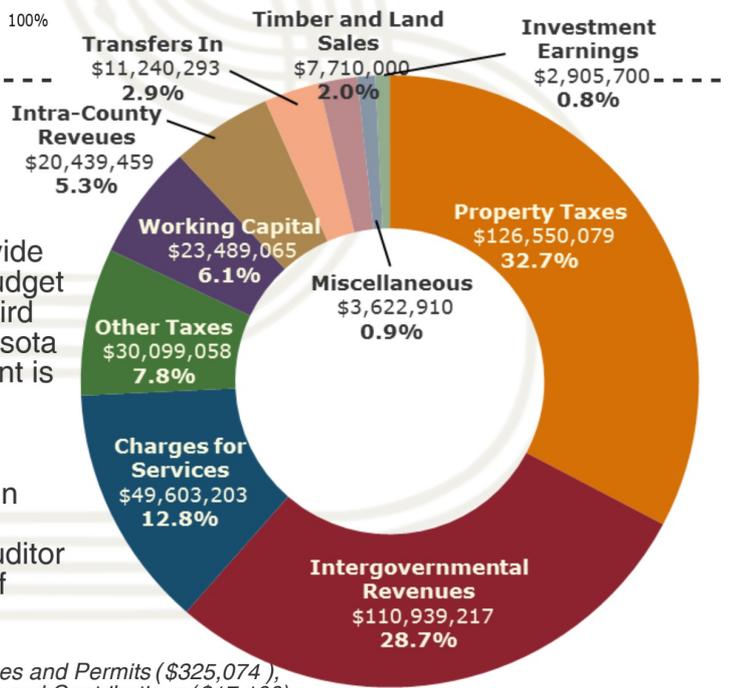
# Expenditures

The largest portion of St. Louis County's 2017 budget supports Public Health and Human Services, followed by Public Works (roads and bridges), General Government (information technology, auditor, property management, assessor, etc.), and Public Safety, as shown in the pie chart to the right. These investments are aligned with the priorities identified by respondents in the 2016 St. Louis County resident survey—illustrated in the graph below.



# Revenues

The St. Louis County Board, along with the County Administrator, works together to balance needs in the community with the financial resources available to provide those services. The graph to the right shows how the budget of \$387,159,183 is funded. Note that approximately a third of the budget is funded by county property taxes. Minnesota is one of the minority of states whose form of government is state managed and county administered, meaning that many government services are provided by the 87 Minnesota counties rather than by the state. The 2017 revenues support human capital investments and sustain the county's investment in public infrastructure and customer service systems. St. Louis County's Board, Auditor and Administration continues to take a long-term view of fiscal stability and protects its AA+ bond rating.



NOTE: The following revenue sources are not included in the graph: Licenses and Permits (\$325,074), Fines and Forfeitures (\$145,225), Other Financing Sources (\$72,800), Gifts and Contributions (\$17,100).

# County Commissioners and Administrator

## District 1: Frank Jewell

Central Duluth  
(218) 726-2450  
jewellf@stlouiscountymn.gov

## District 2: Patrick Boyle

Eastern Duluth  
(218) 726-2359  
boylep@stlouiscountymn.gov

## District 3: Beth Olson

Western Duluth  
(218) 726-2562  
olsonb1@stlouiscountymn.gov

## District 4: Tom Rukavina

Northern half of county & eastern townships  
(218) 365-8200  
rukavinat@stlouiscountymn.gov

## District 5: Pete Stauber

Hermantown/Proctor areas & southeast townships  
(218) 726-2450  
stauberp@stlouiscountymn.gov

## District 6: Keith Nelson

Quad cities area & central townships  
(218) 749-7108  
nelsonk@stlouiscountymn.gov

## District 7: Mike Jugovich

Hibbing/Chisholm area and southwest townships  
(218) 262-0201  
jugovichm@stlouiscountymn.gov

## Administrator: Kevin Gray

(218) 726-2448  
grayk@stlouiscountymn.gov



Budget Questions/Comments?  
E-mail [budget@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:budget@stlouiscountymn.gov)