



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release:

St. Louis County Board approves \$311.5 million budget for 2013

The St. Louis County Board has set the County's budget for 2013 at \$311,536,514. The overall budget, which received unanimous approval from the County's seven commissioners, reflects the Board's continued commitment to delivering core services while minimizing the impacts on tax payers of reduced state and federal government aid.

The County's core services include providing for public safety, health and human services, and roads and bridges. Combined, these three areas make up 81 percent of the budget.

The budget includes a 1.5 percent increase in property taxes, as was proposed in the preliminary levy approved in September. It is the fourth consecutive year that the increase has been below the rate of inflation.

"It is our challenge, but also our responsibility each year as we set the budget, to achieve a balance for our citizens," said Commissioner Steve Raukar, chair of the Finance Committee. "With this budget, we will maintain services, make critical investments and further position the County for long term stability."

Those investments include in innovative and collaborative efforts, such as an expanded focus on minerals management activities and the merger of the City of Duluth and County Assessor's Offices.

"I'm pleased that the Board came together unanimously for this important vote," said Board Chair Keith Nelson, following the meeting, which was held today at the St. Louis County Courthouse in Duluth. "We were able to reconcile differences to pass a budget that best serves the needs of the citizens of St. Louis County."

St. Louis County serves more than 200,000 residents spread across 7,000 square miles. To learn more, visit stlouiscountymn.gov.

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