



# Saint Louis County

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Merging of assessor's offices underway at Duluth Courthouse**

The St. Louis County Assessor's Office is welcoming five new employees to their first full week working for the County. The new staff members formerly worked in the City of Duluth's Assessor's Office. Their arrival marks the completion of work begun last summer to merge the two offices. The consolidation follows the recommendations of the County's Blue Ribbon Panel, which reviewed assessment practices and looked at ways to streamline service delivery, create efficiencies and reduce taxpayer costs for property assessment services, in addition to seeking collaboration with other government jurisdictions.

Combining the two offices, which officially took place January 2, eliminates duplication of services, creates work process efficiencies and ensures a uniform set of standards and expectations as property assessments are conducted.

"The St. Louis County Assessor is responsible for equalization of property assessments throughout St. Louis County, including the City of Duluth, to ensure that each property is equally and uniformly assessed," said Mark Monacelli, director of Public Records and Property Valuation for the County. "Merging the two offices is a significant step in meeting this goal."

Numerous logistical details are still being worked through. The County plans to hire additional employees to help with the increased work load and ensure timely assessments. Interested applicants can learn more at [stlouiscountymn.gov/jobs](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/jobs).

Even with the merger complete, the soonest Duluth property owners will pay taxes based on appraisals done by the County will be in 2015. This is due to the length of advance time required for annual assessments to be finalized and processed according to state law.

The St. Louis County Assessor's team operates out of the Duluth Courthouse, the Northland Office

Center in Virginia and the St. Louis County Service Center in Ely. It is part of the County's Public Records and Property Valuation Department. For more information online, visit [stlouiscountymn.gov](http://stlouiscountymn.gov), or call (218) 726-2304.

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