



S A I N T
LOUIS ♦
COUNTY
M I N N E S O T A

2016 PROPOSED MAXIMUM PROPERTY TAX LEVY

SEPTEMBER 22, 2015
KEVIN Z. GRAY, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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BUDGET OVERVIEW

- Each year the County Board must establish a preliminary maximum levy to support its budget.
 - The **levy** represents the portion of the County budget that is collected through property taxes.
- Work on the budget is year-round until the final budget is approved in December.
 - All aspects of the budget are thoroughly reviewed to balance the needs of county residents with the resources available.



2016 BUDGET GOAL

To deliver the vital services our citizens and businesses depend on, including public safety, reliable roads and bridges, and support for our most vulnerable residents, while keeping the tax impact as low as possible.

St. Louis County took into account the following unique financial considerations for 2016:

- County's strong financial position
- Transportation Sales Tax impact on citizens
- Economic conditions for residents affected by the mining industry

CONTINUED WORK IN CORE BUDGET AREAS

SUPPORT THE MOST VULNERABLE	STRENGTHEN PUBLIC SAFETY	INVEST IN ROADS AND BRIDGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Funding commitment to protect, promote & improve the health & quality of life in St. Louis County <i>(no new general state or federal revenue, yet needs rise)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NERCC renovations to better serve 5-county region ✓ Ongoing investment in 911, Jail and Sheriff Law Enforcement services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 5th year of record construction activity <i>(over \$70 million planned for 2016)</i> ✓ Transportation Sales Tax funds dedicated to roads & bridges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ New requirements and funded staff for Child Protection ✓ Ongoing Out of Home placement needs and challenges ✓ Pushing to rebalance Adult Foster Care homes statewide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Social Worker embedded within the Duluth Police Department <i>(to assist with the mentally ill)</i> ✓ Support for the critical work of the County Attorney's Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ County was awarded additional state aid funds for our roads <i>(based on our strong performance)</i> ✓ Sustained investment in safety, maintenance, operations & innovation

HOW WAS NO INCREASE REACHED?

STEWARDING TAXPAYER RESOURCES

The 2016 budget is the result of long-term strategies and actions

Maximizing Other Revenues

Multi-year budget planning to weather the uncertainty in state revenues

Modest new state funds—County Program Aid, Community Corrections Act Subsidy and new revenue earned for State Aid highways

Aggressive revenue targets (expectations to earn and collect the maximum possible)

Managing Expenses

Linking the Capital Improvement Plan to the operating budget; decrease in debt service levy required

Careful analysis and review of increased personnel and healthcare costs

Using one-time funds for one-time needs, while working on systemic issues

INVESTMENTS

CONTINUOUS
IMPROVEMENT

FISCAL HEALTH

HIGH
PERFORMANCE

LEADERSHIP

Ongoing systemic (complex) areas requiring significant focus:

Out of Home Placement, Jail Overcrowding, Adult Foster Care, Criminal Justice System-Public Health & Human Service Interactions , Healthcare Costs

2016 PROPOSED MAXIMUM LEVY

0% Tax Levy Increase

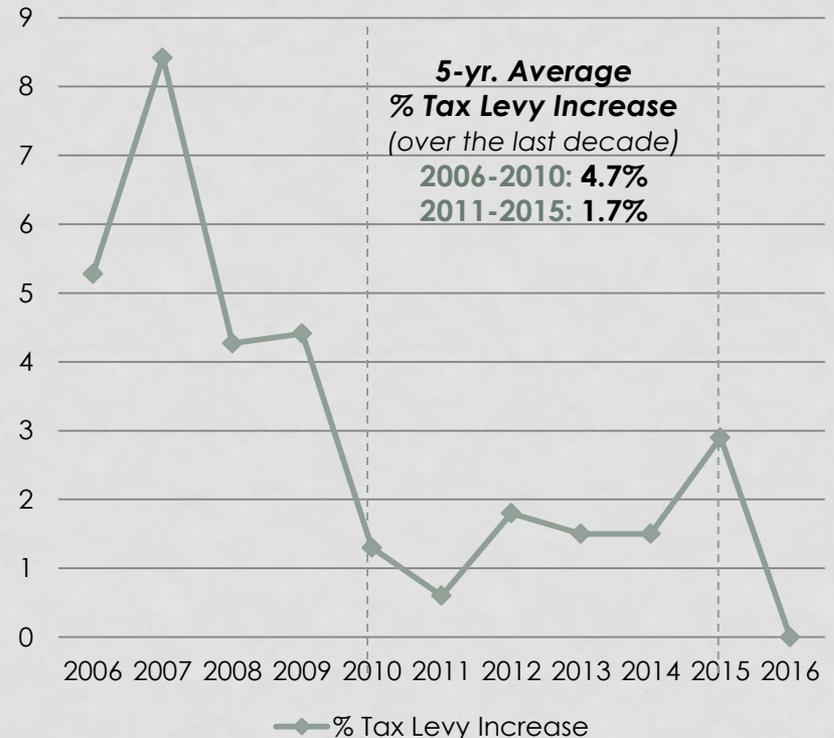
Maximum Preliminary Levy
= \$116,631,193

*Estimated local county property tax rate
will decrease by 3.4%*

What will 2016 bring?

- A growing tax base will mean a reduction in taxes for most St. Louis County citizens
- A survey in 2016 will be conducted to encourage citizens to give feedback on St. Louis County services
- Capital improvement projects include a cold storage building for the South Rescue Squad
- Transportation Sales Tax funds are dedicated to roads and bridges, accelerating roadwork (not offsetting levy)

Historical % Tax Levy Increase



Want more info? Go to:
<http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/budget>

NEXT STEPS

➤ Work continues to finalize the 2016 budget; levy can be lowered, but not increased

➤ Opportunities for input/engagement

Public Budget Meetings:

- **Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015**
7:00 p.m. – St. Louis County Courthouse in **Virginia**
- **Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015**
7:00 p.m. – St. Louis County Courthouse in **Duluth**



Budget Explorer

- **Online Budget Transparency Tool**
www.stlouiscountymn.gov/budget

➤ County Board approves final 2016 levy and budget

- **Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015**
9:30 a.m. – St. Louis County Courthouse in **Duluth**

