

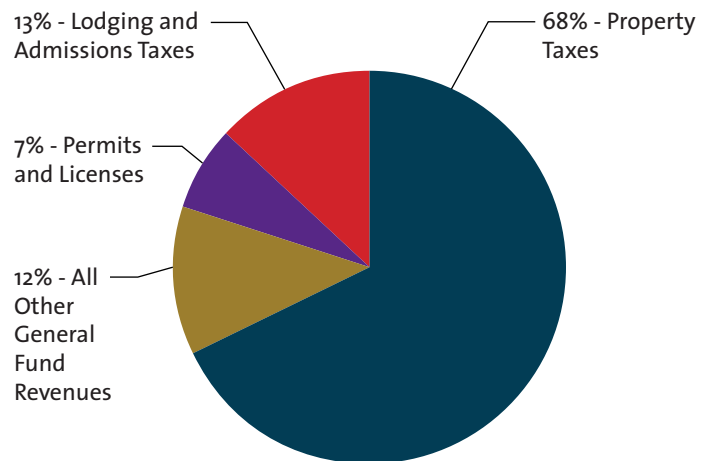
Dear Community Member,

The Bloomington City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, December 7, at 7 p.m.** to hear from you regarding the City's proposed 2021 tax levy and budget. The hearing will be held virtually via WebEx. For instructions on how to participate, please visit blm.mn/cc-1207. The City's preliminary tax levy for 2021 was set by the Council in September. It can be reduced prior to final adoption, but cannot be increased. The impact this proposed levy would have on your property taxes is outlined on the enclosed statement from Hennepin County.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE CITY'S BUDGET

The coronavirus pandemic has created an even larger economic downturn for the City than 2008's Great Recession. Businesses have closed, people have lost their jobs or been laid off and there is widespread uncertainty about the economy. Many industries have come to a grinding halt, including the hospitality and entertainment industry. For the City of Bloomington, this has meant millions of dollars lost from lodging and admissions taxes, mostly paid by visitors to Bloomington, not residents. Lodging and admission tax revenues usually generate about 13% of the City's general fund revenues, which fund essential City services like Police, Fire and Public Works. Due to the pandemic, these revenues have declined by more than \$5 million, to less than half what was collected before COVID-19.

CITY'S GENERAL FUND REVENUES PRE COVID-19



STEPS TAKEN TO CONTROL COSTS

The City is working hard to respond to this ongoing loss of revenue, while still providing the core public services our community depends upon. We realize many residents and businesses are facing economic hardships due to the pandemic and we are taking steps to control our costs and minimize the impact on property taxes. The City expects to balance the 2021 budget by:

- Controlling personnel costs and reducing staff positions
- Drawing down fund reserves where available
- Carefully analyzing City services for efficiencies and possible reductions
- Analyzing lower interest rates to borrow for projects instead of paying cash

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY IN BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

In an effort to ensure 2021 budget discussions reflect community preferences, the City Council appointed a Community Budget Advisory Committee in May 2020. The advisory committee was made up of nine residents who have knowledge of municipal budgets and City government. From June through October, the Committee studied the City's budget and services, and undertook numerous community engagement initiatives to provide the City Council with recommendations for balancing the budget. By looking at the overall budget, instead of reducing services one by one, the City Council, Community Budget Advisory Committee and City staff are aiming to make sure service changes reflect what community members value most.

The reverse side of this page provides additional information about the City's proposed budget and tax levy, as well as information about where you can learn more, how you can share your feedback and ways to participate in the December 7 public hearing. We hope you will check it out.

James D. Verbrugge, City Manager
jverbrugge@BloomingtonMN.gov

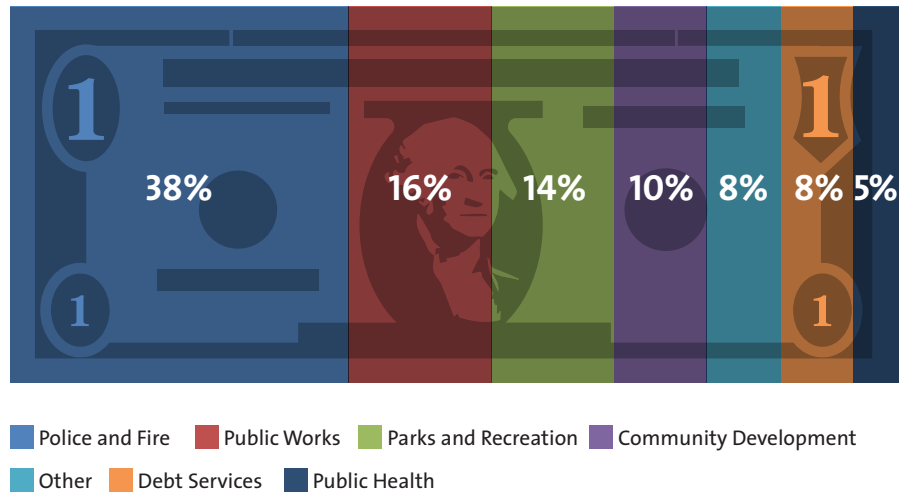
Lori Economy-Scholler, Chief Financial Officer
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YOUR CITY PROPERTY TAX DOLLAR

This graph illustrates how a City property tax dollar is divided among City services. As you can see, the majority of property taxes support core services including police, fire, public works, and parks and recreation. For every dollar of City taxes paid, 38 cents goes toward police and fire, 16 cents goes toward public works and 14 cents goes toward parks and recreation while 8 cents of each City property tax dollar pays outstanding debt service. Debt is issued to fund street and infrastructure work and construction projects. The ability to issue future debt at lower interest rates provides for our community's upkeep and renewal without substantially increasing property taxes for debt service.

CITY PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION



WHERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CITY'S BUDGET:

For detailed information, including staff presentations, summaries of community input and minutes of Committee meetings, please visit blm.mn/cbac.

SPANISH TRANSLATION:

El consejo municipal de la ciudad de Bloomington convocará una audiencia pública para escuchar de usted sobre la propuesta de recaudación de impuestos y el presupuesto de la ciudad para el año 2021, el día lunes, 7 de diciembre a las 7:00 p.m. Para más información en español, por favor visite la página de la red del internet blm.mn/property-tax

SOMALI TRANSLATION:

Dawlada Hoose ee Bloomington waxay qaban doontaa kulan lagu dhegeysanayo dadwaynaha Isniinta, Diisambar 7 markay tahay saacada 7:00 fiidnimo si lagaaga dhegaysto adiga arrinta ku saabsan cashuur saarida iyo miisaaniyada Magaalada 2021 ee la soo jeediyay. Wixii macluumaad dheeraad ah ee ku qoran Af Soomaali, fadlan booqo blm.mn/property-tax

VIETNAMESE TRANSLATION:

Hội Đồng Thành Phố Bloomington sẽ tổ chức một buổi điều trần công cộng vào thứ Hai, ngày 7 tháng Mười hai, lúc 7 giờ tối để nghe ý kiến của quý vị về đề xuất ngân sách và vấn đề đánh thuế năm 2021 của Thành Phố. Để tìm hiểu thêm bằng tiếng Việt, vui lòng truy cập trang mạng blm.mn/property-tax