

# PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

*2026 Draft Budget and Levies*



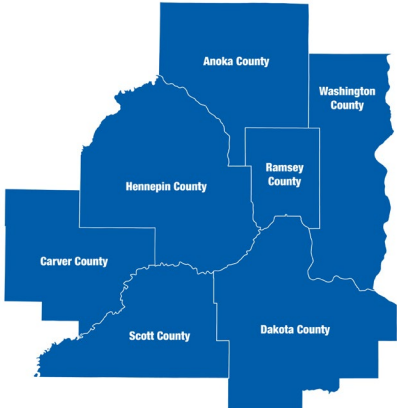
**METROPOLITAN**  
C O U N C I L

# The Council’s mission is to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous metropolitan region

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Robin Hutcheson	Chair	Diego Morales	District 9
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The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization for the seven-county Twin Cities area. The Council operates the regional bus and rail system, collects and treats wastewater, coordinates regional water resources, plans and helps fund regional parks, and administers federal funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The 17-member Council board is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor.

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## **Comment overview**

This report serves to summarize public comments received for the draft 2026 budget and levies for the Metropolitan Council. The budget was released for public comment on Oct. 22, 2025. Between that time and Dec. 3, the Metropolitan Council received four comments from residents of the region. Comments submitted in writing before the public hearing are included in full in this report. Comments provided as testimony at the public hearing are summarized. During the public comment period, the draft budget and plain language summaries were available on the Metropolitan Council's website and through printed copies as requested.

The Met Council proactively promoted availability of the comment draft, including advertising it and the public hearing through social media, and other means. An opportunity for in-person comment from members of the public was provided at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Metropolitan Council on Dec. 3, 2025. During the meeting, two people provided comments.

## Written comments in full

Glenna Reddick, St. Paul

I don't understand why we are spending money on parks when there are people who don't have a home. Seems like more nice stuff for the people who have enough money to have leisure and a car to drive to a park, rather than working two or three jobs trying to put together enough money to live. I think we should only start spending significant money on parks after everyone has a place to live.

Dan Fazendin, Plymouth

This letter is in response to a PROPOSED LEVIES & TAXES STATEMENT I received regarding commercial property I own at 18550 Wayzata Boulevard in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

Property ID is No. 04-117-22 24 0025 15555 Wayzata Boulevard.

I protest my proposed change in my yearly tax bill, raising my tax bill from \$57902.00 to \$71,884.00 That is a 24.1% increase in one year.

That large increase in a single year puts great hardship on my tenants who will pay this bill, and on myself as an owner. I expect to pay more taxes, but NOT a 24.1% INCREASE.

This sudden extreme increase I vigorously protest.

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## Public testimony (at the public hearing), summarized

Donald Kloek, St. Paul

Small business owner in St. Paul, concerned about where the funding for the Bronze Line will come from and how that will impact taxes.

Cindy Bradley, Woodbury

Small business owner in Woodbury, concerned about property taxes increasing and costs of improvements being made for transit (such as the Gold Line) and other local government costs. Says taxes are impacting her ability to grow and even operate her business.

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