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Minnesota Seasonal Recreational Property Owners


Home

Today is Property Tax Day

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MSRPO
Now!

Greetings [firstname]:

Today is property tax day, a uniquely Minnesotan civic experience, like opening of fishing season, ice out day, the first blizzard, Fourth of July at the lake. We feel that good feeling of having done our fair share and fulfilled our civic duty, like when we vote or volunteer, or push a stranger out of a snowbank. But more and more this good feeling is over-shadowed by shock at the rate of increase.

Since 2000 Minnesota's Property Taxes Have Skyrocketed

And not only have they gone up, but we seem to be getting less for our money.

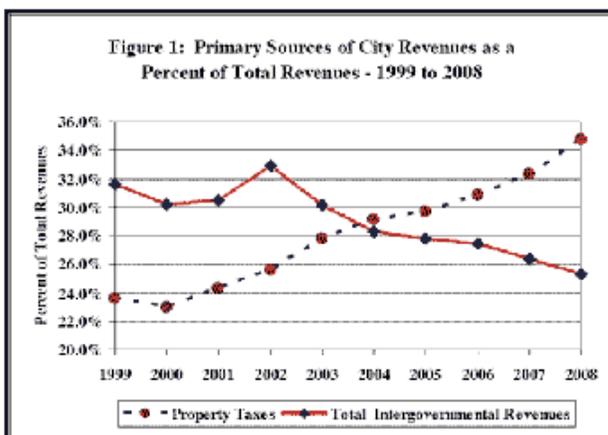
- According to the US Department of Transportation, the miles of poor or mediocre roads in Minnesota has more than doubled since 2000.
- Class sizes have swelled, [our pupil-teacher ranking](#) falling from 25th to 37th among the 50 states.

As property owners in greater Minnesota, we have seen the quality of life in small towns deteriorate. Many small towns have let their police officers go, roads that were once plowed are no longer, schools have closed. And this in light of the shocking increases in property taxes.

The [Minnesota State Auditor](#) reports that local government dependence on property taxes has increased a whopping 102 percent since 2000 while revenue has fallen 7 percent over the same period. Taxes are rising. Government spending is down.

Minnesota is in the midst of a long-term, systemic budget free-fall, and the curve down is accelerating. The Minnesota Supreme Court recently overturned portions of Gov. Pawlenty's 2009 "unallotments," throwing the state's 2010 budget further into the red. Forecasters predict deficits as high as \$7 billion in the next biennium, and then higher and higher into the future.

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[Foreclosures](#) are up 39 percent in greater Minnesota, and even more than that in

counties with a lot of cabins. Saint Louis County has had a 106 percent increase in foreclosures since 2009, Cass 200 percent, Otter Tail 120 percent, and Itasca 127 percent increase. Lake County leads the plunge with a whopping 650 percent increase in foreclosures since 2009.

Property tax delinquencies, particularly on cabin or hunting shack properties, will rise faster as people give up cabins in an attempt to hold onto their homes.

Minnesota's State and Local Fiscal System is Irreparably Broken

And we are not alone either. Forty-two states in the U.S. have systemic fiscal shortages.

In March, at a joint meeting of the Minnesota Senate Taxes and Finance Committees, David M Walker, President and CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, Former Comptroller General of the United States, and Former head of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) gave a riveting presentation.



Mr. Walker began his talk by saying, "The problem at the federal level is much worse than advertised ... it is so bad ... there is no way we can grow our way out of the problem, there is no way we can cut our way out of the problem, and there is no way we can tax our way out of the problem." He points to the need for a complete restructuring of American government and noted that "bad news tends to run downhill."

This session is nearing a close, and property taxes are due today. But next year is an election year. Gubernatorial Candidates and Legislators will have to begin talking about real solutions to our budget problems. Now politicians are "educable" and so it is

important that we all take this opportunity to urge our political leaders to undertake real and meaningful reform.

MSRPO provides solutions

[MSRPO](#) does more than point out problems -- we offer solutions. In 2009 the MSRPO Board voted to endorse the State and Local Fiscal System Overhaul plan known as [FINDING A WAY FORWARD](#). This plan offers solutions to Minnesota's funding problems, it balances the books, rewards innovation, increases efficiencies and does so without wrecking the state. [FINDING A WAY FORWARD](#) would reward good stewardship of land and the protection of riparian areas.

Today is Tax Day. The Legislative session is nearly over and 2010 is an election year. We are at a turning point. Legislators are uniquely educable during an election cycle, and even more during a crisis.

So talk to them. Tell your elected officials you expect them to solve the state's long term fiscal crisis. The Minnesota House has convened a [Redesign Caucus](#) to create a discussion about how to solve our fiscal problem, or, as the [website](#) states, take ideas from Minnesota's citizens and "put them into a "Citizen Redesign Bill" that will receive a hearing before a committee of the House of Representatives. We will bring your ideas from the kitchen table to the committee table. If your idea is selected you will be able to testify before the committee if you wish."

Ask various Gubernatorial candidates how they intend to balance the books. Suggest [FINDING A WAY FORWARD](#) to them. Make sure they understand you expect them to solve our problem, not score political points. You expect them to create a state and local fiscal system that is sustainable and provides critical services while protecting our states waters and forests habitats.

[JOIN MSRPO TODAY](#). MSRPO is the ONLY group with a lobbyist working full time at the capitol to represent families that own cabins or hunting lands in Minnesota. We are the only group lobbying issues important to you; lowering property taxes so you can afford to pass your property onto your children, creating incentives for sound stewardship of habitat and riparian areas, preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species, cleaner water and healthier forests.

As you write your property tax bill, won't you write another to join MSRPO?

Invest in your family cabin or hunting shack. MSRPO knows cabins are where family happens.

[JOIN MSRPO TODAY.](#)

MSRPO is truly a non-partisan grass roots organization. We work for cleaner lakes, better forest habitat and tax fairness for those who own cabins and hunting shacks in Minnesota. Because most of us cannot vote where our properties are located, it is only by joining together that we can preserve the places that we love.

[JOIN MSRPO TODAY.](#)

Jeff Forester
Executive Director
MSRPO Coalition
(952) 854.1317
jeff@msrpo.org



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