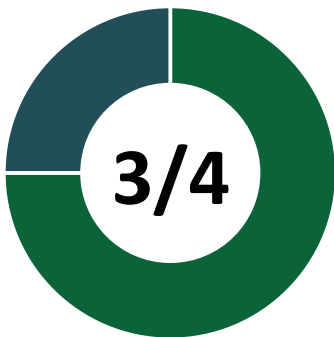


# Local Property Taxpayer Protection

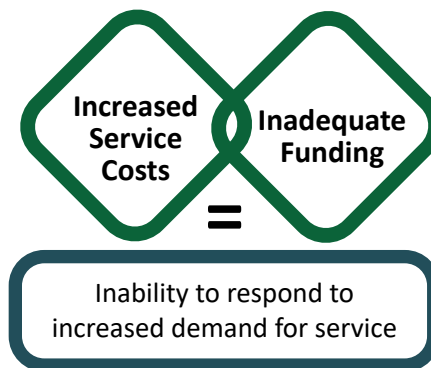
Washington County seeks to protect its local taxpayers from any further shifts of state costs to the county property tax (which is a regressive and unpopular form of taxation) and the potential erosion of the ability to deliver high quality, essential services in an efficient manner. The Legislature and Governor are encouraged to provide flexibility and full funding for any mandates imposed on local governments.

## Issue At-A Glance

- County governments are tasked by both the state and federal governments to carry out mandated programs on their behalf.
- Inadequate state resources threaten the ability of Washington County to continue providing core functions of county government at reasonable cost to taxpayers.
- The demand for many human service and health care services are likely to continue to increase in 2022, and county funds will need to be re-purposed to meet that demand.



Nearly three-quarters of the county property tax levy is needed to pay for mandated service costs.



## Support

Counties and local governments that seek mandate relief.

## Previous Consideration

The county has advocated this position for many years.

## No Action

Counties will continue to be responsible for new, unfunded mandates that will likely result in increasing pressure on local property taxpayers.

## Financial Implications

County levy increases are likely to be larger than otherwise necessary if the state and federal governments would fully fund the costs of mandated services.

## Proposed Solutions

Counties have identified many mandated services that could be repealed, reformed or funded

- eliminate county share of state court costs
- eliminate increases in the county cost share for many human service programs
- eliminate requirements for county financial information publications in newspapers and instead allow for web publication

## County facts



2nd lowest operating cost per capita and the 3rd lowest levy per capita of the seven metropolitan counties.



Holds highest credit rating (AAA) from both major rating agencies.



Lowest human services administration costs per capita of all Minnesota counties and one of the lowest county tax rates.

## Contact

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