

# MINNESOTA Journal

A PUBLIC POLICY MONTHLY FROM THE CITIZENS LEAGUE

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Journalists, as well as politicians, exaggerated vastly the role of the executive in government at all levels during this campaign season. It's as if America had a parliamentary system, in which the voters give one party a majority with which its leader can pass his/her bills.

In our system a president (or governor) can propose legislation that the legislative body may or may not pass—and almost certainly will not pass without change. Now that the election is over, perhaps reality will set in.

—Ted Kolderie.

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## Average homes values up, but property taxes mixed

by Dana Schroeder and Kris Lyndon Wilson

Property taxes went down this year for average homeowners in slightly more than half of the communities in the seven-county Twin Cities area with populations of 2,500 or more. Taxes on average-value homesteads decreased in 56 of the 107 communities for which comparisons with last year could be made and increased in the other 51. (Two new communities made the population cutoff this year—Rogers in Hennepin County and Centerville in Anoka County—but we did not have comparable data available on 1999 average home values and taxes to make this comparison for them.)

Taxes on average-value homesteads decreased by more than 10 percent in three metro communities in 2000—**Richfield** (school district 280), down 10.3 percent; **Lakeville** (194), down 11.1 percent; and **Bayport** (834), down 12.5 percent.

At the same time, taxes on average-value homesteads increased by more than 10 percent in nine metro-area communities, led by Anoka County's **Linwood Twp.** (831) at 18.5 percent; **Watertown** (111) at 17.5 percent; and **Columbia Heights** (13) at 16.2 percent.

The picture was not so mixed in nonmetropolitan Minnesota. Property taxes on average-value homesteads went down in 23 of the 33 communities over 8,500 population included in our survey this year and increased in the other 10. Only two communities saw decreases in average-value taxes of 10 percent or more: **Austin** (492), down by 17.8 and **Sartell** (748), down by 10.3 percent.

The average-value homesteads increased in value in all 107 metro communities for which comparisons could be made. The increases were all below 10 percent, except **Inver Grove Heights** (199), which saw an increase in its average home value of 10.1 percent.

The picture was much the same in the 33 nonmetro communities in our survey. The average homestead went up in value in 31 communities, with the largest increase in **St. Peter** (508), at 11.7 percent. The value of the average homestead went down in only two communities: **Sartell** (748), down 3.3 percent; and **Worthington** (518), down 4.1 percent.

These are among the findings of the Citizens League's 34th annual homestead property-tax survey of Minnesota communities. (For the last seven years the Minnesota Taxpayers Association has played a major role in the survey, but was unable to participate this year.) See Citizens League Executive Director Lyle Wray's "Viewpoint" on page 3 for some history of the survey and an explanation of the League's purpose in performing the annual homestead tax review. Also see the accompanying explanation on page 2 of the various tax comparisons in the analysis.

### Legislative changes

Two legislative changes—an increase in the education homestead credit and a lowering of the class rate for figuring the taxable value of homes—helped bring taxes on average homes down in a number of communities, despite the nearly universal increase in average home values.

Specifically, the changes included the following:

▲ An increase from \$75,000 in 1999 to \$76,000 in 2000 in the homestead value figured at the lowest rate for taxes, one percent. There was also a reduction in the rate at which homes valued above \$76,000 are taxed—from 1.7 percent in 1999 to 1.65 percent in 2000. So a home's taxable value (tax capacity) is now one percent of value up to \$76,000 and 1.65 percent of value over \$76,000.

▲ A significant increase in the education



## Property taxes *continued from page 1*

homestead credit, which was first introduced in 1998. In 2000 it is computed as 83 percent of the state's general education levy amount, up to a maximum credit of \$390 per home. That compares with 66.2 percent, up to a maximum of \$320, in 1999.

These changes have benefited all homeowners, with varying impacts, depending on the value of homes and the level of taxes.

For example, the taxable value (or tax capacity) of our metro and nonmetro sample homes was reduced as follows by the changes:

For the \$130,000 metro home the tax capacity in 1999 was \$1,685; it dropped to \$1,651 in 2000 (a drop of 2.1 %) due to the new legislative homestead rates. The nonmetro \$85,000 home dropped from a

tax capacity of \$942 in 1999 to \$920 in 2000, a drop of 2.3 percent.

Owners of homes valued at less than \$76,000 gained nothing from this change, although they did benefit from the increase in the education homestead credit. Eleven of the 33 metro cities in our survey have average home values under \$76,000.

The education homestead credit changes raised the average credit received by the 33 nonmetro cities on the \$85,000 home from \$236 to \$295, an increase of 25 percent. None of the 33 nonmetro cities reached the \$320 maximum credit in 1999, nor the \$390 credit in 2000, so they got the full benefit of the percentage increase in the credit from 66.2 percent to 83 percent.

In the 107 nonmetro cities we can com-

pare, the homestead credit changes raised the average credit on the \$130,000 home from \$320 to \$390, since every community hit the maximum credit in both 1999 and 2000. That's an increase of 22 percent in the average credit from \$320 in 1999 to \$390 in 2000.

On average-value homesteads in 2000, the average education homestead credit for the metro communities is \$379 and 83 of the 109 communities (over 75 percent) reached the \$390 maximum credit. This average credit amounts to 18 percent of the average net taxes for these communities, \$2,164.

For the nonmetro average-value homesteads in 2000, the average education homestead credit for the 33 communities is \$277 and only four communities met the \$390 maximum. This average credit amounts to 28 percent of the average net taxes for these communities, \$985.

So the homestead credit plays a larger role in reducing nonmetro average taxes than it does in reducing metro taxes for the communities in our survey.

Other major findings of the survey:

▲**Chanhassen** (112) replaced Lauderdale (which dropped to fourth place) as the top-ranked metro community and **Bemidji** (31) was the top-ranked nonmetro community this year in a comparison of taxes on a similarly valued home. This year the comparison is on a home assessed for tax purposes at \$130,000 in the metro communities and at \$85,000 in the nonmetro communities. (Last year the figures were \$125,000 in the metro area and \$75,000 in the nonmetro communities.)

▲**Minneapolis** (1) moved up in the rankings from 11th place to sixth place this year. **St. Paul** (625), in contrast, moved down several notches in the rankings, dropping from 13th to 16th place. Minneapolis kept its sixth place ranking on city taxes, while St. Paul remained in fifth place for county taxes. Taxes on a home valued at \$130,000 in both 1999 and 2000 went up slightly (1.2 percent) in Minneapolis but decreased by 8.3 percent in St. Paul.

▲Responsibility for high taxes in top-ranked communities is shared among taxing jurisdictions, with city, county and school taxes playing a strong role in both

# Viewpoint

From the Executive Director

## Annual property tax review aims to inform citizens, local officials

by Lyle Wray

This month's issue of the *Minnesota Journal* marks the League's 34th annual homestead property tax review. The League's first annual property tax review was conducted in 1967 and compared tax rates for 75 communities in Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka and Dakota counties. In an attempt to make the comparisons understandable to the "average reader" the League used the estimated tax on an \$18,000 house in each community.

Times have certainly changed. We now use a house value of \$130,000 in the metro area and \$85,000 in nonmetro communities. Our survey this year includes the 109 cities in the seven-county metropolitan area with populations over 2,500 and the 33 cities in Greater Minnesota with populations over 8,500.

The League has published this review continuously—through changes in mill rates, tax capacities and taconite credits. In fact, current *Journal* editor Dana Schroeder met her husband, Jon, when both were working on the 1974 survey. Clearly, the property tax survey is close to our hearts here at the Citizens League.

This report is no idle exercise. We do not continue to analyze the results, year after year, just because we have always

done it. The Citizens League faithfully produces the homestead property tax review each year for a number of reasons: (1) to monitor the impact of legislative changes on homestead taxes; (2) to track homestead values in various metro and nonmetro communities; and (3) to offer citizens and public officials a chance to compare their taxes with those in other communities.

The annual homestead property tax review is designed for two audiences—citizens and local government officials. First and foremost, we aim to provide citizens (and League members) with the information they need to ask the intelligent questions. The point is not so much who is first or second or third in the rankings, but why are these rankings the way they are? Why are taxes on a \$130,000 home in Eden Prairie \$270 more than taxes on a \$130,000 home in Minnetonka? What added value are residents of Eden Prairie receiving for their money? Are the differences in tax burdens purely the result of local choice or do particular cities face unique responsibilities and funding demands that others escape?

Second, our annual property tax review is intended to inform local government officials about where their community stands in relationship to its neighbors. Not only do we hope that local officials will ask themselves the same question of why, but we also want them to know there are people and organizations prepared to hold them accountable for their decisions.

Every year our survey reveals more information than we have room to print. But in the year 2000 we can take advantage of the World-Wide Web to make much of that additional information available to you via our website, [www.citizensleague.net](http://www.citizensleague.net). There you will find even more detailed results, including the individual rates for your city, county and school district.

What can you do with all this information? You can take it along as you attend your local Truth-in-Taxation hearings.



"Oh, looky here, ...our town came in Number One in the Property Tax Survey! ...Part of me wants to brag, ...and part of me wants to cry!"

Every county, city and school district in the state of Minnesota is required by law to hold this annual hearing in late November or early December. (Counties generally hold their hearings on the first Thursday of December, which falls on Dec. 7 this year.)

In the next few weeks, all property owners in the state should receive a Truth-in-Taxation statement in the mail. These statements outline the proposed changes in your county, city and school district tax rates for next year and indicate how they would affect your property tax bill if approved. The statements also list the time, date and place that your county, city and school district will be holding their Truth-in-Taxation hearings.

It is important to note that the statements reflect *proposed* changes. Local government budgets and tax rates can be, and are, adjusted to reflect citizen input—if residents attend the hearings, question their local officials and offer constructive feedback regarding local choices and priorities.

Good information and active citizens are often quiet, but important, parts of a vital democracy. This annual report does its part to help citizens participate in a more informed way in decision over local budgets and priorities. Using this information, citizens can ask more informed questions and participate more fully in their local communities. **MJ**

Lyle Wray is executive director of the Citizens League. Readers may respond to "Viewpoint" or any Journal article at 612-338-0791 or [info@citizensleague.net](mailto:info@citizensleague.net).

## What do the rankings mean?

**\$85,000 and \$130,000 comparisons.** To arrive at a constant value for comparing taxes among communities, we computed the average home values in the 109 metro communities above 2,500 population and in the nonmetro communities above 8,500 population. The \$130,000 home approximates the metro average (\$131,472), while the \$85,000 value approximates the nonmetro average (\$83,220).

A high ranking in this comparison shows that a community has relatively high taxes per dollar of homestead property—a high tax rate not sufficiently offset by tax relief, such as the education homestead credit available to all homeowners (with a maximum of \$390 this year) and the taconite homestead credit available to Iron Range communities. It's important to remember that total property taxes reflect the spending decisions of several layers of local government. High tax rates indicate high government spending—by cities, schools, counties or special districts, like hospital districts or watershed districts—relative to a community's property-tax base. Sometimes a particularly high tax rate of one level of government can pull a community into a high ranking, even if the other levels of government have more moderate tax rates. The analysis ranks taxes by these various levels of government, as well as total taxes. This comparison does not account for differences in communities' assessment practices.

A community's property tax base can vary depending on several factors: the value of homes; the amount of commercial-industrial property—which adds more to a community's tax base per dollar of property value than does homestead property; the amount of agricultural property—much of which adds less to a community's tax base per dollar of value than does homestead property, and the amount of tax base unavailable because of tax-increment financing (TIF).

**Average-value homes.** We calculated the average estimated market value for each community and compared taxes on these average-value homes. This analysis gives a better sense of what homeowners in various communities actually pay in property taxes. But because the analysis reflects differences in tax rates and differences in value, a high ranking can mean that a community either has a high average home value, a high tax rate or both.

None of the analyses account for the special targeted property-tax refund intended to help offset large increases in taxes, since homeowners must specially apply for that refund, nor for the circuit breaker refund, which is dependent on homeowners' incomes. **More information.** Check our website at [www.citizensleague.net](http://www.citizensleague.net) for expanded tables and further information. **MJ**

Property taxes *continued on page 5*

### The Minnesota Journal

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TABLE 1: 2000 TAXES ON HOMES IN 109* METROPOLITAN COMMUNITIES															
\$130,000 HOME+							AVERAGE VALUE HOME								
Community (School district)	2000 tax	Rank	% chng. in tax '99-'00**	Average assessed market value	2000 tax	Rank	% chng. in tax '99-'00***	Community (School district)	2000 tax	Rank	% chng. in tax '99-'00**	Average assessed market value	2000 tax	Rank	% chng. in tax '00
ANOKA COUNTY															
Andover (11)	\$1,542	95	-2.5%	\$140,664	\$1,745	60	2.0%	Mound (277)	\$1,778	57	-10.1%	\$136,904	\$1,926	47	-2.1%
Anoka (11)	\$1,683	78	-3.6%	\$103,877	\$1,204	98	7.0%	New Hope (281)	\$1,886	35	3.8%	\$113,319	\$1,515	76	-1.8%
Blaine (11)	\$1,616	85	-3.2%	\$108,181	\$1,219	96	3.5%	Orono (278)	\$1,717	72	-9.3%	\$328,601	\$5,900	4	0.2%
Burns Twp. (11)	\$1,366	107	-1.9%	\$147,612	\$1,669	65	5.2%	Osseo (279)	\$2,157	7	14.5%	\$100,711	\$1,464	80	10.5%
Centerville (12)#	\$2,096	12	n/a	\$116,686	\$1,768	59	n/a	Plymouth (284)	\$1,752	62	5.0%	\$172,629	\$2,637	21	-4.4%
Circle Pines (12)	\$1,790	52	-12.0%	\$106,419	\$1,315	90	-7.9%	Richfield (280)	\$1,800	51	-19.5%	\$106,396	\$1,322	89	-10.3%
Columbia Heights (13)	\$1,885	36	-5.6%	\$89,241	\$1,072	107	16.2%	Robbinsdale (281)	\$1,882	37	5.9%	\$92,866	\$1,148	103	-2.2%
Columbus Twp. (831)	\$1,751	63	-0.3%	\$138,581	\$1,933	46	1.2%	Rogers (728)#	\$1,929	30	n/a	\$146,907	\$2,315	32	n/a
Coon Rapids (11)	\$1,579	89	-1.5%	\$104,733	\$1,140	104	7.3%	Saint Anthony (282)	\$2,036	18	-2.2%	\$118,980	\$1,774	58	-2.0%
East Bethel (15)	\$1,645	83	-2.0%	\$116,736	\$1,378	86	6.4%	Saint Louis Park (283)	\$1,992	24	1.8%	\$119,590	\$1,744	61	12.4%
Fridley (14)	\$1,589	87	-12.7%	\$104,980	\$1,125	106	-4.3%	Shorewood (276)	\$2,011	21	-0.4%	\$258,943	\$5,011	7	1.0%
Ham Lake (11)	\$1,461	102	-2.2%	\$141,452	\$1,670	64	4.6%	Wayzata (284)	\$1,843	43	3.1%	\$327,166	\$6,119	1	1.6%
Lino Lakes (12)	\$1,862	42	-8.7%	\$150,749	\$2,326	31	-4.4%	RAMSEY COUNTY							
Linwood Twp. (831)	\$1,687	76	9.9%	\$120,874	\$1,499	79	18.5%	Arden Hills (621)	\$1,755	61	1.7%	\$158,640	\$2,356	30	-1.2%
Oak Grove (15)	\$1,724	71	-1.3%	\$134,337	\$1,814	56	7.6%	Falcon Heights (623)(05)	\$1,981	25	8.4%	\$140,803	\$2,228	38	-5.1%
Ramsey (11)	\$1,579	88	-0.5%	\$131,737	\$1,613	70	4.8%	Lauderdale (623)	\$2,174	4	6.5%	\$90,650	\$1,285	94	-3.1%
Saint Francis (15)	\$1,691	75	-9.4%	\$105,854	\$1,202	99	-6.2%	Little Canada (623)	\$2,025	20	4.4%	\$113,287	\$1,636	69	-6.8%
Spring Lake Park (16)	\$1,915	32	-0.3%	\$99,552	\$1,287	92	15.1%	Maplewood (622)	\$1,922	31	-0.3%	\$117,975	\$1,648	68	2.6%
CARVER COUNTY								Mounds View (621)	\$1,872	41	0.3%	\$106,824	\$1,368	87	-4.6%
Chanhassen (112)	\$2,332	1	9.4%	\$187,504	\$3,872	10	7.5%	New Brighton (621)	\$1,778	56	1.9%	\$133,647	\$1,856	54	-1.3%
Chaska (112)	\$2,085	13	11.5%	\$142,436	\$2,388	28	16.1%	North Oaks (621)	\$1,569	92	1.6%	\$364,353	\$6,045	3	0.6%
Norwood Y.America (108)	\$1,890	34	-8.2%	\$95,831	\$1,164	102	2.0%	North St. Paul (622)	\$1,842	44	-1.2%	\$104,858	\$1,287	93	-2.1%
Victoria (112)	\$2,272	2	10.2%	\$210,947	\$4,396	8	10.7%	Roseville (623)(01)	\$1,996	23	6.4%	\$124,001	\$1,858	53	-4.8%
Waconia (110)	\$2,122	9	-3.3%	\$126,220	\$2,028	41	-5.0%	Saint Paul (625)	\$2,059	16	-8.3%	\$93,162	\$1,220	95	0.0%
Watertown (111)	\$2,031	19	4.9%	\$104,793	\$1,432	82	17.5%	Shoreview (621)	\$1,762	59	1.3%	\$142,091	\$2,016	42	-2.9%
DAKOTA COUNTY								Vadnais Heights (624)	\$1,779	55	1.8%	\$133,976	\$1,864	50	0.1%
Apple Valley (196)	\$1,648	81	-3.4%	\$140,745	\$1,862	51	-3.2%	White Bear Lake (624)	\$1,784	54	1.3%	\$116,784	\$1,503	78	-1.4%
Burnsville (191)	\$1,692	74	-7.3%	\$131,170	\$1,716	63	-5.5%	White Bear Twp. (624)	\$1,760	60	1.7%	\$141,334	\$1,998	44	0.2%
Eagan (196)	\$1,548	94	-1.8%	\$142,683	\$1,789	57	0.6%	SCOTT COUNTY							
Farmington (192)	\$1,731	69	-10.8%	\$119,220	\$1,504	77	-7.3%	Belle Plaine (716)	\$1,939	28	0.5%	\$101,919	\$1,297	91	-0.1%
Hastings (200)	\$1,734	68	-16.6%	\$113,905	\$1,396	85	-9.6%	Credit River Twp. (719)	\$1,388	105	2.8%	\$182,006	\$2,286	33	-1.1%
Inver Grove Heights (199)	\$1,569	91	-4.4%	\$131,495	\$1,597	72	-7.6%	Jordan (717)	\$1,737	67	-5.8%	\$98,917	\$1,127	105	3.6%
Lakeville (194)	\$1,498	99	-11.5%	\$152,290	\$1,912	48	-11.1%	New Market Twp. (194)	\$1,538	97	-11.0%	\$189,307	\$2,666	19	-9.7%
Mendota Heights (197)	\$1,472	100	0.1%	\$194,692	\$2,640	20	-1.9%	New Prague (721)	\$2,215	3	-2.4%	\$108,144	\$1,652	66	1.2%
Rosemount (196)	\$1,878	39	-2.3%	\$135,906	\$2,010	43	-2.2%	Prior Lake (719)	\$1,997	22	6.7%	\$152,499	\$2,516	24	-2.5%
South St. Paul (6)	\$1,530	98	-17.2%	\$95,175	\$956	109	-6.2%	Savage (191)	\$1,838	46	-6.9%	\$143,518	\$2,132	39	0.1%
West St. Paul (197)	\$1,549	93	0.4%	\$111,403	\$1,199	100	-0.8%	Shakopee (720)	\$1,682	79	-6.1%	\$118,483	\$1,458	81	-7.3%
HENNEPIN COUNTY								Spring Lake Twp. (719)	\$1,466	101	1.4%	\$174,051	\$2,260	37	-4.6%
Bloomington (271)	\$1,787	53	6.8%	\$137,973	\$1,957	45	4.5%	WASHINGTON COUNTY							
Brooklyn Center (279)	\$2,171	5	5.7%	\$87,484	\$1,216	97	-1.1%	Afton (834)	\$1,386	106	-3.1%	\$215,092	\$2,863	18	-4.1%
Brooklyn Park (279)	\$2,072	14	1.7%	\$107,891	\$1,542	74	-3.7%	Bayport (834)	\$1,835	50	-11.6%	\$131,409	\$1,865	49	-12.5%
Champlin (11)	\$1,835	49	-2.9%	\$121,575	\$1,650	67	5.1%	Cottage Grove (833)	\$1,878	38	3.7%	\$115,916	\$1,568	73	-3.5%
Corcoran (877)	\$1,747	64	-6.7%	\$166,618	\$2,522	23	1.9%	Forest Lake (831)	\$1,687	77	-6.6%	\$114,374	\$1,365	88	-1.0%
Crystal (281)	\$1,877	40	4.1%	\$95,906	\$1,193	101	-0.4%	Forest Lake Twp (831)	\$1,432	103	-5.5%	\$151,274	\$1,816	55	-1.6%
Dayton (11)	\$1,835	48	-1.4%	\$149,423	\$2,261	36	7.2%	Grant (832)	\$1,398	104	1.1%	\$244,168	\$3,372	13	3.7%
Deephaven (276)	\$1,913	33	0.5%	\$315,944	\$6,056	2	3.4%	Hugo (624)	\$1,593	86	2.2%	\$153,702	\$2,052	40	1.7%
Eden Prairie (272)	\$2,111	11	8.4%	\$190,872	\$3,588	12	5.7%	Lake Elmo (834)	\$1,541	96	-4.4%	\$205,817	\$2,975	14	-1.7%
Edina (273)	\$1,942	27	15.5%	\$215,218	\$3,853	11	3.5%	Mahtomedi (832)	\$1,673	80	3.6%	\$175,820	\$2,591	22	-0.7%
Excelsior (276)	\$2,069	15	-0.5%	\$167,179	\$2,956	15	2.2%	May Twp (834)(01)	\$1,194	109	-3.0%	\$212,121	\$2,462	26	-3.1%
Golden Valley (281)	\$1,935	29	3.9%	\$144,477	\$2,264	35	1.3%	New Scandia Twp (831)	\$1,634	84	-4.5%	\$166,833	\$2,373	29	2.7%
Hassan Twp (728)	\$1,697	73	-3.2%	\$167,425	\$2,465	25	-3.4%	Newport (833)	\$2,113	10	0.2%	\$108,134	\$1,606	71	-4.3%
Hopkins (270)	\$2,050	17	-0.8%	\$116,736	\$1,732	62	2.6%	Oak Park Heights (834)	\$1,576	90	-1.8%	\$121,505	\$1,412	84	-5.8%
Independence (879)	\$2,128	8	7.1%	\$220,761	\$4,394	9	15.8%	Oakdale (622)	\$1,742	65	-0.3%	\$114,475	\$1,415	83	5.2%
Maple Grove (279)	\$1,946	26	4.1%	\$143,990	\$2,265	34	1.1%	Saint Paul Park (833)	\$1,730	70	5.1%	\$93,406	\$1,072	108	-5.5%
Medina (278)	\$1,647	82	-10.6%	\$302,529	\$5,160	5	2.3%	Stillwater (834)	\$1,740	66	-4.8%	\$135,804	\$1,862	52	-3.9%
Minneapolis (1)	\$2,169	6	1.2%	\$103,653	\$1,519	75	4.1%	West Lakeland Twp (834)	\$1,229	108	-3.1%	\$238,505	\$2,944	16	-4.5%
Minnetonka (270)	\$1,839	45	-1.2%	\$179,732	\$2,927	17	0.1%	Woodbury (833)	\$1,837	47	8.8%	\$155,650	\$2,390	27	-3.8%
Minnetrista (277)	\$1,770	58	-10.9%	\$283,981	\$5,058	6	-2.3%								
* All communities in the seven-county metro area with populations of 2,500 or above, plus Excelsior.															
+ A hypothetical home in each community with an assessor's market value of \$130,000.															
** Assumes a home with the same \$130,000 assessor's market value in both 1999 and 2000.															
*** Compares tax on 2000 average value home with tax on 1999 average value home.															
1999 taxes were recalculated for the five communities that changed school district association in the survey this year.															
# New to the survey this year.															
SOURCE: Minnesota Department of Revenue; calculations by the Citizens League.															

TABLE 2: 2000 TAXES ON HOMES IN 33* NONMETROPOLITAN COMMUNITIES									
\$85,000 HOME+				AVERAGE VALUE HOME					
Community (School district)	2000 tax	Rank	% chng. in tax '99-'00**	Average assessed market value	2000 tax	Rank	% chng. in tax '99-'00**		
Albert Lea (241)	\$1,029	13	-6.4%	\$60,597	\$666	28	-2.0%		
Alexandria (206)	\$888	30	-6.0%	\$83,906	\$844	23	3.0%		
Austin (492)	\$808	33	-19.6%	\$63,148	\$546	31	-17.8%		
Bemidji (31)	\$1,288	1	-9.6%	\$56,814	\$780	25	-6.7%		
Brainerd (181)	\$828	31	-6.9%	\$63,666	\$563	30	-1.5%		
Buffalo (877)	\$907	27	-4.9%	\$113,343	\$1,363	3	1.9%		
Cloquet (94)	\$1,224	2	-5.7%	\$69,329	\$905	19	-6.6%		
Duluth (709)	\$1,106	6	-2.1%	\$73,577	\$868	21	-1.2%		
Elk River (728)	\$933	23	-7.2%	\$119,975	\$1,518	2	-1.3%		
Fairmont (2752)	\$924	25	-5.1%	\$60,562	\$742	26	18.7%		
Faribault (656)	\$1,008	15	-7.7%	\$91,481	\$1,087	12	-2.1%		
Fergus Falls (544)	\$931	24	-7.3%	\$70,419	\$702	27	-4.3%		
Grand Rapids (318)	\$921	26	-1.7%	\$69,366	\$604	29	-1.8%		
Hibbing (701)	\$1,020	14	-3.5%	\$51,220	\$414	32	-2.5%		
Hutchinson (423)	\$1,160	3	-0.8%	\$96,396	\$1,348	4	6.1%		
Mankato (77)	\$959	19	0.7%	\$90,435	\$1,017	14	3.1%		
Marshall (413)	\$987	17	-6.0%	\$90,131	\$1,042	13	-3.4%		
Moorhead (152)	\$1,102	8	-1.2%	\$80,855	\$987	15	6.0%		
New Ulm (88)	\$1,103	7	-4.7%	\$78,975	\$950	17	-4.5%		
North Mankato (77)	\$944	20	-0.8%	\$105,846	\$1,251	7	-2.7%		
Northfield (659)	\$935	22	-9.4%	\$124,787	\$1,643	1	-4.2%		
Owatonna (761)	\$899	28	-8.8%	\$99,760	\$1,096	10	-4.1%		
Red Wing (256)	\$960	18	-2.5%	\$100,867	\$1,192	8	1.7%		
Rochester (535)	\$1,094	9	-4.8%	\$96,480	\$1,273	5	2.8%		
Saint Cloud (742)	\$1,075	11	-4.5%	\$87,846	\$1,092	11	-3.4%		
Saint Peter (508)	\$942	21	-8.6%	\$89,473	\$983	16	4.5%		
Sartell (748)	\$996	16	-2.3%	\$102,151	\$1,257	6	-10.3%		
Sauk Rapids (47)	\$1,121	5	-1.5%	\$86,988	\$1,122	9	-3.0%		
Virginia (706)	\$810	32	-8.3%	\$49,096	\$275	33	-9.1%		
Waseca (829)	\$1,125	4	-6.7%	\$74,064	\$889	20	-5.2%		
Willmar (347)	\$1,066	12	-2.7%	\$78,480	\$911	18	-1.9%		
Winona (861)	\$891	29	-8.5%	\$85,168	\$863	22	-4.9%		
Worthington (518)	\$1,083	10	9.5%	\$68,243	\$786	24	2.7%		
*All nonmetropolitan communities with populations of 8,500 or more.									
+A hypothetical home in each community with an assessor's market value of \$85,000.									
**Assumes a home with the same \$85,000 assessor's market value in both 1999 and 2000.									



TABLE 3: 2000 TAXES BY TAXING DISTRICT IN SELECTED METRO AND NONMETRO CITIES\*

METRO CITIES (\$130,000 home)											
County	Community (School district)	County tax	Rank	City tax	Rank	Net school tax**	Rank	Spec. dist. tax	Rank	Total tax	Rank
Carver	Chanhassen (112)	\$755	3	\$489	30	\$1,018	1	\$70	48	\$2,332	1
Carver	Victoria (112)	\$755	3	\$472	35	\$997	2	\$48	59	\$2,272	2
Scott	New Prague (721)	\$593	12	\$735	5	\$865	6	\$22	64	\$2,215	3
Ramsey	Lauderdale (623)	\$740	4	\$479	33	\$840	9	\$115	32	\$2,174	4
Hennepin	Brooklyn Center (279)	\$655	6	\$572	15	\$793	13	\$151	7	\$2,171	5
Hennepin	Minneapolis (1)	\$587	13	\$722	6	\$729	23	\$131	23	\$2,169	6
Ramsey	St. Paul (625)	\$672	5	\$599	12	\$662	46	\$126	27	\$2,059	16
Average taxes#		\$589		\$410		\$695		\$99		\$1,793	
Total different rankings#			20		109		64		64		109
Range of taxes#		\$412-\$759		\$42-\$812		\$335-\$1,018		\$22-\$164		\$1,194-\$2,332	

  

NONMETRO CITIES (\$85,000 home)											
County	Community (School district)	County tax	Rank	City tax	Rank	Net school tax*	Rank	Spec. dist. tax	Rank	Total tax	Rank
Beltrami	Bemidji (31)	\$672	1	\$241	29	\$371	3	\$3.73	21	\$1,288	1
Carlton	Cloquet (94)	\$633	2	\$403	5	\$187	30	\$1.60	30	\$1,224	2
McLeod	Hutchinson (423)	\$469	7	\$426	3	\$263	18	\$2.00	23	\$1,160	3
Waseca	Waseca (829)	\$447	9	\$377	6	\$299	12	\$1.72	26	\$1,125	4
Benton	Sauk Rapids (47)	\$569	5	\$238	30	\$292	14	\$21.71	3	\$1,121	5
Average taxes#		\$416		\$310		\$267		\$8.04		\$1,002	
Total different rankings#			33		33		33		30		33
Range of taxes#		\$280-\$672		\$176-\$471		\$84-\$412		0-\$28.42		\$808-\$1,288	

\* Taxes are computed on hypothetical homes with assessor's market values of \$130,000 for metro cities and \$85,000 for nonmetro cities.

\*\* Net school tax consists of tax capacity rate taxes plus market value referendum rate taxes (for both cities and school districts, since they were not separated out in the data we used), plus any Intermediate District taxes, less education homestead credit.

# For all 109 metro cities and all 33 nonmetro cities.

## Property taxes continued from page 5

or near the bottom among the metro cities, with Brooklyn Center bottom, at \$87,484, and Lauderdale third from the bottom, at \$90,650. New Prague, at \$108,144, ranked in the bottom fifth. St. Paul ranked fifth lowest at \$93,162; Minneapolis, at \$103,653, ranked 14th from the bottom, or in the bottom one-eighth.

In contrast, low values are not the problem for Chanhassen and Victoria. Chanhassen ranks 19th *highest* at \$187,504, while Victoria ranks 14th highest at \$210,947.

Because of their high average home values and high tax rates, taxes on the average-value homestead ranked 10th in Chanhassen, at \$3,872, and eighth in Victoria, at \$4,396. So the average homeowner in those two cities is paying significantly higher taxes than in the \$130,000 comparison.

Taxes on the average-value homestead in third-ranked New Prague (\$1,652) ranked 66th out of the 109 metro commu-

nities; fourth-ranked Lauderdale (\$1,285) ranked 94th out of the 109 metro communities; and fifth-ranked Brooklyn Center (\$1,216) ranked 97th, around the bottom tenth. Thus, the average Brooklyn Center homeowner is paying significantly lower taxes than in the \$130,000 comparison.

All five of the top-ranked communities were in the top eighth for net school taxes; four of the five were in the top six (of 20) for county taxes; and all five were in the top third in city taxes. (See Table 3 on page 6.)

The average taxes on a \$130,000 home in the 109 metro-area communities were \$1,793, up by less than one percent from what they would have been last year. While 60 communities would have seen a decrease in 2000 taxes on a home valued at \$130,000 in both 1999 and 2000, the other 47 would have seen an increase. Twelve communities would have seen decreases of more than 10 percent, with Hastings leading the pack with a 16.6 percent decrease. No communities would

have seen increases of more than 10 percent.

Table 1 (page 4) reports the taxes, ranks and changes over last year for both the \$130,000 home comparison (columns 1 through 3) and the average-value home comparison (columns 4 through 7) for the 109 metro communities in the survey.

The five *lowest* tax metro communities in the \$130,000 home comparison include four townships:

**May Township (834)**, \$1,194; **West Lakeland Township (834)**, \$1,229; **Burns Township (11)**, \$1,366; **Afton (834)**, \$1,386; and **Credit River Township (719)**, \$1,388.

May and West Lakeland Townships and Afton are in Washington County; Burns is in Anoka County and Credit River in Scott County. Three of the lowest five are in school district 834, which ranks 54th out of 64 rankings for net school taxes; one is in school district 11, which ranks 55th; and one is in school district 719, which ranks 47th.

Four of the bottom five communities rank in the bottom seven for municipal

*Property taxes continued on page 7*

## Property taxes continued from page 6

taxes and in the bottom fourth in county taxes.

### \$85,000 nonmetro homes

**Bemidji**—located in Beltrami County and in school district 31—is the top-ranked nonmetro community in taxes on an \$85,000 home, with taxes of \$1,288.

This year's survey evaluated only the largest 33 nonmetro cities—those above 8,500 in population—while last year's included the 131 communities above 2,500 in population. Thus, the list of cities making the top ranking is not really comparable with last year, when all of the top five were smaller cities.

Table 2 (page 5) reports the taxes, ranks and changes over last year for both the nonmetro \$85,000 and average-value homes comparisons.

The other four *highest* tax nonmetro communities in the \$85,000 home comparison are:

**Cloquet (94)**, \$1,224; **Hutchinson (423)**, \$1,160; **Waseca (829)**, \$1,125; and **Sauk Rapids (47)**, \$1,121.

The average tax on a \$85,000 homestead in the 33 nonmetro communities was \$1,002.

Bemidji's Beltrami County ranks first in taxes out of 33 rankings; its school tax (District 31) ranks third of 33. Those two factors are enough to push Bemidji to the

top of the list, even though its city taxes rank fifth lowest.

Second-ranked Cloquet's Carlton County is second highest in county taxes, while Cloquet ranks fifth highest in city taxes.

All of the top five rank in the top 10 in county taxes; three rank in the top six in city taxes; and three rank in the top half in net school taxes.

Also, Bemidji ranks third from the bottom in its average-value homestead, at \$56,814. The average homeowner in Bemidji, then, is paying significantly lower taxes than on the \$85,000 comparative example. Its average taxes are \$780, which ranks 25th among the 33 communities.

Cloquet ranks ninth from the bottom in its average homestead value, at \$69,329, while Waseca ranks 12th lowest at \$74,064. Hutchinson ranks in the top third in average value and Sauk Rapids in the top half.

The five *lowest* tax nonmetro communities in the \$85,000 comparison were:

**Austin (492)**, \$808; **Virginia (706)**, \$810; **Brainerd (181)**, \$828; **Alexandria (206)**, \$888; and **Winona (861)**, \$891.

Austin's Mower County is seventh lowest among county taxes, while Austin is second lowest in city taxes and in the bottom third for net school taxes.

All of the bottom five are in the bot-

## Another view: 'U' ranking reflects admission standards

I was disappointed in the "Take Note" item in the October issue of *Minnesota Journal* about the *U.S. News* ranking of the University of Minnesota. I generally enjoy reading *Minnesota Journal* because it often gives me deeper insights into news items, many of which I have already read before elsewhere. I am sure that you know that although *U.S. News* may use 16 indicators of academic quality, many of them are highly correlated. In particular, the major difference between the U of M-Twin Cities and the U of Wisconsin-Madison that shows up in the *U.S. News* rankings is admissions standards.

It is much easier to get into the U. of Minnesota than the U. of Wisconsin. Wisconsin also recruits many more strong students from nonreciprocity states. This underlying difference increases the Wisconsin ranking in a number of the *U.S. News* categories. The private univer-

sities that dominate the top of the *U.S. News* rankings clearly have even more restrictive admissions policies.

What I would expect of the Citizens League is to explain to the readers of *Minnesota Journal* why this rankings difference exists. The next step, of course, would be to raise the public policy question as to whether it is desirable for Minnesota to have such an open admissions policy in its first-rank public research university. I could easily argue both sides of the question, but it is not really a question that I, or anyone inside the U of M, should decide in isolation. It has important consequences in a number of areas of public policy and should be decided by citizen and political leadership throughout Minnesota.

*Marvin L. Marshak, University of Minnesota, Morse-Alumni Professor of Physics*

tom half in county taxes, two are in the bottom three for city taxes and four of the five are in the bottom third for school taxes.

Virginia, along with Grand Rapids and Hibbing in our survey, qualifies for the state-paid taconite homestead credit, which can significantly reduce taxes for homeowners in the qualifying cities. **MJ**

*Dana Schroeder is editor of the Minnesota Journal and Kris Lyndon Wilson is a research associate at the Citizens League. Copies of the complete tables and the methodology for the analysis are available from the Citizens League at 612-338-0791 or online at [www.citizensleague.net](http://www.citizensleague.net).*

## High-skill, low-skill jobs growing fastest

*From a report by the Educational Testing Service ("What Jobs Require: Literacy, Education and Training 1940-2006"):*

▲ Some jobs have rising skill requirements. But others have been de-skilling.  
 ▲ The largest growth in the number of jobs from 1986 to 2006 is in occupations with slightly lower average literacy requirements than for all occupations.  
 ▲ The occupations with the highest and with the lowest literacy requirements are both growing at rates well above the average.

▲ The most rapidly increasing jobs have higher skill requirements. But only 16 percent of the increase in annual job openings requires an associate degree or higher. Most require short-, medium- or long-term on-the-job training.

▲ Lots more people have been getting college degrees and employers have increasingly been hiring people with college degrees. So decade-by-decade more people with higher levels of education are in occupations that earlier were occupied by those with less education.

▲ Only people with college degrees gained in real earning power over the past 25 years. Women graduates fared much better than men. The losses for men below the college-graduate level were huge.

▲ Employer preference may stay with the more highly educated, irrespective of projections that show a high proportion of openings not needing people with college degrees.—*Ted Kolderie.*



# TakeNote

## Policy Tidbits

*"An American has no sense of privacy. He does not know what it means. There is no such thing in the country."*—G.B. Shaw

**A raft of new federal privacy** laws is changing business as usual. For instance, the Gramm-Leach Bliley Financial Modernization Act, effective Nov. 13, requires financial institutions to disclose their information collection and sharing practices to customers—and to let customers declare their personal data off-limits from sharing. Another new law, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, controls what information can be collected from children via Internet websites. The European Union and Canada, too, have passed data privacy laws that will affect Minnesota companies doing business there.

Privacy law is where environmental law was 15 years ago, according to David Aaron, former U.S. undersecretary for international trade and now a senior advisor at Dorsey & Whitney. Governments at all levels are scrambling to develop policies to meet changing technologies and consumer expectations. So far, the pattern is for federal governments to set minimum standards, while encouraging states to go further—just what happened with environmental law. It's working: there were some 4,000 privacy-related bills introduced in state legislatures this year, with no letup in sight.

The uncertain legal environment has prompted some companies—including U.S. Bank, which had its own skirmish with data privacy recently—to appoint "privacy officers," conduct privacy audits and revamp their data practices. Aaron says the smart companies go beyond playing defense to thinking about privacy protection as a potential competitive advantage.—*Janet Dudrow.*

**Want to know how much** money there is at your child's public school? It's on the Web. Go to <http://cfl.state.mn.us/dpf>; then hit "Memos." The "initial allocation of revenue by school" is the top item.

This is the amount of revenue allocated to the school, based on the number of kids and the extra dollars the Legislature has provided for secondary students, students with English as a Second Language, students eligible for free or reduced lunch, etc.

Districts are free, however, to move the money and spend it elsewhere. They may re-allocate from school to school and from

schools to district-wide expenses. Also, the district decides how much (if any) say a school will have in how its money is spent. But knowing the initial allocation is a start. Before 1999, none of this was visible to parents and citizens, or even to legislators. Now it is. Take a look.—*Ted Kolderie.*

**Outstate employers** continue to feel the affordable housing shortage and a few are starting to make contributions to local projects. Most notable, of course, is the Mayo Clinic Foundation's multi-million dollar gift to the First Homes project in the Rochester area. But two state other employers, Hormel (Austin) and Blue Fin Bay Resort (Tofte), recently added their financial support to two other affordable housing projects in their communities.—*Marina Munoz Lyon.*

**Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist** told a Citizens League Mind-Opener audience recently that part of the prescription for saving American cities is to restructure the K-12 education system. He defended Milwaukee's voucher program, especially against charges of violation of separation of church and state. He noted that he's not concerned about kids attending fundamentalist schools. "At least they could spell creationism" and get a good education so they could attend "schools like Macalester and get the other side of the story," he said, drawing a laugh from the crowd. (He had lectured at George Latimer's Macalester class the night before, where the students didn't find the line funny.)—*Phil Jenni.*

**Mayor Norquist** talked about creating a

"GI bill for K-12." Returning WWII veterans, of course, were free to choose any kind of higher ed school they wanted. Norquist's father was able to attend Princeton Theological Seminary to become a minister. But he could have attended "Yeshiva University to become a rabbi or Cal-Berkeley to become a Communist," the mayor quipped.

As to the charge that vouchers drain money from the public system, Norquist said that's true only if public schools aren't good enough to attract or retain students. Good schools will attract students and the money that comes with them.—*P.J.*

**In October, ATT** broke itself up into four companies. The stated reason was new technology drawing the public away from traditional long-distance service.

But outsider comment focused more on the company's slowness to respond to technological change, the effect of a culture nourished by decades when it was the only telephone service around.

In 1972 the Defense Department agency that had developed it offered basically to give the Internet to ATT. ATT decided it was not compatible with its phone network, not something they could use or sell, and turned it down. The story is told in *Nerds 2.0.1, A Brief History of the Internet* by Stephen Segaller.—*T.K.*

*"Take Note" contributors include Minnesota Journal and Citizens League staff members; Janet Dudrow, policy analyst at Dorsey and Whitney; and Marina Munoz Lyon, vice president of the Pohlada Family Foundation.*

The Minnesota Journal  
Citizens League  
708 S. Third Street, Suite 500  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

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**Welcome****New and returning members**

Christine Butterfield  
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Janet Robert  
Austin Sullivan  
Don Tomsche

The annual Citizens League financial audit has been completed by the accounting firm of Obermeier and Rehkamp. The League ended fiscal 2000 with total revenues of \$534,335 and total expenses of \$525,342 for an increase in unrestricted net assets of \$8,993. If you are interested in a copy of the audit, the full report will be available by the end of November.

**CITIZENS LEAGUE**

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*The Citizens League promotes the public interest in Minnesota by involving citizens in identifying and framing critical public policy choices, forging recommendations and advocating their adoption.*

The Citizens League is an open membership organization. Suggested dues are \$50 for individuals and \$75 for families. Please call 612-338-0791 for more information.

**Connect with the League 24/7/365**

The Citizens League's fall program is in full swing, with three study committees underway, two successful Mind-Opener series completed and a thought-provoking annual meeting.

How does a good citizen keep up with all this information without forsaking hearth and home until spring? Visit us online at [www.citizensleague.net](http://www.citizensleague.net).

Usage of the League's web site has soared in the last few months, rising from an average of 100,000 hits in a year to nearly that many hits in just one month — a ten-fold increase in just over a year.

In addition to finding more detailed results of our annual property tax survey, our web-site also allows you to:

**Follow the progress of the current study committees.**

Minutes of past meetings, notices of future meetings and a list of reading materials are all available on-line. In addition, discussion and briefing papers will be posted when available.

The School Completion committee, co-chaired by **George Latimer** and **Gary Cunningham**, is meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. So far the committee has heard testimony from Allan Malkis of the Urban Coalition,

Dave Onsrud from the Department of Children, Families and Learning, Margo Baines, chief accountability officer for the St. Paul public schools, and Minneapolis Superintendent Carol Johnson.

The Adult Mental Health and Employment committee is meeting Wednesday mornings from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at the Minnesota Church Center on Franklin Avenue. The committee, co-chaired by **Jan Smaby** and **Mike Christenson**, has met four times and heard testimony from the Department of Economic Secu-

[www.citizensleague.net](http://www.citizensleague.net)

rity and the Department of Human Services, Sandra Meicher, executive director of the Mental Health Association of Minnesota, and consumers of mental health services.

Meanwhile, the Children's Mental Health committee is being co-chaired by **Marcia Avner** and **Keith Hallerland**. That committee has met four times, hearing testimony from Kathy Kosnoff, Dr. William Dikel, and representatives of the Ombudsman for Mental Health, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

**Read John Norquist's Mind-Opener remarks and join the discussion.**

At our October 31 Mind-Opener breakfast meeting, Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist provoked a great deal of discussion with his somewhat unconventional wisdom and controversial opinions about how to save American cities. You'll find a full transcript of his remarks online, along with the opportunity to post your own comments.

**Review and comment on the Environmental Quality Board's (EQB) draft generic environmental impact statement.**

The 2000 Legislature directed the EQB to examine the effects of urban development on the economy and environment in Minnesota. A draft document outlining the issues to be studied is now complete and the EQB is encouraging citizen input. You can link to their draft from the League's web site.

**Share your ideas on the League's future direction.**

Last month we reported on the results of the League's annual meeting. A complete summary of the meeting is also available on the League's web site and we invite you to review the responses of your fellow members. It's not too late for you to provide your feedback. Please — tell us what you think.

## From the Citizens League archives

For the past several years the League has published its annual residential property tax survey in cooperation with the Minnesota Taxpayers Association (MTA). In fact, most of the heavy lifting and number crunching was done by **Lynn Reed** of the MTA. However, this year other commitments by MTA meant that the League was back on its own.

As noted in Lyle Wray's viewpoint, the League has been producing the property tax survey for 35 years. In the process of re-familiarizing ourselves with the numbers we went digging back into the archives of the *Citizens League News*, the precursor to the *Minnesota Journal*.

It was a fun exercise and we thought our readers would appreciate a look back as well.

.....

The first property tax survey was published in the *CL News* on January 31, 1967. Like today, the survey consumed most of the issue, but there were several other noteworthy events.

That morning, the Community Leadership Breakfast (forerunner to the Mind-Openers) featured the new Minneapolis School Superintendent **Dr. John B. Davis, Jr.**

A note on an earlier breakfast session reported that the League's recommendation for building a metropolitan zoo, rather than expanding Como Park Zoo, was drawing strong public support. (Breakfast-goers at that breakfast meeting were visited by a 3-month-old 90-pound black Malay Sun bear cub in a 2-by-3-foot cage.)

Announcements about meetings coming up in February, 1967, noted that **Peter Odegard**, executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission, would be talking about "how we want to use our rivers."

Other speakers and subjects scheduled for upcoming meetings: **Senator William Kirchner** on metropolitan transit legislation, **Senate Minority Leader Karl Gritter** talking about the upcoming legislative session and **Sen. Robert Ashbach** discussing metropolitan sewer legislation.

Turning the calendar ahead one month, the February 23rd issue of the *CL News* summarized a new League report calling for a directly-elected Metropolitan Council with authority over a number of area-wide functions and services.

The 44-member committee that produced the report was chaired by **Charles Clay**. Called "one of the hardest-working in the 15-year history of the League" the group had met 36 times over an eight-month period spending about 3,400 volunteer hours and producing 275 pages of minutes in preparing the report.

When you think about the hallmark issues of the late 1960's, new zoos, metropolitan governments and sewer financing probably don't come to mind.

But, had the League not pursued an agenda that some probably viewed as decidedly untrendy (we like to think of it as "forward thinking"), the Twin Cities metropolitan area would look quite different today.

## Best Buy grant adds punch to office

A \$10,000 grant from the Best Buy Foundation has provided the impetus for the League to update its office computer system. After a decade of Mac-based computers, the League has switched to a Windows 2000 environment. In fact, this is the first issue of the *Matters* produced on the publisher program of Office 2000 Professional. Staff members appreciate the speed and expanded storage of our new system but are still awaiting the new high-speed internet connection.

## IBM laptop provides portability

In another much appreciated donation, IBM has provided the League with a new Thinkpad 2628 laptop computer. The laptop should greatly aid staff in minute-taking and other committee research tasks.

These contributions are important as the League gets more aggressive about using technology. We believe that enhanced use of technology is an important tool for connecting more people to our work and linking us with people and organizations around the country. In an effort to keep the momentum going, League President Matthew Ramadan has called on Board members to contribute to a "technology fund" for further enhancements.

## Twin Cities Public Television to broadcast "ReFirement" program

Jim Gambone, the special guest at the League's August Network meeting, will be featured in a new TPT-produced television special entitled "ReFirement: 10 Steps to a Successful Future." The program will air on TPT-Channel 2 on Thursday, December 7, 2000 at 9:00 p.m.

While preparing for the next stage of his own life, Gambone discovered that the traditional view of retirement might not be appropriate for his generation. So he developed "Reirement" — a way for baby boomers to plan for their later years. Gambone hopes to spark a national discussion about how people of all generations approach what is often a full one-third of their lives.

The League's interest in the aging of the baby boom generation began with the 1998 report "A New Wrinkle on Aging" which called attention to the changing nature of attitudes toward aging and retirement. The more recent labor shortage report also spotlighted the opportunity for "retired" people to continue to participate in the workplace.

For more information about ReFirement visit:

**[www.refirement.org](http://www.refirement.org)**

or

**[www.pointsofviewinc.com](http://www.pointsofviewinc.com)**