

# A Guide of What To Say At Your Property Tax Public Hearing



## 1. INTRODUCTION

“Good evening, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ . I live in \_\_\_\_\_ and have some real concerns about your proposed property tax increase.”

*first and last name*

*city or county*

## 2. TELL YOUR STORY. BE BRIEF AND POLITE (See examples below)

## 3. CONCLUSION

“I strongly oppose this property tax increase. Please take another look at your budget. Thank you for listening.”

## EXAMPLES – SHARE HOW PROPERTY TAXES IMPACT YOUR LIFE:

- “I have lived here for \_\_\_\_\_ years, and now my property taxes are growing faster than my income. I’m buying less for myself because I have to pay the government more.”
- “Taxes made my monthly mortgage payment go up \$\_\_\_\_\_ a month. Why does the city/county/school need that money more than I do?”
- “I didn’t buy \_\_\_\_\_ because my property tax bill went up.”
- “Please don’t play the blame game. I know the assessor only places a value on my property, but **YOU** create the budget and determine the amount of my tax bill.”
- “Inflation destroyed my budget. I had to decide what I could buy and what I couldn’t. The city/county/school needs to do the same.”

See your community’s taxes and spending at [www.itrlocal.org](http://www.itrlocal.org)



# LEVELS OF GOVERNMENTAL SPENDING

## LUXURIES

Because we can

Elaborate Government Buildings  
Development Incentives  
Modern Architecture and Aesthetics  
Futuristic Technology,  
Expensive Art  
Golf Courses  
Water Parks

Advanced Technology  
Elective Courses Like Robotics, Arts,  
and STEAM with Dedicated Facilities  
Large Gymnasiums  
State-Of-The-Art Auditoriums  
Turf Football Fields  
Indoor Swimming Pools

**Extravagant expenditures**

## AMENITIES

Not necessary but nice to provide if affordable

Community Centers  
Nature Centers  
Historical Societies  
Public Art  
Museums  
Walking And Bicycle Trails  
Public Boat Launches

Career Readiness Programs  
Before and After School Care  
Extracurricular Clubs (drama, coding, etc.)  
Computers For Every Student  
Smartboards

## EXPECTED

Historically provided by government

Parks  
Libraries  
Ceremonial Public Events (like parades and fireworks)

Library  
Media Center  
Food Services  
School Nurse  
Sports Programs

## NEEDED

Necessary to physical, financial, or psychological security

Road Maintenance and Infrastructure  
Public Health Services

Basic Supplies for Core Curriculum Subjects (paper, pencils, textbooks)  
White Boards

## ESSENTIAL

Necessary to survival or well being

Law Enforcement  
Fire Departments  
Emergency/Disaster Relief  
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Teachers  
Safe and Functional Buildings (secure doors and fire safety equipment)

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It's funny that government can never afford to cut taxes or spending, but taxpayers are never asked whether they can afford higher taxes. – Cal Thomas