

Questions:

- Would you support capping levy increases to inflation, reducing taxes once projects are complete, or conducting independent audits to eliminate wasteful spending?
- Should the city hold itself to the same 3% cap it enforces on landlords? How would you improve budget transparency and accountability?

Yes. I support capping levy increases to inflation. Our City Council is organizing a committee to conduct independent performance audits, which I fully support. As mayor, I will personally review every major project with our department heads because that's the only way to cut expenses without cutting essential programs.

I am fully committed to holding the city's levy growth to the rate of inflation. I will also improve budget transparency by publishing clear, accessible dashboards that show spending, outcomes, and trends so residents can hold City Hall accountable.

Questions:

- Would you commit to requiring independent traffic, economic, and environmental studies before making pilot programs permanent?
- How would you ensure public hearings are meaningful and that data is made available transparently—unlike the practices often seen under Carter and Stark since 2009?

Too many recent decisions have been made with incomplete or selective data, leaving lasting consequences for our neighborhoods and small businesses. To move any project in the right direction, transparency must be the cornerstone of every process.

As mayor, I will ensure that all studies and raw data are published in an accessible online dashboard *before* any final votes are taken. Public hearings must be more than formalities. They should give residents time to review information, question assumptions, and propose alternatives.

As a research scientist, I've learned that transparency isn't just a virtue. It's the foundation of sound decision-making. Transparency builds trust. And trust allows data, dialogue, and collaboration to move projects, and our city, forward together.

Questions:

- Do you consider St. Paul's minimum wage ordinance successful?

- Would you support adjustments—such as pauses, tiered exemptions for small businesses, or alternative worker-support policies—to avoid further job losses?

I support fair wages, but a one-size-fits-all approach has hurt many small businesses and reduced opportunities for entry-level workers. A successful wage policy must lift people up without shrinking the job base.

I would review the ordinance using independent economic data. If evidence shows job losses or reduced hours, I'd support temporary pauses, tiered rates for small businesses, or complementary worker-support programs, such as targeted tax credits or other direct benefits for workers to achieve fairness and sustainability together.

Questions:

- Do you consider the current rent stabilization policy a success?
- Would you support reform or repeal to reduce burdens and encourage long-term affordability?
- How would you promote housing affordability through incentives, supply growth, and smarter budgeting rather than punitive regulation?

No, rent control should never have been implemented in our city. History has shown, over more than a century of attempts, that it benefits too few while harming far too many. Even in St. Paul's brief experience, the results were counterproductive. Before rent control passed, average rent increases in St. Paul was below 3%, similar to Minneapolis. Yet after the policy was enacted, rents in St. Paul rose faster than in Minneapolis. How does that make sense?

Some assume I would repeal rent control immediately. Not so fast. After listening to many renters who have struggled under our housing policies for years, I've come to understand that the deeper affordability crisis stems from a shortage of affordable homeownership, both for first-time buyers and for retirees seeking to downsize.

We need a comprehensive, sustainable housing strategy that encourages responsible development while providing a real safety net for residents who feel squeezed by change. Let's build that pathway first, so renters have genuine options and then fix this flawed policy the right way, once and for all.