How to Appeal Your Value and Classification

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Property Tax Fact Sheet 3

Fact Sheet

Each spring your county sends you a **Notice of Valuation and Classification**. Three factors that affect your tax bill are:

1. The amount your local governments (town, city, county, etc.) spend to provide services
2. The **estimated market value** of your property
3. The **classification** of your property (how it is used)

The assessor determines the value and classification of your property; you may appeal if you disagree.

What if I disagree with how my property was assessed?

Most issues and concerns can be resolved by doing research and contacting the county assessor's office. You should:

- Verify information about your property, such as its dimensions, age, and condition of its structures.
- Review records to determine the market values of similar properties in your neighborhood.
- Review sales data to see what similar properties in your area are selling for.
- Ask the assessor to explain the criteria used to classify your property. You may review the classifications of other properties used in the same way as yours.

If your property has not been inspected recently (both interior and exterior), ask the assessor to review your property.

If you and the assessor are unable to agree on your property valuation or classification, you can make a formal appeal.

How does my property's classification affect my taxes?

Assessors classify all property according to its use on January 2. Each class of property (home, apartment, cabin, and farm business) is taxed at a different percentage of its value. This percentage, or "class rate," is determined by the Legislature.

The class rate plays a significant role in how much property tax you pay.

What can I appeal?

You can appeal your property's estimated market value, and/or classification if you feel your property is:

- Classified improperly
- Valued higher or lower than you could sell it for
- Valued differently from similar property in your area

Your assessor is not responsible for the dollar amount of property taxes that you pay. Tax rates are determined by your local taxing authorities (city, county, school districts, etc.). You may not appeal your taxes.

Property Tax Division – Mail Station 3340 – St. Paul, MN 55146-3340

This fact sheet is intended to help you become more familiar with Minnesota tax laws and your rights and responsibilities under the laws. Nothing in this fact sheet supersedes, alters, or otherwise changes any provisions of the tax law, administrative rules, court decisions, or revenue notices. Alternative formats available upon request.

How do I appeal my assessment?

You may appeal to your Local and/or County Board of Appeal and Equalization, or you may choose to go directly to Minnesota Tax Court.

The date, times, and locations of the boards are on the Notice of Valuation and Classification. You should schedule your appearance with the board.

You must appeal to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization before appealing to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

For both boards you may make your appeal in person, by letter, or have someone else appear for you. The assessor will be present to answer questions.

Note: By law, the Local and County Board of Appeal and Equalization cannot make a change favoring a taxpayer if the assessor is not allowed to inspect the property.

What should I bring to my appeal?

Bring evidence and supporting documentation about your property's value and classification such as:

- A recent appraisal of your property
- Real estate listings for similar properties in your area
- Photos of your property that may help support your claim

What is the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization?

The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization is usually the same people as your city council or town board. The board of appeal meets in April or May.

Cities and towns may choose to transfer their board powers to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

If your city or town board has done this, your Notice of Valuation and Classification will direct you to begin your appeal at the county level.

What is the County Board of Appeal and Equalization?

The County Board of Appeal and Equalization is usually the same people as your county board of commissioners or their appointees. This board meets in June.
You may appeal to the county board if you are not satisfied with the decision of the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization, or if your city or town has transferred its powers to the county.

If you are not satisfied with the decision of the County Board of Appeal and Equalization, you may appeal to the Minnesota Tax Court

How do I appeal to Minnesota Tax Court?

To appeal your property's value or classification, you complete and file Minnesota Tax Court Form 7, *Real Property Tax Petition*.

You must file your appeal by April 30 of the year the tax becomes payable. For example, you must appeal your 2018 assessment by April 30, 2019.

You can get more information, forms, and instructions at:

- mn.gov/tax-court or
- Call 651-539-3260

Where can I get more information?

If you have questions or need more information about the appeal process, contact your County Assessor's Office.

For more information on how market value and classification are determined:

- Refer to:
  - Fact Sheet 1, *Understanding Property Taxes* and
  - Fact Sheet 2, *How the Assessor Estimates Your Market Value*.
- Go to www.revenue.state.mn.us and type **property tax fact sheets** into the Search box.