

Reforming Minnesota's Property Tax Appeals Process for Homeowners



As Minnesota property taxes rise, one solution is to make the property tax appeal process fairer for homeowners.

3/4

3 in 4 Americans worry about rising property taxes

8/10

Nearly 8 in 10 homeowners have **never** appealed their tax bill.

86%

86% of Ownwell customers win a property tax **reduction**.

At a time when affordability and homeowner stability are under pressure, appeals are an important tool for homeowners to control unfair tax increases. Now is the moment to modernize Minnesota's property tax appeals process – without reducing tax revenue for local government services. Lawmakers can ensure the system is more accessible, transparent and equitable for everyone by passing **two common-sense updates**:

1. Shifting the Burden of Proof to the Tax Assessor (§ 271.06)

Tax assessors have far more market data, perform valuation work on a daily basis as a professional and should have clear reasoning and calculations for how they assessed a property in the first place. But currently, homeowners bear the burden of proof for their property tax assessment appeals, which is an unnecessary hurdle due to unfair access to information. We're proposing shifting this burden to the tax assessor at all times, rather than assuming they're always correct. This will level the playing field for homeowners. Other states like Texas and California already have shifted the burden of proof, and it's time for Minnesota to make the change too.

2. Allowing for more equity in the appeals process (§ 278.05)

Currently, it is unnecessarily hard for a homeowner to argue their assessment is inequitable compared with their neighbors. "Inequity" cannot be proved by simply comparing assessed values, but instead requires complex calculations. Homeowners should not have to work through complicated ratios and adjustments to prove their assessment is inequitable - comparative data like neighboring house values are easier to obtain for ordinary homeowners. Broadening the grounds for appeal will ensure the appeal and taxation process is more fair, equitable and accessible for Minnesota homeowners.

About Ownwell

Ownwell manages the end-to-end property tax appeal process by combining local property tax consultants with software to build the best evidence and earn taxpayers savings. Ownwell is democratizing the property tax appeal process to efficiently and effectively help homeowners get their fair assessment - with no additional fees, markups or add-ons. Ownwell only makes money if we save homeowners' money. If the homeowner doesn't save money, Ownwell's service is entirely free. On average, 86% of Ownwell customers receive a property tax reduction, saving on average \$1,102. Since 2021, Ownwell has served over 100,000 homeowners with an average home value of less than \$200,000.