



YOUR SAFETY, OUR PRIORITY

A REGIONAL COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Your Safety, Our Priority

As a regional public safety hub, the City of Hibbing must provide the necessary facilities for our police and fire departments to deliver the quality responsive services our residents deserve.

Our current public safety facilities are disconnected, deteriorating or inadequate to meet the needs of our community and region. As part of the general election on November 5, 2024, Hibbing voters will consider a half-percent local sales tax to finance a new regional public safety center.

Our Challenges

Our police and fire departments work together but do not have a centralized facility with enough space to ensure we have the right people, equipment, collaboration and training to provide the best service possible. Higher costs to maintain multiple facilities, lease space and continually repair deteriorating buildings are straining the city's budget.

Outdated and Inadequate Infrastructure

The Hibbing Fire Department operates out of a main headquarters that was built in 1964 and requires extensive repairs, renovations and upgrades. Challenges include significant structural deterioration, lack of appropriate space for personnel and training, and inadequate space for fire trucks, equipment and storage.

Disconnected Public Safety Services

The Hibbing Police Department leases space from St. Louis County for about \$70,000 annually. This expense, combined with insufficient space for staff, equipment, evidence storage and coordinated response training with the city's fire department, is a growing challenge.



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YourSafetyOurPriority.org
 to learn more!

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The Plan

The city has developed an estimated \$29.6 million plan - "Your Safety, Our Priority" - to build a **new regional public safety center that would unite the police department and fire department under one roof to better serve residents, our community and region.**

Highlights of the plan:

- A safe, healthy work environment
- Appropriate workspace
- Larger bays for firetrucks and tactical gear
- Improved emergency response planning and training
- Enhanced collaboration among departments and staff
- More room for equipment storage and evidence
- Indoor parking for police vehicles and squads

The Cost

The total cost of the proposed plan is \$29.6 million in bonds over a 20-year period. If approved by Hibbing voters this November, the city would adopt a local half-percent sales tax that would generate up to \$19.6 million for the project. The local sales tax is not permanent. It would expire once the bonds are repaid, or within 20 years - whichever happens first. Other funding sources to help fully fund the project, include:

- \$10 million in bonding funds approved by the Minnesota Legislature in 2023.
- Additional funding from grants and other sources. If secured, the grant funds would help reduce the overall cost of the project to taxpayers.

LESS THAN
1/3

Hibbing residents will pay less than one-third of the total cost of the project if voters approve the half-percent local sales tax.

Why a local sales tax?

A local sales tax spreads the project cost among residents and nonresidents who purchase goods and services in Hibbing. If the project were paid with property taxes, the cost burden would fall solely on Hibbing property owners.

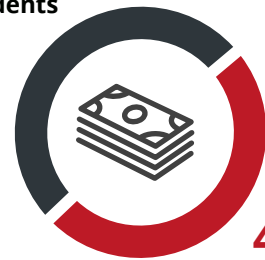


\$2.59/month
or less than ordering
a medium ice cream cone

The local sales tax is estimated to cost Hibbing residents \$31.06 a year (\$2.59 per month), according to an analysis from the University of Minnesota.

Who would pay for the local sales tax?

50.1%
Non-residents



49.9%
Hibbing
residents

According to a 2023 analysis
by the University of Minnesota



**YOUR SAFETY,
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A REGIONAL COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Your Voice Matters!

Vote on or before

Tuesday, November 5.

Early voting begins

Friday, September 20.

Learn more at YourSafetyOurPriority.org

Prepared and paid for by the City of Hibbing, 401 East 21st Street, Hibbing, MN 55746.
This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.

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