

### Solid Waste Tax Rates per \$100.00 assessed valuation

| Year | Rate  | Revenue   | Costs     |
|------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| 2017 | 0.146 | \$350,884 | \$551,964 |
| 2016 | 0.155 | \$351,525 | \$496,589 |
| 2015 | 0.154 | \$296,751 | \$519,859 |
| 2014 | 0.162 | \$366,438 | \$510,058 |
| 2013 | 0.16  | \$359,346 | \$511,000 |

#### Intial 2004 tax rate \$0.218 Revenue \$373,526



PRSRT STD US POSTAGE P A I D ST LOUIS MO PERMIT NO. 4542

# Proposition T

# Proposed Tax Increase for Solid Waste Removal Voter Information

April 3<sup>rd</sup> is election day and residents will be asked to vote on a tax increase to allow the City of Maplewood to continue to pay for residential Solid Waste Removal. The following is a summary of information about the program history and costs. More information, including FAQs, is available on the City's website at www.cityofmaplewood.com/propT.

#### Service History

The City of Maplewood is only 1 of 10 municipalities in the region providing no-fee residential trash service. The service started over 35 years ago and a no-fee recycling service was added about 15 years ago. The only exception was for a 2-year period, 2002-2004, when the residents paid for these services due to a budget crisis. The no-fee based solid waste and recycling collection was reestablished on January 1, 2005 with the passage of a property tax for solid waste on April 6, 2004. The solid waste property tax rate in 2004 was 21.8¢ for residential property. The 2017 solid waste property tax for residential property was 14.6¢.

## Service Costs

The present solid waste tax produces \$350,884. Maplewood's cost for residential trash and recycling services annually is \$551,964; thus, there is a shortfall of approximately \$201,080. It is anticipated that the service costs will continue to increase. If General Fund monies were used, this would result in a decrease in other critical city services.

# Covering the Increased Service Costs

The shortfall in the solid waste fund could be corrected with either a property tax increase or requiring residents to pay a fee for these services.

In order to avoid cutting other city services, here are the summaries of each scenario that assumes if the tax increase is not approved by voters, the service fee structure would be implemented.

# Service Fee

If residents were required to pay a fee for the cost of solid waste recycling collection, they would have to pay approximately 50% of the cost or approximately \$8.29 per month (\$99.48 annually). This would generate enough revenue to continue trash collection on a 50/50 basis for at least 5 years. The fee would most likely have to be increased after 5 years to cover future costs.

# **Tax Increase**

By comparison, a property tax increase of 10¢ for a house appraised at \$100,000 would generate a cost to the homeowner of \$19 annually, or for a house appraised at \$200,000, a tax increase costs the homeowner \$38 annually.

If a 10¢ property tax increase is approved on April 3, sufficient funds would be generated to allow the trash and recycling service to continue at no additional charge to residents for an estimated additional 10 years.

If the April 3, 2018 ballot increase for a 10¢ tax for solid waste would fail, the user fee of \$8.29 per month would need to be implemented in June of 2018 with residents being billed for services.