



# County Presentation to House Ways and Means Committee

Monday, March 10, 2025

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# Agenda



Introduction-Role of Counties/What we do!



How counties are funded



Role and history of State Aids



Governor's budget and impact



Systems modernization/IT woes



Policy considerations for 2025 session

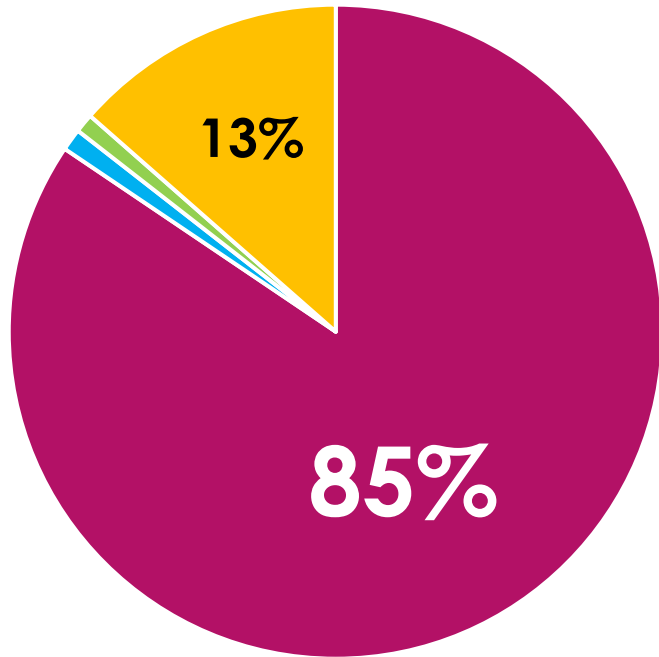


# General County Duties

- Administer property tax system, land/deed/vital records
- Run elections
- Corrections/probationary services
- Invest/manage roads, ditches, bridges, transit infrastructure
- Develop land use & water policy
- Workforce and economic development
- Public health authority
- Tax forfeited properties administrator
- Provide an array of social services—housing, food, rental, mental health, child/family wellbeing services
- Manage solid waste & recycling services
- Libraries! (and Law Libraries)
- Elected officers—county sheriff's office/county attorneys office
- Additional duties as assigned ("fall back")
  - Rental supports, bus support, feed lot inspection, ditch/fence authority, indigent funeral expenses, remonumentation, etc.

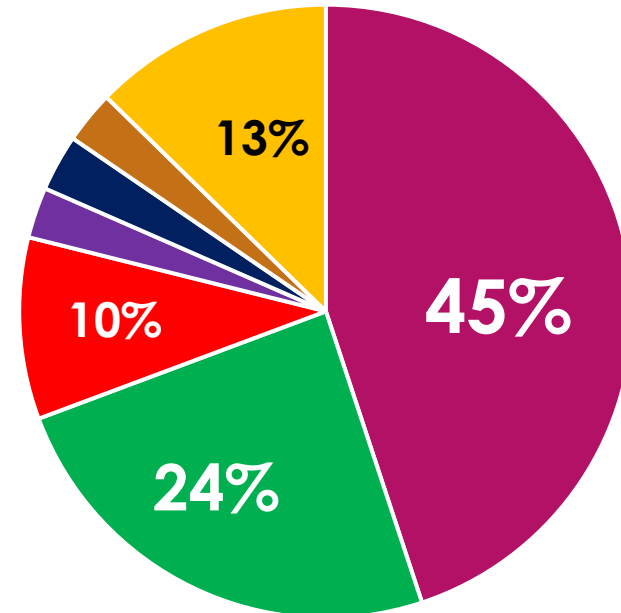
# How We're Funded

## County Taxes (FY 2024)



- Property Taxes
- Special Assessments
- Licenses and Permits
- All other taxes

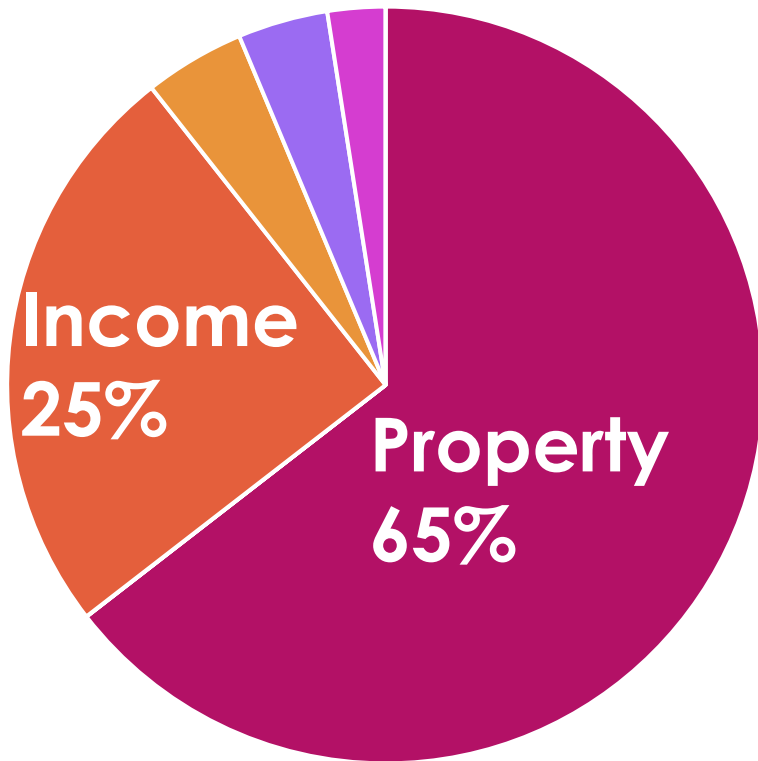
## State Taxes (FY 2024)



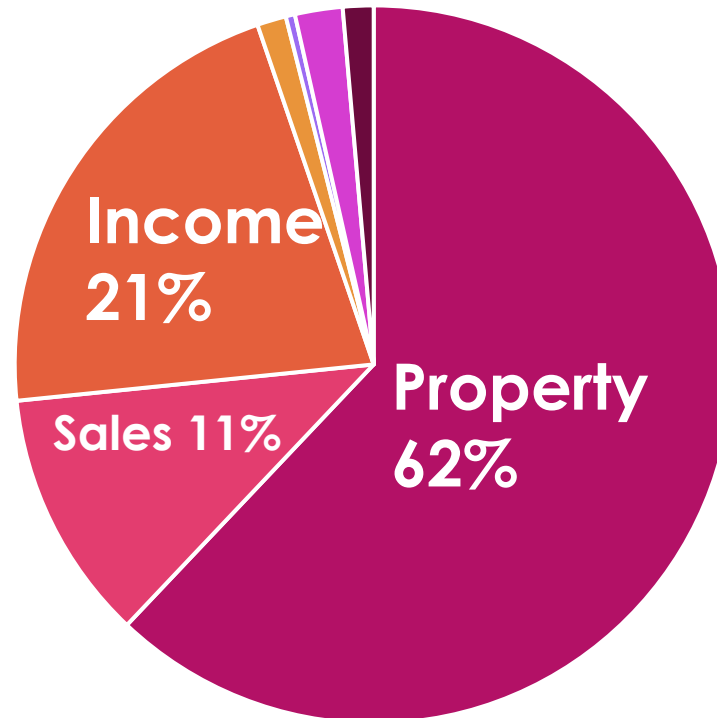
- Income Taxes
- Corporate Tax
- Motor Vehicle Sales Tax
- All other taxes
- Sales Tax
- Gas Tax
- Motor Vehicle Registration Tax

# How Other States Fund Local Government

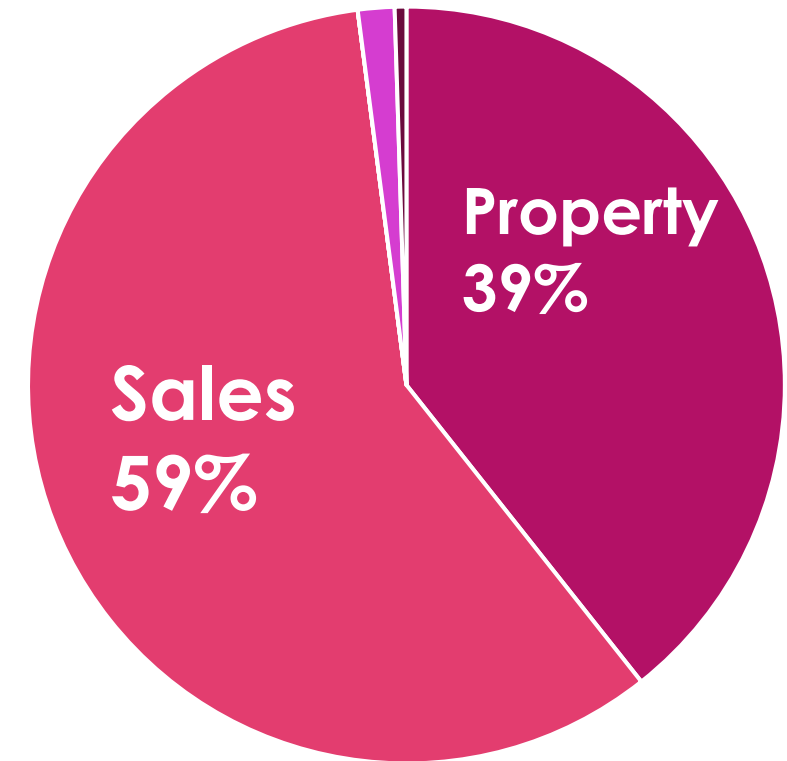
Iowa Local Govs



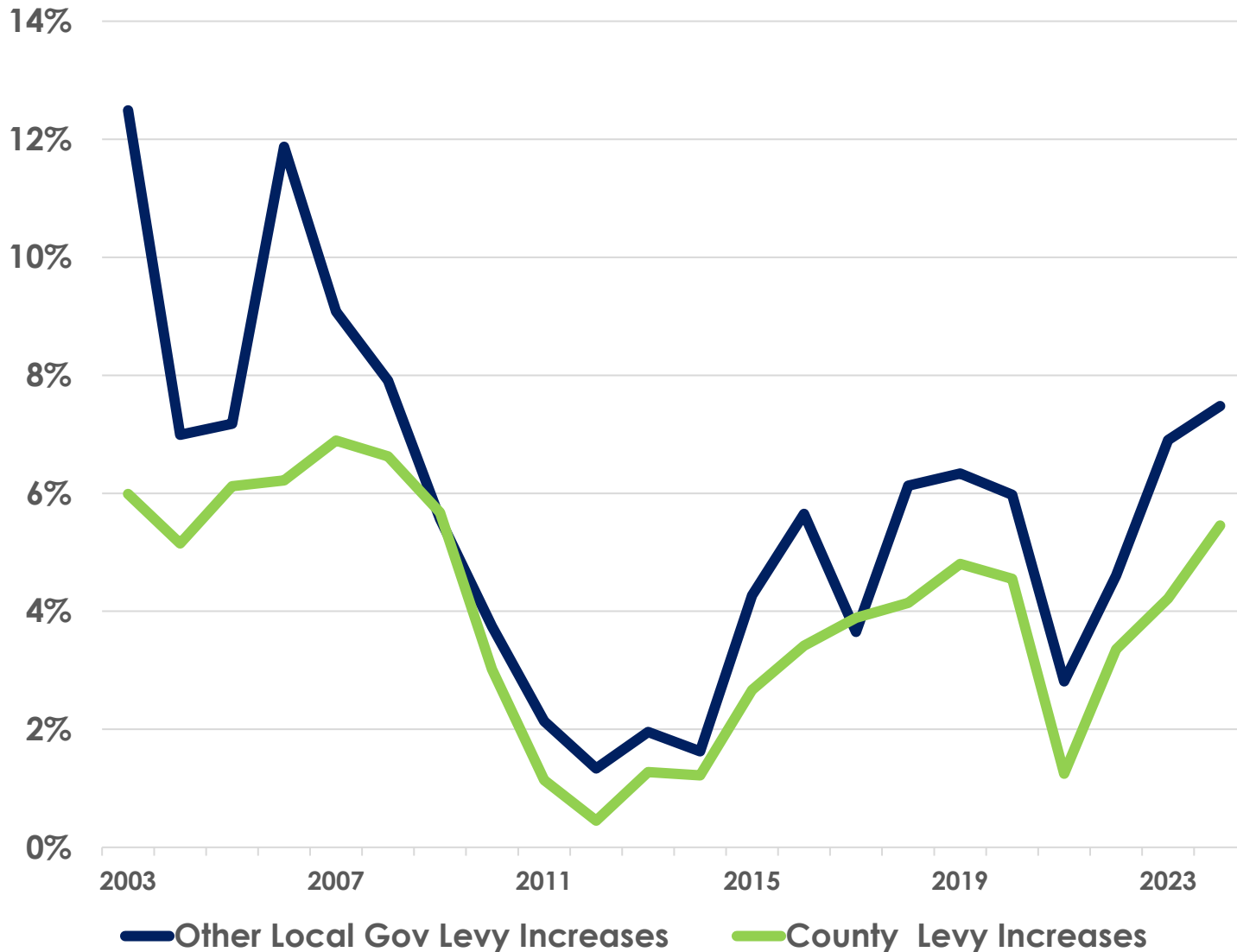
Ohio Local Gov



Arkansas Local Gov



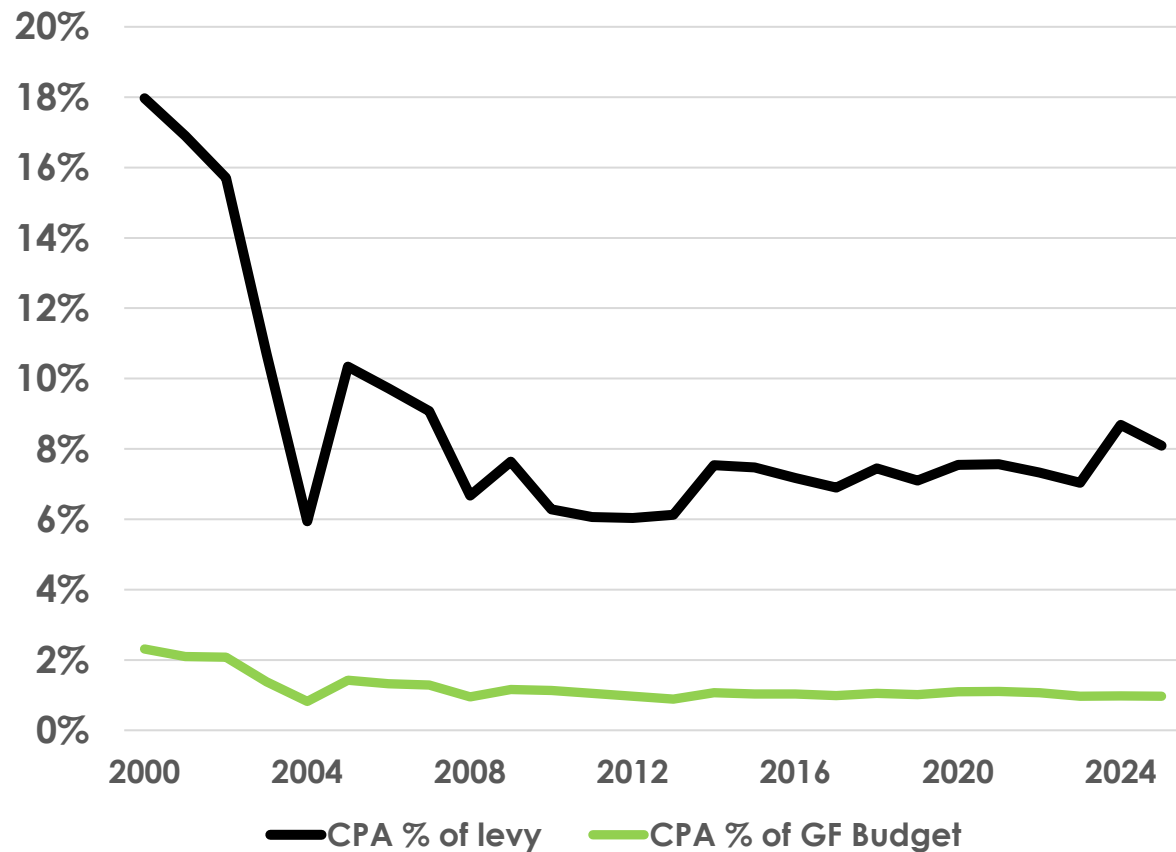
County Levy Increases



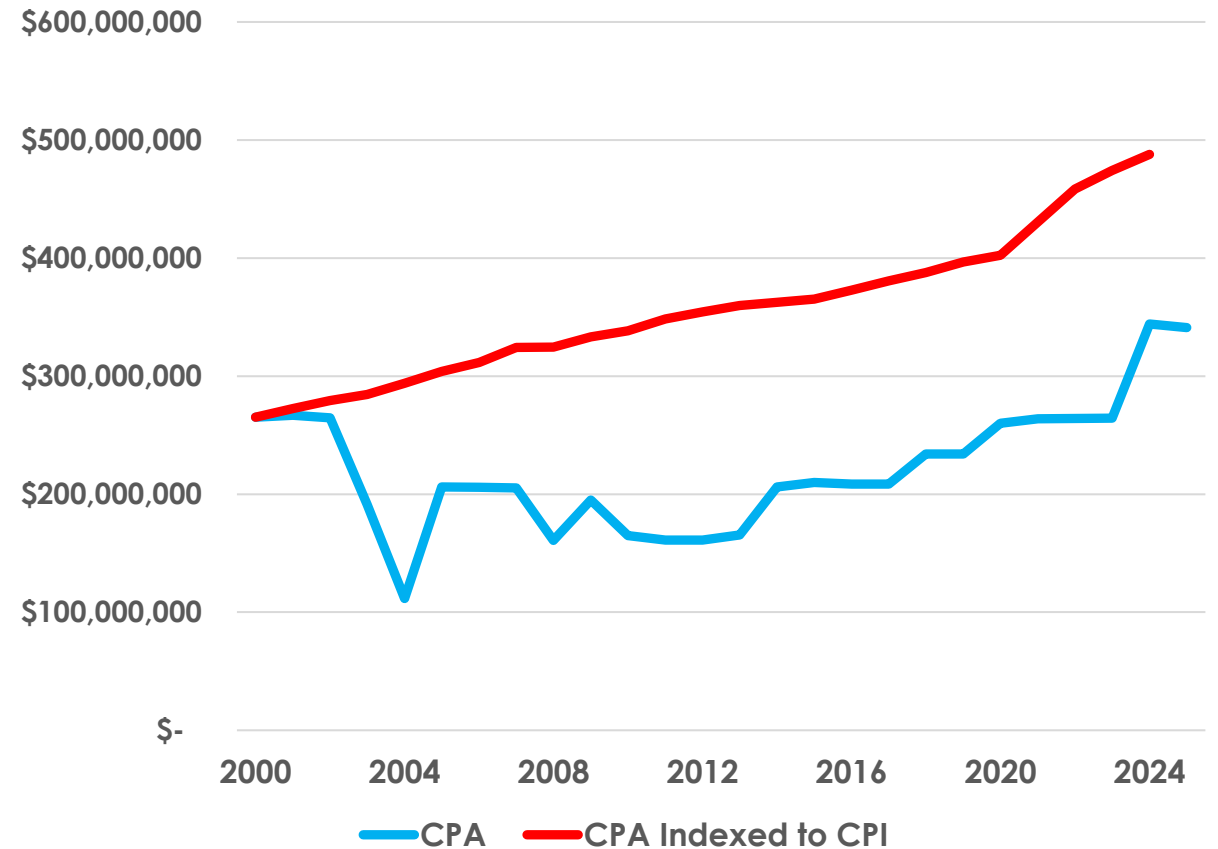
County  
Property  
Tax  
Levies

# CPA Doesn't Buy What it Used To

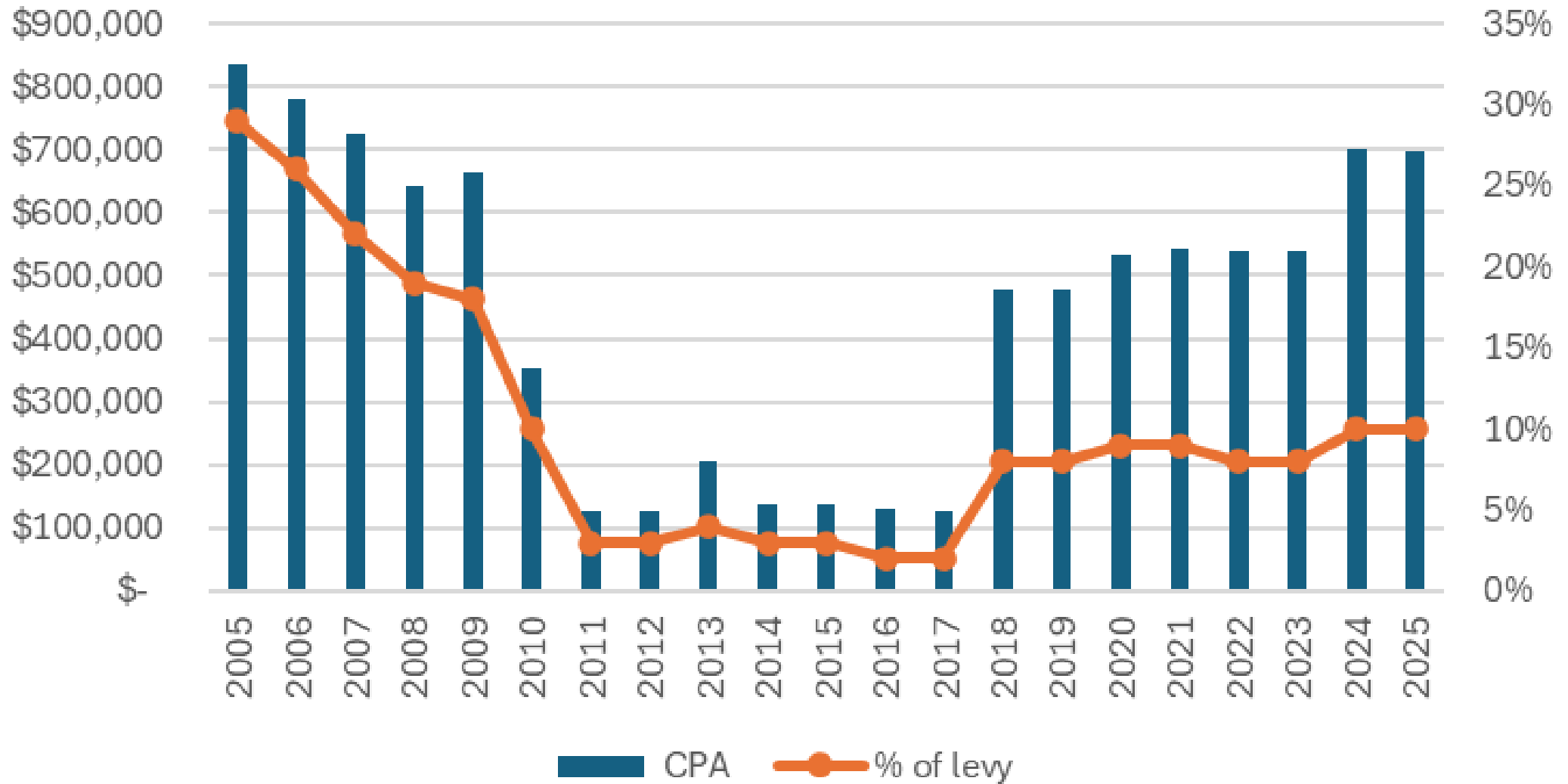
## Less Buying Power for CPA



## CPA Not Keeping Pace with Inflation



## A Relationship with CPA: Lac qui Parle County





# Governor's Budget

## Significant shifts totaling over \$200m a biennium.

- ▶ **Disability Waiver Service 5% State Share**--total county impact of \$82 million in 2027, \$97 million in 2028 and \$107 million in 2029
- ▶ **MSOP/Sex Offender Cost Share Increase**--increasing from 25% to 40%- total county impact of \$39.6 per biennium starting in 2025
- ▶ **Competency Restoration Shift**--\$8.38m per year, or \$16.7m per biennium starting in 2025
- ▶ **Behavioral Health Fund Cost Shift Increase**--Total cost shift to counties approximately \$9m/biennium
- ▶ **Cannabis Aid Elimination**
- ▶ **Aquatic Invasive Species cut (50%)**--\$5m/year starting 2027

# Let's talk property tax impacts:



## Dakota

- \$11.5m in total shifts—  
\$10.5m disability waiver
  - More than Library Collections, Park Services, Public Disease Control, Snow/Ice control budgets combined
- **7% levy increase**



## Anoka

- \$8m increase in property tax shifts
- \$2.1m MSOP shift, \$5m in disability waiver shift
- **5% increase to levy on these HHS shifts alone**



## Beltrami

- \$2.5m increase in HHS shifts
- **9% increase in levy**
- County has highest tax rate in MN

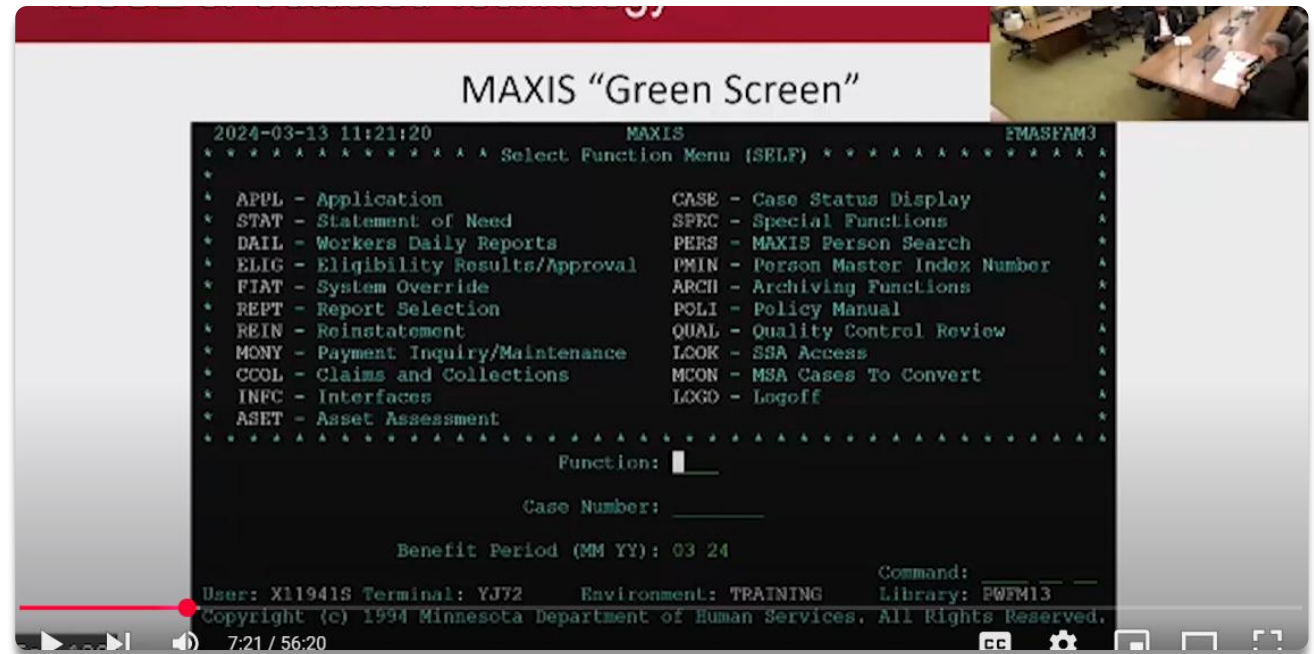


## Ramsey

- \$13m impact in disability waivers in '27
  - \$1.7m/year MSOP shift
  - \$1.1m shift from Behavioral Health Fund
  - \$1.4m/year increase in competency restoration
- TOTAL \$17.8m, 4.7% levy increase**

# Things that limit our success:

- ▶ Unfunded mandates
- ▶ Policies that limit flexibility of local governments to respond or approach issues in a timely fashion
- ▶ Mandated, archaic state technology



# State Technology Systems: Examples



**MAXIS** 1989

**Public Assistance  
Eligibility** (*12 distinct  
programs*)  
**Health Care Eligibility**  
(*5+ distinct programs*)

**MnCHOICES** 2013

**LTSS: Long-Term  
Services & Supports**  
(*Assessment &  
Support Planning*)

**MEC<sup>2</sup>** 2007

**Child  
Care Assistance  
Program (CCAP)  
Delivery**

**MMIS** 1994

**MN Health Care  
Program Payment  
Processing**  
(*Claims & Capitation  
Payments*)

**PRISM** 1997

**MN Child  
Support Enforcement  
Program.**

**SSIS** 1994

**Case Records for  
Social Services  
Program Clients**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07tGk5GZhiM>

# Social Services Information System: "SSIS"



SSIS Worker/Fiscal - 20.3.0.66 - [My Caseload]

File View Searches/Logs Tools Window Help

Tree Data Clean-up

- Alkin Adam A A/G Assessment 02/03/2003
- Alkin Adam A CW Case Management 02/03/2003
  - Staff Assignments
  - Associated Workgroups
  - WG Change Log
  - Chronology
  - Participants
    - Ariana Marie Alkin
    - Adam A Alkin
    - Jason J Jacobsen
    - Archer Alkin
    - Allis Alkin
    - Annika Alkin
    - Annie Alkin
      - Address/Phone/Email/State Detail
      - Adolescent Services
      - Name/Race
      - ICWA
      - Relationship
      - Education
      - Employment
      - Diagnosis/Disability/Substance
      - Health/Insurance
      - Medication/Checkup
      - CIVB/Infant and Toddler Intervention
      - Pregnant/Parenting Youth
      - CMH Screenings and Assessments
      - Court Actions
      - Permanency
      - MAPCY/DOC Assessments
      - SEY/STY
      - Workgroups & Intakes
      - Client Eligibility Log
      - Healthcare Eligibility from MMIS
      - Supplemental Healthcare Eligibility
      - Fiscal Details
      - Special Studies
      - Service Outcomes

Has the Youth Ever Fathered or Bore a Child?	Is the Youth Parenting?	Is the Youth Pregnant?	Expected Due Date	Create Date	Last Reviewed Date
Yes	Yes	Yes	01/20/2021	07/15/2020 10:27	07/15/2020

[Pregnant/Parenting Youth](#)

[Has the youth ever fathered or bore a child?](#)  Yes  No

[Is the youth parenting one or more of their biological children?](#)  Yes  No  
(if yes, ensure all birth parent/child relationships are entered on the Relationship screen.)

[Is the youth pregnant?](#) Yes

[Expected Due Date:](#) 01/20/2021

[Last Reviewed Date:](#) 07/15/2020 [Create Date:](#) 07/15/2020 10:27

[Comments:](#)

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Action ▼

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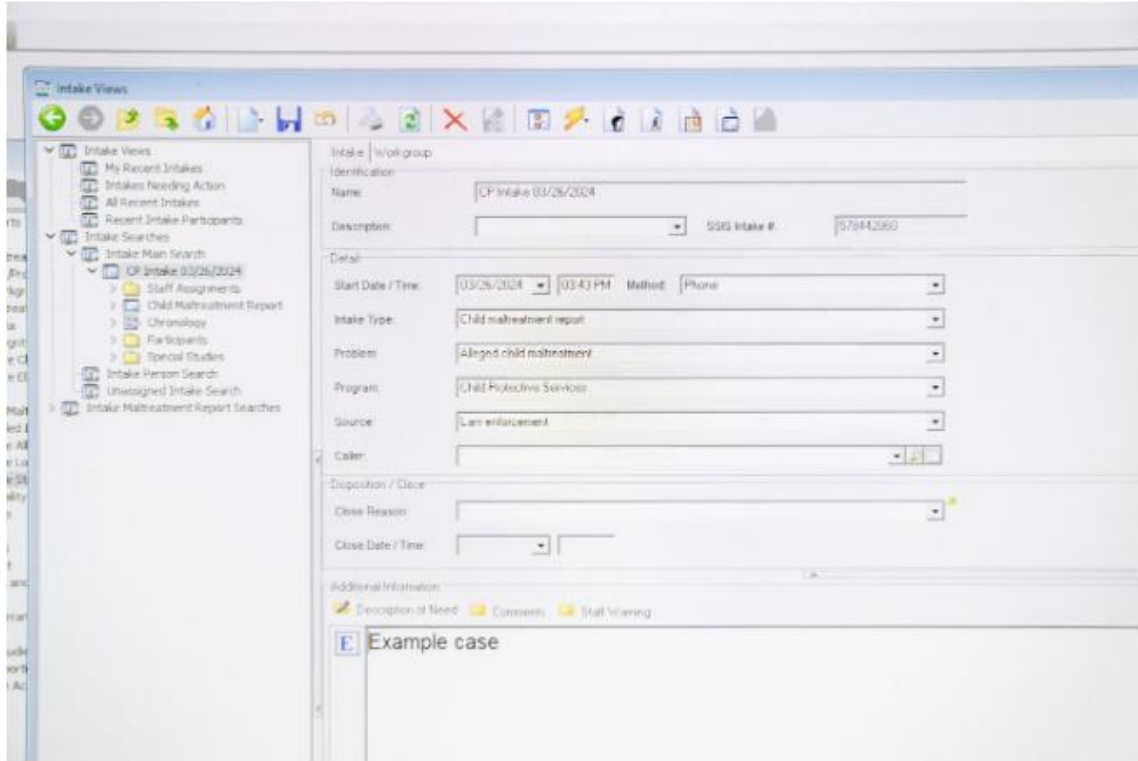
**NOTE: The IFSpi conversion process may involve considerable time before you can continue with the remaining steps. Contact TriMin if you have questions**

# Conclusions/Perspective from the Field

- Impacting current and future workforce
- Inefficient in time but also state/county \$\$\$
- Most importantly, detracting from our clients, impacting service delivery and outcomes

***Please help prioritize this investment!***

# Minnesota's 'archaic' technology wastes critical social service caseworker time, counties say

A screenshot of the Minnesota Social Services Information System (SSIS) intake form. The interface is a web-based application with a sidebar on the left containing a tree view of navigation options such as 'Intake Views', 'My Recent Intakes', and 'Intake Searches'. The main area displays a form for a specific intake record. The form includes fields for 'Name' (CP Intake 03/26/2024), 'Description', 'SSS Intake #', 'Start Date / Time' (03/26/2024 03:43 PM), 'Method' (Phone), 'Intake Type' (Child maltreatment report), 'Problem' (Alleged child maltreatment), 'Program' (Child Protective Services), 'Source' (Law enforcement), 'Caller', 'Disposition / Close', 'Close Reason', and 'Close Date / Time'. There is also a section for 'Additional Information' with checkboxes for 'Description of Need', 'Consents', and 'Staff Warning'. At the bottom, there is a text area labeled 'Example case'.

An example intake form from Minnesota's Social Services Information System (Alex Kormann/The Minnesota Star Tribune)

Scott County's child protection division has had a 40% to 50% employee turnover rate in recent years, said Deputy Health and Human Services Director Suzanne Arntson, who does exit interviews with departing employees.

“Every one of my staff that have left either attribute SSIS as the primary driver, or a secondary [reason],” she said.

One morning last year, DHS staff members visited Scott County. They had planned to sit with county workers and see what it is like to work with the technology, Arntson said.

The system was down the entire time they were there.



# County Requests for 2025 Session:

- ▶ Please don't add new property tax burdens!
- ▶ Help us with addressing unfunded mandates and running our systems more efficiency
  - ▶ E.g.: AAFPA, Paid Leave/ESST, Solid Waste Mgmt., Systems Modernization
- ▶ Be watchful of further eroding the tax base (shifts, exclusions, rate cuts)
- ▶ Don't forget counties!

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