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**I. The Housing Shortage Isn’t Just a Coastal Crisis Anymore** via *The New York Times:* An increasingly national problem has consequences for the quality of American family life, the economy, and the future of housing politics. [READ MORE](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/14/upshot/housing-shortage-us.html)

**II. For Minnesota to be national leader, more hemp farmers are needed** via *Star Tribune:* In Minnesota, hemp has quickly moved from a niche farming crop to a hot-button topic thanks to a series of updates to state hemp laws that legalized small amounts of hemp-derived THC to be sold in foods and beverages to those 21 and older. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/6718367/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.startribune.com%2ffor-minnesota-to-be-national-leader-in-hemp-more-farmers-of-the-crop-are-needed%2f600191222%2f&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**III. Twin Cities prices up, home sales down as market continues to shift** via *Star Tribune:* Higher mortgage rates are taking some of the froth off the housing market in the Twin Cities, but with more buyers than sellers in some areas house prices are still increasing at a steady clip. [READ MORE](https://api-internal.weblinkconnect.com/api/Communication/Communication/6718367/click?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.startribune.com%2fprices-up-home-sales-down-as-twin-cities-market-continues-to-shift%2f600191128%2f&x-tenant=MinnesotaMNCOC)

**IV. 50-State Property Tax Comparison Study for Payable 2021** via *Minnesota Center for Fiscal Excellence:* The 50-State Property Tax Comparison Study, Taxes Payable 2021, co-published by the MCFE and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, is now available [here at the Lincoln Institute’s website.](https://mcfe.cmail19.com/t/r-l-tykrkrjd-hitilutiky-d/)

Produced annually, this study is the nation’s preeminent analysis of comparative property tax burdens. The study calculates effective tax rates – tax paid as a percentage of market value – for residential, commercial, and industrial property in 74 large U.S. cities and a rural municipality in each state. It incorporates the influence of state and local tax system structural features such as exemptions, credits, assessment accuracy, and assessment limits in order to provide the most meaningful and accurate comparisons of tax rates and bills. The study also analyses the key factors that drive differences in tax rates among cities.

In coming weeks, there will be a provided analysis of Minnesota results and regional comparisons.

**V. Walz: Lawmakers should send surplus money to taxpayers during special session, if he decides to call one** via *MPR News:* “I’m still trying in every way I can to make the case to Minnesotans that it makes sense for us to come back, solve what we can solve,” Walz said. ”I can’t imagine where the opposition is to putting this money into more BCA researchers to process weapons of war off the street and protect lives of innocent Minnesotans.”…Only governors can call a special session, but they typically wait until they have an agreement with legislators on the agenda and scope of the session…Walz has wanted a special session since May, when time ran out in the regular session without major legislation passed to spend an enormous state budget surplus.” [READ MORE](https://fluence-media.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c3cc7495e9273c8e831e32c3&id=0e84bb5154&e=eb7c6fb456)

**VI. Labor** via *MPR:* “Summer is a busy time at the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority garage in Eagan. It's the time of year that the buses turn off their commuter routes for an annual deep cleaning. But with the state's unemployment rate at a record-low 1.8 percent in June, the company that services those buses wasn't sure it could find anybody to do it. … Enter **Asher Tholl**, **Stefan Evers**, **John Jamer**and **Parker Leagjeld**— four guys looking for work and now climbing daily onto the commuter buses to shine the windows, clean the air filters, scrub off graffiti and spiff up the floors, and earning $16 an hour. ‘Wipe down the seats, get underneath them, remove the cushions,’ Tholl recounted Monday, as he gave Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development Commissioner **Steve Grove**a quick tour of their work on one of the buses parked at the Eagan garage. … Grove's visit to the MVTA garage on Monday was part of his agency's ‘Summer of Jobs’ push to encourage employers to dig a little deeper into the labor market.” [**READ MORE**](https://fluence-media.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5c3cc7495e9273c8e831e32c3&id=bf778b0f90&e=dd71966378)

**VII. New Laws:** Per a release form the Minnesota House of Representatives, several new laws will take effect on August 1. These include:

* Long-term care insurance can be sold in conjunction with life insurance policies
* A new juvenile court procedure to appoint a guardian for at-risk 18- to 21-year-old youth
* New rules on release of data from criminal background checks to cities, counties
* Law expands rights, duties, authority and legal protection of physician assistants
* Expanding authorities and rights of physician assistants to perform certain procedures, such as administering naloxone
* National Guard members can receive reenlistment and commissioning bonuses

VIII. Beyond the Skyline: Interview with James Vagle, Housing First Minnesota via *Finance and Commerce:* READ MORE ATTACH PDF

[VIEW HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?email=tpoul%40messerlikramer.com&v=6o8OkKOhDRY&feature=youtu.be)