

From: [Web NoReply](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments - Scott Byers - Butler Byers - Tax Policy
Date: Monday, April 21, 2025 4:37:38 PM
Attachments: [20250421172551262.pdf](#)

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Monday, April 21, 2025 - 16:33

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Monday, April 21, 2025

To: Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Scott

Last Name: Byers

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: [REDACTED]

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: 301 - 4th Avenue North

Ward: Not Sure

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Butler Byers Insurance Ltd.

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: April 23 Regular City Council Meeting

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Commercial-to-residential property tax ratio

Comments:

I have serious concerns that the voices of downtown Saskatoon businesses have not been heard

on the issue of commercial/residential tax fairness

Attachments:

- [20250421172551262.pdf](#)62.77 KB

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

https://www.saskatoon.ca/admin/structure/webform/manage/webform_398/submission/106735

Dear Mayor Block and Members of Saskatoon City Council,

I am writing to strongly urge Council to reconsider a commercial-to-residential tax ratio of **1.88:1**. There are other, lower options presented to Council that would better reflect a fair balance for the businesses that are the backbone of our local economy.

I would also like to respond directly to **Councillor Jeffries' comment on the March 26 Council Meeting** that he has not heard any concerns from Saskatoon businesses regarding the 1.88:1 ratio. As a business operating in Saskatoon, I want to be clear: **we are deeply concerned. Butler Byers Insurance has been operating in downtown Saskatoon since 1907!**

The current environment is extremely challenging for local businesses. We are contending with:

- **US tariffs** that affect our export capacity and raise the costs of goods
- **Inflation** that has driven up the cost of everything from raw materials to wages
- **Tight and shrinking profit margins** as we try to stay competitive
- **Ongoing pandemic recovery**, which continues to impact staffing, supply chains, and demand
- **Rising crime**, including theft and vandalism, that adds to our operating costs
- **A shrinking labour pool**, with both skilled and unskilled workers in short supply
- And **limited connectivity and business opportunity** compared to larger Western Canadian cities with better infrastructure and amenities

We don't have the same advantages as Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, or Vancouver in terms of market access, population size, international airport traffic, or amenities that attract and retain talent. What we *can* offer is a tax environment that signals to businesses that we are welcome here, that Saskatoon *wants us to succeed*.

I urge you to reconsider the 1.88:1 tax ratio and listen to the many business voices across this city who are speaking up—right now—with real concerns.



Sincerely,
Scott Byers
Principal Owner & CEO
Butler Byers Insurance Ltd.

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Member of DTNYXE, CHAMBER, NSBA

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