

**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](#)

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--- 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](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.

306-653-2233  
301 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Member of DTNYXE, CHAMBER, NSBA

**butler byers**  
insurance



301 4th Ave North, Saskatoon SK S7K 2L8 306-653-2233  
210B-3929 8th St East, Saskatoon SK S7H 5M3 306-934-8822  
[www.butlerbyers.com](http://www.butlerbyers.com)