



Welcome everyone. This is one of my favorite parts of the job. That day in late summer when I get to stand here and say: The checks are in the mail.

The 2001 Minnesota Sales Tax Rebate checks began hitting the mail over the weekend. If you don't get your check today, don't worry. If you're eligible, you'll get one soon.

I'm happy to report that this year's rebate amounts are larger than last year for almost all taxpayers.

The 2001 Minnesota Sales Tax Rebate gives more than \$791 million dollars back to taxpayers.

By Labor Day, all eligible Minnesotans should have their Sales Tax Rebates.

Not only will Minnesotans enjoy a rebate this summer, we'll see a reduction in property taxes next year. It's more of your money in your pocket.

Once again, the rebate serves as a great example of how all levels of government can interact with the private sector and produce something great. Thank you to the Revenue and Finance departments, and the Treasurers' Office who worked so well to bring in the private sector and the U.S. Postal Service to get this project done well and done on time.

This rebate was made possible because of tough choices that were made in the 2001 legislative session to limit growth in state spending to allow taxpayers to keep more of their own money.

The same principle applies to the historic property tax relief and reform enacted earlier this summer: As I told a group of tax administrators from around the Midwest earlier this morning, we've made the property tax simpler, lower, and more local and accountable.

We've created major property tax relief, but in order to keep that from being chipped away, taxpayers need to get involved NOW in the budget and tax decisions that are being made for next year by local governments.

Go to county, city and school district budget meetings, ask questions, and make sure they can tell you what your tax money is buying, and exactly how things will improve if they want more of it. If you want your property taxes to be under control, take control.

Now I'll ask Department of Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith to give you some more details on the rebate.