








# Date Night With Daley

....and Stroger comes along for a taxing ride.

By Melissa Schmitt and Satta Sarmah

PURCHASE	COST	CITY AND COUNTY TAXES
	<p>You and your sweetie need some new duds for your big night out with Todd and Rich. You purchase a new blazer and the perfect little black dress at Macy's for <b>\$189</b> and <b>\$250</b>, respectively.</p>	<p>The clothes are subject to a city and county sales tax, totaling <b>3.25%</b> of the purchase price. Your local tax bill: <b>\$14.27</b>.</p>
	<p>Before heading downtown, you stop at a gas station in the city and fill up on 10 gallons of gas. This station charges <b>\$3.19 a gallon</b>, and you pay <b>\$31.90</b>.</p>	<p>Gasoline is subject to a city and a county tax, totaling 11 cents a gallon. You are also hit with a city and county <b>3.25% sales tax</b>. Add <b>\$2.10</b> to the tax bill.</p>
	<p>Follow the foodies to Moto Restaurant at 945 W. Fulton for a taste of Asian fusion cuisine. You drop <b>\$185</b>, a little more than you had planned, but who cares? It's a special occasion.</p>	<p>You pay the city a <b>1.25%</b> restaurant tax. Add the city and county sales tax of <b>3.25%</b>. Give the mayor and Todd <b>\$8.79</b>. They sure aren't cheap dates, despite the sparkling conversation.</p>
	<p>You park your car at the United Center, even though it's kind of pricey. It'll set you back <b>\$20</b>.</p>	<p>Hidden in the <b>\$20 fee</b> is a <b>\$3.25</b> charge from the city and county. If only they could lower the price of gas.</p>
	<p>You and your date were lucky to score two tickets to the Bruce Springsteen concert at the United Center. The cost for two, <b>\$210</b>.</p>	<p>Live concerts are subject to a <b>4% amusement tax</b>. Another <b>\$8.40</b>. Tell Daley and Stroger you'll meet for drinks after the concert. They got \$700 front-row seats. (Did they pay?)</p>
	<p>You head over to Beer Bistro at 1061 W. Madison for a nightcap. You order a Chimay Belgian beer and a sour apple martini -- <b>\$9 each</b>.</p>	<p>Bar and restaurant owners pay a city and county tax for every gallon of beer and liquor they buy, and this gets passed on to you. The total local tax you pay for drinks tonight is about <b>\$1.80</b>.</p>
	<p>You don't usually smoke, but decide to buy a pack of cigarettes and take a walk before you head home. The cost for a pack of Camels is <b>\$7.21</b>.</p>	<p>You always heard taxes for cigarettes were high, but gee. You hand out <b>\$2.68</b> in city and county taxes for just one pack.</p>

## GRAND TOTAL IN LOCAL TAXES: \$41.29

Rich Daley and Todd Stroger had so much fun on your date, the next day they propose...more taxes. Todd says he needs to double his share of the gas tax and raise the sales tax, too. Daley says he has more taxes as well, but you cut them off. You hope the Cook County Board and City Council will do the same.