

**From:** [Amy Hamilton](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** job killing tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 3:53:41 PM

---

Please add my Name and email address to the public record list and note that, I AM 100% AGAINST THIS NEW 1% income tax , this is bullshit and all you are doing is taxing us to death. We can barely survive as it is with taxes so high the cost of living is out of control and now you are trying to force another tax on us. I call bullshit on our government. Pull your head out of your ass and listen to the people of your city!

Very concerned  
Amy Hamilton

**From:** [Ara Jorjorian](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed payroll tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 9:25:36 PM

---

I am against any and all new or additional taxes that do not go through a ballot process where the citizens of Salem have an opportunity to see the pros and cons of such new tax laws.  
Thank you

**From:** [Adam Reed](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 10:08:37 PM

---

Please add this statement to the public record:

My family is vehemently opposed to the proposed payroll tax. If you pass this payroll tax you would literally be taking money from the hardest working of families in our community at the same time that inflation and a poor economy are squeezing everyone financially. There is no better way to drive healthy/hard working people out of our Salem community than to make it financially impossible to survive here. It is ignorant and insulting to think that tax payers won't simply leave Salem - they already are and have been for years. If you drive people out because life is financially unsustainable then tax revenues go down and businesses don't have enough employees. Then local business revenues go down and tax revenues plummet further.

The wiser and more responsible action would be to trim the fat from the budget - just like most of the families in the Salem area are being forced to do. Everyone can see the beer gut spending sagging from the waist of our community. Please exercise more self awareness and start that diet today, not "tomorrow".

Thanks,

Adam Reed

**From:** [Virginia Stapleton](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Payroll  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 10:57:38 AM

---

Thx,  
V

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---

**From:** Cory Folkert <folkert.cory@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 9:59:54 AM  
**To:** Virginia Stapleton <VStapleton@cityofsalem.net>  
**Subject:** Payroll

Dear Councilor Stapleton,

This email is in regards to the payroll tax and it is for public record.

Thank you for your service to our community! I am writing to voice my support for the payroll tax because I believe that the tax will help Salem move towards becoming a safer, healthier, and livable community for all.

Imposing a new tax should never be an easy decision. I can only imagine the amount of stress it causes you and the rest of our community leaders. In this instance, I believe the cost—both the political cost and the cost to the taxpayers—is far outweighed by the benefit. Cutting funds to emergency services and homelessness programs will cause Salem to significantly regress in terms of safety and livability.

For Salem to truly become a city of peace we need more creative services, not less.

Thank you again for your service and leadership.

Sincerely,

Cory Folkert

**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [claudiahowells@msn.com](mailto:claudiahowells@msn.com)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Submission  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 12:36:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Claudia Howells
Your Email	claudiahowells@msn.com
Your Phone	5033636586
Street	1045 CROSS ST SE, --
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	<p>RE: Proposed Payroll Tax. I understand the city's need for additional revenue, but the proposed payroll tax is highly problematic. If Council pursues the tax, it must go to a vote of the people. I realize that a payroll tax is attractive because it captures revenue from people who use city services, but who do not live here, but it also hits a certain demographic particularly hard. Young working families who have recently moved to Salem, have purchased homes and who also work here, will be paying more than their fair share. I, on the other hand, will be paying far less, being retired and living in the same house for 40 years. We should be encouraging families to move to Salem, because we are an aging community and need to be building, rather than discouraging, a middle class. Salem has the allowable maximum of property in Urban Renewal Districts, which cheats the city's General Fund and that of all other taxing districts in area. URAs are not meant to be permanent, although several have become so. Council needs to take a hard look at its use of tax increment financing before asking citizens to pay more in taxes. Continuing to hit workers, while subsidizing big developers, is wrong. Respectfully submitted</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/9/2023.

**From:** [Christina Laurido](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Safe Salem tax proposal  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 10:15:52 PM

---

Hello Mayor Hoy & Salem City Council,

I am writing to express my complete opposition to the Safe Salem payroll tax.

This tax must not move forward unless it is voted on and passed by the voters now.  
Not in 7 years.

Please, put it to a vote!

Thank you for your time,

Christina Laurido

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Cynthia Mulheron Klein](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Saturday, July 8, 2023 9:09:57 PM

---

Please add this statement to the public record:

We ALL must live within our means. Just because the City of Salem has made poor budget decisions, it is unacceptable to reduce the finances of those that are responsible enough to have a budget and live within it.

Oregon is already a state with a significantly high tax environment. The closet of living is climbing. If you think this tax will not impact families, you are wrong.

The residence of the City of Salem voted for this City Council and mayor. Impose this tax on them. At least they will have the opportunity to vote you out of your position for the poor decisions that have been made. Why should people who do not live in the City, and do not use City services, have to pay for their poor management and bail you out.

NO PAYROLL TAX

Cynthia Mulheron Klein

**From:** [Cheryl Rodriguez](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 8:09:29 AM

---

I oppose this payroll tax. Employers or employees pay enough taxes. The governor has plenty of funds to fund these services the state has received plenty of federal funds and besides that the State agreed to give State workers a 22 billion dollar raise over the next few years. The State can give the City Money.

We small businesses can't barely survive as it is and now you want to tax us some more. This is ridiculous that you would be asking for more funding. You are driving more self-employed people out of business and out of this State. Find the Funding somewhere else.

**Cheryl Rodriguez**  
Broker Licensed in Oregon  
Premiere Property Group, LLC  
503.507.8529  
[rodriguezcheryl64@gmail.com](mailto:rodriguezcheryl64@gmail.com)



**From:** [Cory Spink](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Payroll Tax Proposal  
**Date:** Saturday, July 8, 2023 12:28:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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I am not a city of Salem resident but do occasionally perform professional work in Salem. I do NOT support the idea of adding this proposed payroll tax and do NOT support city council's desire to unilaterally implement further taxation on its citizens without a public vote of any sort on the matter. The city government needs to learn how to operate responsibly within the budgets that are already established instead of increasing taxation on businesses that are already struggling to thrive in this area. Cut unnecessary expenditures and positions. Reprioritize spending instead of adding more spending.



**CORY SPINK**  
PRINCIPAL BROKER - Licensed in Oregon  
503-857-7780 (cell)  
CSpink@MoWLandCo.com  
Homes – Land



**From:** [Danny Bartel](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 4:13:20 PM

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Please add this statement to the public record: I am against the new Salem Payroll Tax and would vote "No!" if this was an item which could be voted on by the general public.

**From:** [Debbie Blondo](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 6:10:29 PM

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Please add this statement to the public record: I am opposed to taxing businesses and workers. These people make sure that goods and services are provided. We are already taxed to death! We have to figure out our budgets, why doesn't the government? Tax money needs to be seen for what it is. BLOOD MONEY. It is money that is sacrificial in nature. The government needs to respect the hard work it took to make that money, and what the citizens are doing without to provide it. We don't don't need any more taxes!

**From:** [Dennis Kalnoky](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Employee Paid Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 3:26:55 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed Employee Paid Payroll Tax of .814% for persons working within the Salem City Limits.

I am 25% owner of a high-precision aerospace manufacturing shop located on 2265 Judson Street SE. The commercial aviation industry was hard hit by Covid era travel bans and lockdowns. It has been exceedingly difficult for small businesses like ours to attract and retain qualified employees. In January we gave our staff a small raise despite cash flow problems because we can ill afford to lose them if we have any hope of recovering from the pandemic. My staff are now seeing their wages eroded by inflation and this proposed payroll tax will only make matters worse.

Salem small businesses are not yet recovered from Covid. This is not the right time to add an additional Payroll Tax to Salem workers. I am asking the members of City Council to please do the right thing and re-think the solution to the budget shortfall.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dennis Kalnoky

Dennis Kalnoky  
[Dennis@denezol.com](mailto:Dennis@denezol.com)  
Vice President  
Accounting

**Denezol Tool Co., Inc.**  
P 503-363-8575 x107  
F 503-363-8490

AS9100D Certified  
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**From:** [Virginia Stapleton](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Saturday, July 8, 2023 8:42:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [Positive Destination Ineq.png](#)  
[Sheltered by CAP. Ineq.png](#)

For Monday's meeting.

Thank you,  
V

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**From:** DJ Vincent <[dj@church-at-the-park.org](mailto:dj@church-at-the-park.org)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 8, 2023 6:57 AM  
**To:** Virginia Stapleton <[VStapleton@cityofsalem.net](mailto:VStapleton@cityofsalem.net)>  
**Subject:** Payroll Tax

Dear Councilor Stapleton,

This email is in regards to the payroll tax and it is for public record.

I am in support of the payroll tax because I believe that the tax will help Salem move towards becoming a safer, healthier, and livable community for all.

C@P supports investing in our community livability through the Safe Salem Payroll Tax. When people are living in unmanaged camps, it creates heavy burdens for the community: People living in encampments do not have access to adequate medical care. They will often wait to address a medical need until it is urgent, and they end up utilizing the hospital. They do not have access to heat and so they start fires. Concerned citizens often will call 9-1-1 to report fires or other activities. People living in encampments do not have access to garbage services, bathrooms, or showers. Not only is it unhealthy to be living in such unsanitary situations, it is extremely expensive for the City to clean up encampments.

Aside from the fact that living in encampments is unsafe and unhealthy, it burdens our emergency services, and it costs the City and taxpayers exorbitant money.

We are currently sheltering almost 200 people at the Village of Hope site and Catholic Community Services site. According to Salem's City Manager, if the tax does not pass, funding to the homeless navigation center and C@P's micro-shelters would likely be the first cuts. Additionally, cuts to police, fire, and other city services mean slower emergency response times, fewer officers, reduced library hours and less maintained parks, city staff told the Statesman Journal. If those shelter sites have to close, 200 people could be back living in the parks and in vehicles. That means there will be an increased burden on our emergency services system at a time when police and fire are also facing cuts. Overall, this will lead to a decrease in the safety, health, and livability of the community.

C@P is honored to get to walk alongside some of our most vulnerable neighbors and to do so in collaboration with the City of Salem and all of our amazing partners.

Each and every single day we are humbled by the generosity of our community!

DJ Vincent (he/him)  
Pastor & Founder  
503.949.2124  
[Church-at-the-Park.org](http://Church-at-the-Park.org)



APRIL 2021 - JUNE 2023

935

INDIVIDUALS SHELTERED

212

CHILDREN

723

ADULTS

CHURCH  
@ THE PARK



**From:** [E Easterly](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 11:47:49 AM

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July 10, 2023 Agenda Item 4.a.

Mayor Hoy and Members of the Salem City Council:

I believe that it is wise for Council to test the idea of a payroll tax. New York City did it decades ago because that City Council understood many individual workers who enjoyed city services were not city residents.

So even though, I would prefer a five year sunset provision from the date of implementation, I encourage you to pass the pending Salem employee tax because I trust your judgement on the timing of Ordinance Bill 12-23.

Indeed, trust is the primary focus of this message. You were elected to make community wide decisions that are in the best interests Salem as a whole. You were were elected by active voters, but your responsibility is ward wide and city wide, not just to loud individual voices seeking to protect his or her personal economic interests.

Like may Salem residents I am reluctant to support additional taxes, but will do so when I believe the tax is fair and is in the best interest of our community even though it means a bite out of wage earner limited resources.

E.M. Easterly

Ward 8



**From:** [Virginia Stapleton](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 10:56:29 AM

---

Thank you.

V

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** ezra rabie <ezrarabie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 9:15:38 AM  
**To:** Virginia Stapleton <VStapleton@cityofsalem.net>  
**Subject:** Payroll Tax

Dear Councilor Stapleton, This email is in regards to the payroll tax and it is for public record. I am in support of the payroll tax because I believe that the tax will help Salem move towards becoming a safer, healthier, and livable community for all.

Salem has an exemplary reputation in terms of micro shelters compared to other affected cities especially Portland, which has literally been an exercise in failure at all levels with resulting in a huge waste of taxpayer dollars. The Salem model of micro shelters, particularly Church at the Park, has been very successful in Salem and should not be jeopardized, lest a far worse system of random encampment throughout the city take over which would severely negatively impact parks and recreation, business and residential zones alike. Furthermore, police and emergency services are essential to any urban safety net work. We cannot afford to jeopardize those services in any way without risking the future of Salem's growth and prosperity. I urge you to pass the payroll tax.

Thank you.

Ezra Rabie.

**From:** [Eric Weekly](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Purposed tax comments.  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 7:21:47 PM

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This purposed tax will drive my family out of the city. I've worked in Salem for 16 years and made it my home and the fact the city of Salem wants purpose a tax for the homeless while inflation is at a 40-50 year high and hard working families are scraping by tells me my family will have to move to a different city that has leadership that supports the hardworking families that contribute to this society.

Please don't pass this tax bill. We will move.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Frank](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** City Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 9:49:46 PM

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I oppose the idea of another tax in Salem. You just added a new fee on our water bill (City Operations Fee -- What does that have to do with water?!?!). Now you want to add another tax!

I'm not necessarily opposed to more taxes, because I realize that we have to pay taxes in order to support city services, but all these city taxes should be on our property tax bill, so we can discuss them and vote on them. After all we do live in a "democracy", don't we?

Respectfully yours, Frank Schiedler  
Salem, OR

**From:** [Gregory Denney](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Saturday, July 8, 2023 10:10:14 AM

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Hello,

My name is Greg Denney, and I am a resident of West Salem. I would like to add my voice in opposition to the proposed payroll tax. Do not pass it through a City Council vote. If it is as necessary as has been reported in the Salem Reporter, then submit it to a ballot vote in November and make your case to the voters. Please tell us how it will be used, and in what proportion, for the various services that have been stipulated - especially how much of the tax will be used for homeless services.

Again, I am opposed to the council's proposed payroll tax. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Greg Denney

**From:** [Heather Burgin](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Payroll tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 9:51:10 PM

---

Our family strongly opposes the “Safe Salem” payroll tax.

It is very poor timing to initiate a new tax when most people are struggling with inflation and cost of living increases. For many, it’s already a struggle to pay for bare necessities.

Additionally, residents should be allowed to vote on new proposed taxes before the tax is implemented—NOT over seven years after the tax is imposed! The date of the proposed vote is shockingly far down the line. This is absolutely unacceptable.

Sincerely,  
Heather Burgin

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [The Bryson's](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Safe Salem Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 7:49:22 PM

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Good morning.

I am writing to express my disagreement with the consideration for a new payroll tax for those that work within the city of Salem.

This should NOT be considered. We are already taxed for these items. I am unwilling to pay more taxes on top of the very high taxes we already pay. If you are unable to balance the budget with the money you already are budgeted, then cuts need to be made.

May I suggest that you reevaluate the effectiveness of the programs you already have in place.

This that is completely unfair because it will tax anyone working in the city, not just those who live here.

It is not appropriate to be able to implement a new tax without voter consent. It is not appropriate to implement a new tax because you want more money. It is not appropriate to implement a tax on those you don't represent. In fact, I would be suspect that it may not even be legal.

Taxation without representation!

Jennifer Bryson.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jason Cadwell](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Comments for meeting  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 4:20:07 PM

---

This payroll tax is a really bad idea and will do nothing but hurt all regular workers and businesses need to find other ways to generate revenue

Questions that also need to be answered

1. If the council vote to approve this payroll tax then it must require that all state employees that work inside of Salem also pay that same payroll tax is that correct? So in essence, are you going to be charging the State Of Oregon more money on payroll tax?

2. Same question, but regarding all city employees.? if you decide to do a tax than it needs to be for everyone across-the-board no exemptions or you can't do a tax it's not fair

Thanks

Jason Cadwell  
Principal Broker/Owner  
Cadwell Realty Group  
541-619-4303  
[Jason@cadwellrealtygroup.com](mailto:Jason@cadwellrealtygroup.com)

**From:** [Jules Farr](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 10:13:42 AM

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Please add this statement to the public record:

I oppose to this job killing tax!

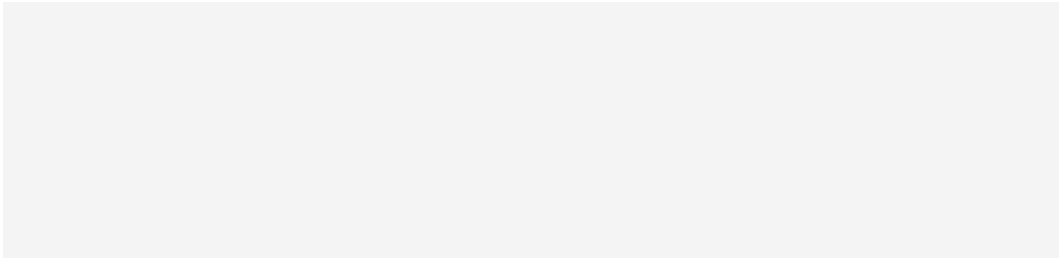












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*Julie Farr*  
(503) 851-5967

**From:** [Jill Kircher](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 4:17:12 PM

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Please add this statement to the public record: I oppose any additional tax being added to Salem employees. The sick leave tax is a hidden tax on my pay and I feel tax payers and working are being gouged to pay for pets and other state expenses.

Thank you,  
Jill Kircher

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Joshua Lindley](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Attached Letter in Regards to City Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 10:57:05 AM  
**Attachments:** [LCS Letter City of Salem.pdf](#)

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Please enter the attached letter into the record of public comments relating to the City of Salem Payroll Tax discussion.

Joshua

--

**Joshua Lindley**  
[Lindley Creative Studios](#)  
859 Liberty ST NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
o. 503-383-1550

# LINDLEY

## CREATIVE STUDIOS

July 8, 2023

Mayor Hoy and the Salem City Council  
555 Liberty St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Salem City Council Proposal for Payroll Tax

I am writing to voice a strong opposition to the proposed City of Salem Payroll Tax. The attempt to invoke a new tax on our employees without going to the voters is wrong.

The inability of our city to balance the budget is a dereliction of duty. Attempting to appeal to the needs of the community by calling this the "Safe Salem Payroll Tax" is manipulative and wrong.

The city has already failed to address the issues of homelessness and safety within the existing budget. I have little confidence that additional funding will solve the problem. Our business has fallen victim to crime due to the city's failure to maintain safe streets.

Ultimately a new tax on workers during these difficult economic times only creates an unnecessary burden on an already stretched economy for small businesses and families. We have already had to implement the new paid leave tax this year, resulting in a decrease in employees' take-home pay.

I strongly urge the city to balance the budget without burdening the hardworking citizens who contribute to the City of Salem's prosperity.



Joshua Lindley  
President  
Lindley Creative Studios  
joshua@lindleycreativestudios.com



**From:** [Jerry Marshall](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Saturday, July 8, 2023 11:36:01 AM

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NO, this is Wrong on so many levels!

**From:** [Keith Cruikshank](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Regarding the Proposed Tax Rate  
**Date:** Saturday, July 8, 2023 10:26:51 AM

---

Dear City of Salem

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed tax rate of 0.814% on all wages, which equates to an average of \$42.19 per month or \$506.24 per year for individuals earning \$29.90 per hour, the average wage for workers in Salem. I strongly believe that this tax is unrealistic and would impose an unbearable burden on working families who are already struggling to make ends meet.

First and foremost, I would like to emphasize the financial challenges faced by working families in our community. Many households are already grappling with increasing costs of living, including housing, healthcare, education, and everyday essentials. The proposed tax rate, although seemingly small on the surface, accumulates to a significant amount over the course of a year. For families with limited disposable income, every dollar counts, and an additional tax would further strain their financial stability.

Furthermore, it is crucial to consider the cumulative impact of multiple taxes that individuals and families already bear. Our tax system is already complex and burdensome, with various federal, state, and local taxes in place. Each additional tax, no matter how small, adds to the overall burden and limits the ability of working families to allocate funds for their basic needs and savings. It is essential that we consider the broader financial context and ensure that the tax system remains fair and balanced.

Additionally, I would like to highlight the potential repercussions of this proposed tax rate on local businesses and the economy as a whole. Small businesses, which form the backbone of our community, are often particularly sensitive to tax increases. The added financial strain imposed by this tax may force some businesses to reduce their workforce, cut employee benefits, or even close their doors altogether. This could lead to a decline in job opportunities and hinder economic growth in our area.

While I understand the need for revenue to support essential public services and infrastructure development, I urge you to explore alternative avenues for generating funds. It is crucial to consider measures that distribute the burden of taxation more equitably and alleviate the strain on working families. This may involve a comprehensive review of existing tax structures, exploring cost-cutting measures within government agencies, or seeking alternative sources of revenue generation that do not disproportionately impact those who are already financially vulnerable.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed tax rate of 0.814% on all wages. It is my firm belief that such a tax would place an excessive burden on working families who are already struggling to meet their financial obligations. I kindly request that you take into account the concerns and realities faced by the citizens of our community before making a final decision on this matter.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I trust that you will carefully consider the implications of the proposed tax rate and work towards finding a fair and sustainable solution that prioritizes the well-being of our working families and supports the overall growth and prosperity of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Cruikshank

**From:** [Kathy Johnson](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 7:32:13 PM

---

Please add this statement to the public record: We do not need to tax the working people more than they are already. It is time for the city to cut back on spending, just as it's citizens are doing. With the price of housing, food, fuel etc. increasing, another tax increase will only force more people out of the city where taxes are much lower.

Kathleen Johnson, 4232 Rogets Ct. NE, Salem 97301

**From:** [Laura Gwyn, P.C.](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Monday City Council Meeting - New Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 11:46:50 AM

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To Whom It May Concern;

Please do not impose a new tax before putting it before the voters.

1. That undermines trust in a community.
2. The people that can afford it will figure out a way to pass it on to others, which lands in the pockets of the people who can't afford it.
3. The City budget is not hurting as bad as it's residents.

Housing is up, interest rates are up, costs of food and utilities - up.

As a veteran Realtor and business owner who drives our streets regularly I can tell you that the homeless and pan-handlers has changed dramatically. They are not all drug using. Yesterdays clean dressed man on Wallace Rd at Orchard Heights 11:00 AM was holding a sign simply stating "Need \$85 by end of today for rent."

I also see predominantly women or families with children out South on Commercial Street. They are trying to make ends meet. They work and get paid more than minimum wage. Taxing them for the cities lack of balancing and cutting costs the way households do - seems cruel to me. You are taxing those you claim to be trying to help. People above minimum wage are getting various handouts now due to inflation.

Due to respect of your time I will lastly note, that:

According to Jim Scheppke and Susann Kaltwasser regularly reporting on the Salem City Council Forum Facebook Group, crime is down, our streets are safe, and Salem is at its safest and healthiest. They are continually complaining about fire and police not needing the additional positions they request. So how can you tax us to pay for these things?

Link for your reference:

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/salemcitycouncil/?ref=share&mibextid=S66gvF>

You simply need to balance your budget the way the rest of your residents are - By cutting, doing less, going without and not spending what you don't have. If you truly need money in an area, educate the public and put it before the voters.

I could talk all day on the subject citing real case examples of those you'll harm, as well as how the rest of us are balancing budgets - but won't - due to lack of time.

Sincerely;

Ward 4 City of Salem resident, tax payor and small business owner.

--

Laura Gwyn, P.C.

OR Lic. Principal Broker.

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**From:** [JACK AND LORI MARTINO](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** In opposition of 12-23  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 9:29:47 PM

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Council members,

I am writing to let you know that I vehemently oppose the Safe Salem tax for many reasons. It is stated that this tax is needed because revenue has not kept pace with inflation. Believe me when I say that we all are living with this daily. Unfortunately, we can't just impose a fee to help us deal with this inflation in our personal lives. This will just bury the taxpayers more. What services this extra revenue would supply is not made clear. Giving more money to the programs for homelessness that expiring grants funded doesn't make sense. The homeless problem in Salem hasn't improved. Why would we want to continue to throw money at these failed programs? Extra law enforcement officers? The Salem police department is down officers, but lack of salary is only partially responsible. Who would want to be a police officer in a city where it's school district and teacher's union refused to continue the school resource officers program because they perceived law enforcement as racist. Perhaps there are other things the city governance needs to work on besides once again throwing money at a problem. Our officers don't even arrest for some criminal activity anymore because they've been told it won't be prosecuted. Again, we have bigger problems that money will not solve. And oh yes, this tax revenue will go towards administering the tax. Easy way to not need money for this is to not initiate the tax.

I am very dubious of the claim that the tax would be repealed in 2031. I have been a tax payer for many decades and have NEVER seen a tax repealed, no matter what the governing body has promised.

Since this country doesn't subscribe to the taxation without representation policy, put it to the voters. I know you think that we're not savvy enough to understand an explanation in a voter's pamphlet, but don't underestimate us. We are all working so much harder and taking home so much less, let us decide what we want our money to fund.

Thank you for your time,  
Lori Martino

**From:** [lmgb@earthlink.net](mailto:lmgb@earthlink.net)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [nidaba@gmail.com](mailto:nidaba@gmail.com); [Jacqueline.leung2011@gmail.com](mailto:Jacqueline.leung2011@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Salem Wage Tax  
**Date:** Saturday, July 8, 2023 5:06:01 PM

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We understand that the city needs more money and a better revenue source. However, Oregon already has one of the highest income tax (on wages) rates in the U.S. In this age of telecommuting, you're really going to tax someone who works for the state but has been living for several years in Portland and will probably never (physically) come back here into Salem to work? Talk about taxation without representation !! I think the city needs to come up with several ideas and put it to the voters. Quite frankly, if we weren't living here and were taxed because we happen to work here —we'd file a lawsuit and go to court. Now, let's take that a step further.....we've been living in Portland for the last 3 years (because of Covid) and telecommuting. We have no intention of ever working in Salem again and you're going to tax us? Let's find some good lawyers and sue the city. That's our response. You're out of your minds if you're going to tax these people and think you can get away with it. Good luck and you'll get NO support from us.

-----  
Lora Meisner & Glenn Baly  
1347 Spyglass Court SE  
Salem, OR 97306  
503-588-6924



**From:** [Linda Miller](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Payroll Tax to pay for essential services  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 3:54:25 PM

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I support the tax as long as it includes those that commute to Salem from outside the city to work in our community like Salem Health and those that work in our schools located in the city boundaries including district offices.

I also support the tax as long as it includes remote workers whose office is based in Salem. Although they are not living in Salem, the office space that they are based out of is located in Salem and if they need to return to the office for any reason it is in Salem. I have a daughter who is a state worker who lives in Salem and works remotely from home. If she needs new equipment etc she goes to an office downtown. She also knows other state workers who now live in other parts of Oregon and one who moved to Texas where the cost of living is cheaper and another two who have moved to Kentucky again for the same reason, cheaper cost of living. They should not be excluded from the tax.

Do not exclude those who commute into Salem and those who have moved out of state and work remotely

Full disclosure, I am retired and my Husband and I are on a fixed income

Linda Miller  
Matthews Loop S  
Salem 97302

**From:** [Media](#)  
**To:** [Amy Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Feedback for Salem, Oregon  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 3:12:43 PM

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**Courtney**

[cbusch@cityofsalem.net](mailto:cbusch@cityofsalem.net) | 503.540.2426

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**From:** City of Salem Website <noreply@cityofsalem.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 8, 2023 6:06 PM  
**To:** Media <media@cityofsalem.net>  
**Subject:** Feedback for Salem, Oregon

You have received this feedback from Linda Spansel <[lindaspansel@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaspansel@yahoo.com)> for the following page:

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/safe-salem-2023>

I am not in favor of supporting this tax. Many Oregonians are already one paycheck away from hitting bottom and adding another tax isn't going to help. It seems to me that the taxes we pay are not being appropriated wisely. If the City wants the taxpayers to know how dire the situation is, please share where our tax dollars are going. You may be surprised by the suggestions on how to better fund services. L.

**From:** [Mickie Carpenter](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 5:58:13 PM

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This on top of Kate Browns sales tax its too much in addition to my 4.400 property taxes what are you going to do help the homeless get their drugs. I just cleaned up severe diarrea of a homeless 18 yr old camped at my business. I almost threw up so why are you stealing my money.

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [Mat and Darcy](#)  
**To:** [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#)  
**Cc:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** NO Salem Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 9:40:28 PM

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Councilors,

We are writing to oppose the proposed City of Salem payroll tax. As Oregonians and residents of Salem, we already pay a shocking amount of taxes, including outrageous amounts of property taxes. Economic conditions are difficult enough for Salem residents, with rising inflation causing gas and food prices to skyrocket, without adding another financial burden on Salem workers.

Vote NO on a payroll tax.

City Recorder, please add this to the public record.

Thank you,

**Mat and Darcy Rapoza**  
**[mdrapoza@comcast.net](mailto:mdrapoza@comcast.net)**

**From:** [Marissa Theve](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment for July 10th City Council meeting file number 23-273/ agenda 4.a.  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 3:29:03 PM

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First I want to say thanks to you each for the good work I have appreciated lately. I am thrilled that City of Salem councilors and other city leadership have seemed to finally take up the mantle that is Oregon's second largest city. We are finally starting to see the fruits of the just beginnings of investing directly in homelessness services as well as making Salem walkable/bikeable, and I am glad to be here to watch it unfold.

As far as the proposed payroll tax: I am not going to come in at the 11th hour and tell you what to cut, but instead I fully support this measure. Someone who makes the median Salem income in the Our Salem "Salem Today" summary (\$56,618) would pay only \$461 per year. As someone who lives *and* works in Salem, if I am in a position where I need emergency services, odds are it will be through the City of Salem. I personally would rather those services be amply funded than not. Let's also consider the many long stalled investments that will ultimately fund savings down the line, as Councilor Stapleton previously pointed out. It's important to consider opportunity cost when making long term planning decisions. Not investing now means paying more later on. I think millennials (who are as old as 40 now by the way) and gen Z have waited long enough for substantial community investment by their elder generations. While we are not currently represented in Council, we are keenly aware that budget cutting has already happened on all levels of government, and it has cost our younger residents livability and affordability. It's time to invest in Salem so that younger generations aren't handed an even higher burden. While a vocal group seems to scoff at the idea of supporting their community growth, I am ready to step up and contribute my share.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this comment,  
Marissa  
Ward 1, Grant Neighborhood, 97301

--

Marissa Theve  
Pronouns: she/her/hers

**From:** [Paul Johnson](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** City Council -- PLEASE VOTE NO on the Payroll Tax Proposal  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 2:48:57 PM

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**Please add the statement below to the public record:**

Dear Salem City Council,

I am a citizen of Salem. I have lived in the Salem City limits for 15 years. On Monday, July 10th you will be voting on a proposal to begin taxing most individuals who work within the city limits of Salem nearly 1% of their payroll beginning next summer.

**I urge you, in the strongest terms possible, to stop for a moment and think about the immense negative consequences such a proposal would have on our community and to VOTE NO on this proposed payroll tax!**

Why am I asking you to vote "NO"? Please consider the following:

- This tax will have direct and negative effects on families by taking hundreds of dollars out of the pockets of individuals who work in Salem! With costs rising for every individual and family to just make ends meet, this is not the time or the way to fund city operations, services or initiatives. Please -- single mothers and fathers, families struggling to provide food and basic supplies for their children, older citizens seeking to put away as much as possible before retirement -- we will all be negatively hurt by this proposed payroll tax!
- Those who will be hurt the most with this proposed tax are those who earn the least! Those who have lower salaries, are self-employed, and who are struggling to get out of debt, pay ever increasing rents, and have to work more than one job just to survive -- they will all be hurt if you pass this proposed tax!
- Others who will negatively be impacted are small businesses and business owners. Business owners who are already struggling to find enough willing and qualified workers will face another obstacle when people learn that if they work in Salem they will have a special payroll tax to pay! This tax will actually hurt, not help, Salem's businesses and job market!
- This tax will encourage people who can, to flee Salem! You may think that this proposed tax will benefit the citizens and workers of Salem, but the unintended and unforeseen negative consequences will be that people will want to live and work outside of the city limits of Salem! Others who may be considering moving to Salem will decide that another city or town would be a better place to live and raise a family.

It has been estimated that the average worker in Salem will end up paying **\$506.24 more annually in taxes** if this proposed tax is passed by the City Council. PLEASE. . . please, don't further burden the hardworking citizens, families and businesses of Salem. PLEASE VOTE NO ON THE PAYROLL TAX PROPOSAL

**From:** [Ray Quisenberry](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** City council meeting 7/10/23, agenda items 4.a, 7.2a, and 6.c  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 8:08:09 PM

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Dear Councilors and Mayor Hoy

My name is Ray Quisenberry, and I'm a resident of Ward 1. I'm writing in support of the Payroll Tax, items 4.a and 7.2a. My support is contingent, however, on the majority of the funds raised to be used to alleviate the homelessness crisis in the city. I walk frequently to downtown, and on the way there and back, and while in the downtown core, I'm often forced to step around people living, sleeping, eating, and performing bodily functions. I don't blame the people, since they are in dire straits, but I do blame the system for allowing this to happen to our fellow citizens. So if this tax is used to help with this problem, I'm for it.

I'm also writing in support of item 6.c: Renewable Energy At the Airport. If the land is not being used, and there are no plans to develop the land, then using the land to produce renewable energy makes sense. Salem needs to finally get serious about dealing with the climate crisis, and this would be a great way to do so.

Thank you

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Rebekah Raines](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed payroll tax comment  
**Date:** Saturday, July 8, 2023 7:10:22 PM

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In a time of high inflation in a state with high income tax and with a recent new Oregon paid leave tax, now is not the time to add yet another tax to an already overtaxed populous. I strongly recommend that this be put to a vote this election rather than being decided by the council alone. How this is handled will be directly affecting my vote in the future. Thank you!

Rebekah

--

A real friend is one who helps us think our best thoughts, do our noblest deeds, and be our finest selves.



**From:** [Sherri Jorjorian](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed payroll tax for the homeless  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 8:02:11 PM

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Absolutely against having ppl that are working hard to feed their families and get by pay chk to pay chk have another payroll tax be deducted from their paycheck.

Our country has let the homeless prob get out of control! Maybe the ppl in office need to come up w another solution. Instead of turning a blind eye. It's been getting worse over several years. Nothing being done. Now you finally see that the homeless problem is out of control! The ppl who are responsible working ppl supporting themselves or families should not have a tax deduction for a problem the city officials should of handled a long time ago!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Linda Nishioka](#)  
**To:** [Amy Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed tax on workers  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 3:11:10 PM

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This person asked to include her testimony for the record.

Thank you,

**Linda Nishioka (She/Her)**

*City Councilor - Ward 2*

[lnishioka@cityofsalem.net](mailto:lnishioka@cityofsalem.net) | 971-707-2112

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**From:** Sandie Lofsted <dragonflygrlsz@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Saturday, July 8, 2023 at 5:05 PM  
**To:** Linda Nishioka <LNishioka@cityofsalem.net>  
**Subject:** Proposed tax on workers

Dear Councilor Nishioka,

I am a long-time resident in Salem, as well as a person who works within the city limits. I am horrified that the Salem City Council board is entertaining thoughts of an extra tax on its employees!! I personally have no interest in paying more simply because the city can not balance its budget!

My wages are worth less and less thanks to the current administration's foolishness and the rate of inflation. I pay an income tax to the state already, and now you wish for workers to pay more? Where will this end? My guess is that if this is put to the voters, they will vote it down.

I, as a every day citizen and worker, have to balance my own budget. Why would you not have to do the same? What will happen if this passes? Businesses will leave in mass exodus from Salem, and workers will seek employment in other cities. How does that benefit anyone? Common sense says clearly it will not. I urge you to vote no on this tax on Monday. If you truly represent your constituents in Ward 2, you will vote against this proposed insanity. I would like this to be a part of the public record.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Lofsted  
Employee and citizen within the City of Salem

**From:** [Tim Buckley](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 8:52:19 AM

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I recommend a “do pass” vote. I live in South Salem in my own home and am semi retired.

I support it because it has been demonstrated here in Salem in the past five years that management of unsheltered people in micro shelter communities is less expensive to the city and to community health than doing nothing. Salem Health and the City Police Department have corroborated that fact.

I’m very disappointed with City Manager Staley if the quote attributed to him is correct- that if the tax doesn’t pass, the first thing to get cut are a navigation center and funding for managed communities.

Tim Buckley  
1570 Aerial Way SE, Salem, OR 97302

**From:** [Wendy Brokaw](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [inishiok@cityofsalem.net](mailto:inishiok@cityofsalem.net); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Sunday, July 9, 2023 3:18:37 PM

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I have worked for the state of Oregon for over 20 years in Salem and during my time as a state employee I have seen an unprecedented number of new taxes and fees placed on the citizens of our state. Some of which have been done without voter approval. I find any branch of government willing to bypass the wants of the citizens to be despicable and reprehensible. I do understand that there is a need to fund police, fire, and deal with our homeless issues. I am married to a firefighter and my family knows firsthand what our first responders are being put through. However, it is not my job as a working person in Salem to single handedly pay for these services. I have worked very hard to get to the place I am in my career, I understand that not everyone can do this. However, I make just enough money for my family and if you pass this without voter approval, I will be making even less money when everything is already so expensive right now. You need to find another way. This will also drive out more business, and since Salem already lost so many businesses during the pandemic, the people who are barely holding, on or just starting to thrive again, will now yet again be hit with another tax. It will make it harder to find people who want jobs in Salem. Trust me I know firsthand how hard it is to hire state employees this will be just another deterrent for anyone looking to work or start a business in Salem. People are tired of being taxed or paying fees for every single thing. In 2022 the voters passed \$300 million dollar infrastructure package and here you are less than a year later asking for more money. I do understand what the infrastructure bill was intended for, but you can't just keep asking for money or taking it from the people. We also just recently started paying into Oregon Paid Leave yet another tax on Oregonians. Where does it stop? You need to find another way. You were not elected to unilaterally make these decisions. If you are going to move forward with this the only way is for the people to vote on it.

Please add this statement to public record.

Respectfully

~Wendy