

From: [Alice LaViolette](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Testimony for 8/19 worksession
Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 8:08:08 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2024-08-07 at 10.25.16 AM.png](#)
[image.png](#)



Dear Mayor Hoy and City Council Members:

I am writing to ask you to support the Revenue Task Force's recommendation of adding a Livability Levy on the May 2025 election ballot.

A "Livability Levy" would provide funding for the Salem Library, Center 51+ and Salem City Parks. These are services that are shared by all of our residents, across all ages, income levels and abilities. The requested funding is a modest amount, offering tremendous "return on investment" in added library hours and resources, upgrades to parks and services for senior citizens. By putting the Levy on the ballot, you will allow the voters in Salem to decide on whether or not they will contribute to the future of our community. Please give us the opportunity to vote on a Livability Levy.

Thank you-

Alice LaViolette

Ward 1

From: [Carel DeWinkel](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony for the August 19th Work Session
Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 2:20:11 PM

Dear Salem City Council:

I write to ask you to let us vote in the May 2025 election on a “Livability Levy” as recommended by the Revenue Task Force.

Our library, parks and Center 50+ are in serious jeopardy of suffering further cutbacks without new revenue in FY 2026. This is unacceptable. We already have the worst funded major library in the state. Our two libraries are open only half the hours that they were open 20 years ago. Many working people in Salem cannot use the library because it is closed on Sunday and in the evening. We will not have splash pads for children or programs in Riverfront park in FY 2026 without new revenue. Center 50+ has to close two Saturdays a month and raise fees because of budget cutbacks and it will suffer more cutbacks without new revenue.

For a very modest increase in property taxes we could restore our libraries, parks and Center 50+ to full service operations once again. Please let us vote to do this. I am confident that a Livability Levy election in May 2025 can be successful, and we can once again have the livability services in Salem that we deserve.

Thank you for your service,
Carel DeWinkel
1795 Fir Street S,
Salem OR 97302.

From: [Cindy Kimball](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony for the August 19th Work Session
Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 9:44:22 PM

Dear Salem City Council and Mayor Chris,

It has come to my attention that the Revenue Task Force has recommended a "Livability Levy" that would potentially be voted upon in May of 2025. This small property tax would be a great source of funding for our Salem city library, our city parks and Center 50+.

I am writing to ask you to support this and let the people of Salem vote on it next May.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Cindy Kimball

1260 21st St NE, Salem, OR 97301

From: [Deanne Smith](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony for the August 19th Work Session
Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 4:27:36 PM

Dear Salem City Council:

I write to ask you to let us vote in the May 2025 election on a “Livability Levy” as recommended by the Revenue Task Force.

Our library, parks and Center 50+ are in serious jeopardy of suffering further cutbacks without new revenue in FY 2026. This is unacceptable. We already have the worst funded major library in the state. Our two libraries are open only half the hours that they were open 20 years ago. Many working people in Salem cannot use the library because it is closed on Sunday and in the evening. We will not have splash pads for children or programs in Riverfront park in FY 2026 without new revenue. Center 50+ has to close two Saturdays a month and raise fees because of budget cutbacks and it will suffer more cutbacks without new revenue.

For a very modest increase in property taxes we could restore our libraries, parks and Center 50+ to full service operations once again. Please let us vote to do this. I am confident that a Livability Levy election in May 2025 can be successful, and we can once again have the livability services in Salem that we deserve.

Thank you for your service,

Deanne Smith
Ward 8

From: [EVAN WHITE](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Let's Keep Salem Livable
Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 4:34:30 PM

Dear Salem City Council:

I write to ask you to let us vote in the May 2025 election on a "Livability Levy" as recommended by the Revenue Task Force.

Our library, parks and Center 50+ are in serious jeopardy of suffering further cutbacks without new revenue in FY 2026. This is unacceptable. We already have the worst funded major library in the state. Our two libraries are open only half the hours that they were open 20 years ago. Many working people in Salem cannot use the library because it is closed on Sunday and in the evening. We will not have splash pads for children or programs in Riverfront Park in FY 2026 without new revenue. Center 50+ has had to close two Saturdays and month and raise fees because of budget cutbacks and it will suffer more cutbacks without new revenue.

For a very modest increase in property taxes we could restore our libraries, parks and Center 50+ to full-service operations once again. Please let us vote to do this. I am confident that a Livability Levy election in May 2025 can be successful, and we can once again have the livability services in Salem that we deserve.

Thank you for your service,

[Evan White
2055 Manorview Circle NW
Salem OR 97304

From: [Jonathan Bucci](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony for the August 19th Work Session
Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 1:18:52 PM

Dear Salem City Council:

I write to ask you to let us vote in the May 2025 election on a “Livability Levy” as recommended by the Revenue Task Force.

Our library, parks and Center 50+ are in serious jeopardy of suffering further cutbacks without new revenue in FY 2026. This is unacceptable. We already have the worst funded major library in the state. Our two libraries are open only half the hours that they were open 20 years ago. Many working people in Salem cannot use the library because it is closed on Sunday and in the evening. We will not have splash pads for children or programs in Riverfront park in FY 2026 without new revenue. Center 50+ has had to close two Saturdays a month and raise fees because of budget cutbacks and it will suffer more cutbacks without new revenue.

For a very modest increase in property taxes we could restore our libraries, parks and Center 50+ to full service operations once again. Please let us vote to do this. I am confident that a Livability Levy election in May 2025 can be successful, and we can once again have the livability services in Salem that we deserve.

Thank you for your service,

Jonathan Bucci
549 24th St. NE, Salem, 97301

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Jonathan Bucci
Curator of Collections and Exhibitions
Hallie Ford Museum of Art
Willamette University
900 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97301
503-370-6861

From: [JO](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#); [JO](#)
Subject: Testimony for 8/19: Livability Levy
Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 12:12:35 PM

August 13, 2024

Dear City Councilors:

My name is Jerry Quigg and I am a home owner in Ward 2, at 1060 Cedar Way SE. I am writing in support of a referendum in May of 2025 for a 'Livability Levy' that is specifically dedicated to library services, city parks, and the 50+ Senior Center.

It is clear our community needs an additional funding mechanism to sustain and expand SPL and the West Salem Branch, and that our lovely city parks system are in need of more care. And since Center 50+ operates under the City's purview it also would also benefit from a more stable source of funds.

In any case, I hope you will recommend a vote by our citizens next May to decide this matter. I look forward to reading how the process proceeds.

Sincerely,
Jerry Quigg
1060 Cedar Way SE
Ward 2

From: [Jim Scheppke](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Public Testimony for the August 19th Work Session
Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 10:14:03 AM
Attachments: [Three Levv Scenarios.docx](#)

Dear Mayor and City Council:

Attached are my thoughts for your consideration at your work session on the Revenue Task Force recommendations on August 19th. I hope you will read them with interest.

As you know our libraries are in dire straits and need new revenue beginning in FY 2026. We already have by far the worst-funded major library in the state with operating hours (48) exactly half of what they were two decades ago (96) and even less than a century ago (72)! Our children and families and seniors and all library users deserve much better. The time has long passed for incremental improvement. We need a full service library, beginning next year. I hope you will agree.

Thank you for your service,

Jim Scheppke, Ward 2
jscheppke@comcast.net



Three Scenarios for a Local Option Levy to Fund a Full Service Salem Library in FY 2026

By Jim Schepcke, Ward 2

What Would a Full Service Library for Salem Look Like?

Our library, with two locations open a total of 48 hours per week, falls far short of being a full service library. There are many ways one could define “full service.” One way would be to compare these service hours to service hours in the past. A century ago, in 1924, our Carnegie library on State Street was open Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 9 pm, a total of 72 hours per week. That was certainly “full service” for 1924 when the population of Salem was only about 20,000 compared to about nine times that today! We had a full service library as recently as two decades ago when the main library was open seven days a week, including three evenings a week until 9 am, and our West Salem Branch was open six days a week including one evening. Total hours for both locations: 96 hours per week. That’s *exactly double* our hours in 2024. We also had a bookmobile then that made 28 stops per month in locations throughout Salem.

Another way to define a full service library would be to compare our library to a comparable library in Oregon. The Hillsboro Public Library serves a population of over 157,000 from a main library and one branch library, just like our library. Here is how the two libraries compared according to the latest data available from the State Library for FY 2023:

	FY23 Population Served	FY23 Library Expenditures	FY23 Paid Staff	FY 23 Total Service Hrs. (two locations)	FY 24 Total Service Hrs. (two locations)
Hillsboro Public Library	157,111	\$11,651,064	76.50	128	128
Salem Public Library	179,605	\$5,892,732	48.40	64	48

The Hillsboro Public Library is a full service library. By looking at this comparison one can get an idea of what it would take to have a full service library in Salem.

For the purposes of this comparison of three different scenarios for a local option levy I am going to define a full service library for Salem as requiring a \$9.7 million annual budget, with \$4.7 million included in the General Fund budget of the City and \$5 million from a local option levy. In FY 2025 the Library has approximately a \$5.7 million General Fund budget, about \$1 million of which is one-time ARPA funds.

Scenario 1: A 5-Year \$5 Million Local Option Library Levy Passed in May, 2025

Approximate Tax Rate for Median Homeowner: \$0.50 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation

Approximate Property Tax Increase Per Year/Month for Median Homeowner: \$87/\$7

Advantages:

- Would fund a full service library (7 days at main with 3 evenings, 5-6 days at West Salem Branch with 1-2 evenings).
- Lowest “ask” of all the scenarios.
- Potential for a strong campaign that is well-funded by library support organizations.

Disadvantages

- Does not address other General Fund shortfalls to other livability services.
- Does not tap into constituencies of other livability services for votes and support.

Scenario 2: A 5-Year \$8 Million Local Option “Livability Levy” Passed in May, 2025

Approximate Tax Rate for Median Homeowner: \$0.75 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation

Approximate Property Tax Increase Per Year/Month for Median Homeowner: \$130/\$11

Advantages:

- Would fund a full service library (7 days at main with 3 evenings, 5-6 days at West Salem Branch with 1-2 evenings).
- Includes \$2 million to restore and enhance Parks and Recreation services.
- Includes \$1 million to restore and enhance Center 50+ services.
- Potential for a strong campaign that is well-funded by library support organizations and parks and Center 50+ support organizations.
- Taps into three sizable constituencies of livability services for votes and support.

Disadvantages

- A larger “ask” than Scenario 1.

Scenario 3: A 5-Year \$10 Million Local Option Public Safety Levy Passed in May, 2025 That Frees Up General Funds to Address Other Shortfalls

Approximate Tax Rate for Median Homeowner: \$1.00 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation

Approximate Property Tax Increase Per Year/Month for Median Homeowner: \$173/\$14

Advantages:

- Polling may show that a public safety levy would have the greatest chance of passing.
- A public safety levy could address needs for more community policing capacity, gun violence reduction capacity, funding for the new fire station in the bond measure.

Disadvantages

- Unclear how much General Fund would be “freed up” and whether it would be sufficient to fund a full service library at \$5 million, much less other livability services.
- Difficulty in communicating with voters about exactly what they are buying with their tax increase. Some may want all of the \$10 million increase for public safety.
- Could be used as an excuse to not support other, more permanent revenue sources to fund public safety (e.g., Operations Fee reform, Business License Fee).
- Largest “ask” of the three scenarios.
- Livability services constituencies may resent not being a priority and having to settle for “leftovers.”
- Support by library support organizations and other support organizations may be lukewarm or nonexistent.
- **The Legislature would likely not consider a bill to provide Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to support public safety services in Salem if they knew we were going to vote on a public safety levy in May.**

From: [Jim Scheppke](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony for the Work Session on August 19th
Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 2:30:52 PM
Attachments: [Let Us VOTE 1.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and City Council:

As you deliberate on the recommendation of the Revenue Task Force for a Livability Levy, please consider the 274 Salem citizens of all ages who request that you to let us VOTE to have a full service library in FY 2026.

Thank you!

Jim Scheppke
jscheppke@comcast.net
503-269-1559



Dear Salem City Council:

Let Us VOTE on a Full Service Library!

For as little as a \$5 per month increase in our property taxes we could have:

- A main library open seven days a week and three evenings a week.
- A West Salem Branch open 5-6 days a week with evening hours.
- Reading programs for children every day at main or West Salem.
- More downloadable audiobooks and ebooks.
- And more!

Please add your name if you agree!

Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
Nicole Sallee	Yes	nicolecsallee@gmail.com	Yes
LEONARD WIECZOREK	yes	none	NO
Suezey Ranssen	Y	Ranssens@gmail.com	Y
David Chin	✓	chind6220@gmail.com	Y
Trevor Hoffman	✓	hoffmant67@gmail.com	NO
Peter Vanderwall	✓	pvanderwall@comcast.net	NO
Jennifer Williams	✓	ethanslady@hotmail.com	No
Patricia Ross	✓	inca@comcast.net	No
Kai Garnsey	✓	goldensun@bluewin.com	Y
Alice Furt	✓	afgudw@gmail.com	NO
Kate Lynn Nwan	✓		NO
Bethany Eves	✓		
BRIAN GRANFORS	✓	BGRANFORS@GMAIL	YES
Jeramy Bray	✓		
Charie Leslie	✓	Charieleslie@gmail.com	Yes
PHILIP RATCLIFF	✓	stazz9910@hotmail.com	✓
Edward Rhoads	✓		
Carrie M. Terrell	✓	carrie_terrell@hotmail.com	✓
Bailey Anderson	✓	bmanderson@outlook.com	✓
Dustin Ewart	✓	dustinewart@gmail.com	
Bethania Yohannes	✓		
Ruth Yohannes	✓		
William Stakas	✓		NO
Barbara G. Marsh	✓	guymarsh@comcast.net	✓



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- And more!

Please add your name if you agree!

Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
Claire Nettleton	yes	SCOTTNETT@Q.COM	yes
Anne Kim	YES	justakim@gmail.com	yes
Thomas Purnin	YES	thesuperdeluxe@icloud.com	yes
John T Dickerson	YES	JD00032@YAHOO.COM	yes
Kelli Nunn	Yes	Kellinunn@gmail.com	Yes
Cora Nunn	Yes		No
CHRISTINA MOCK	YES	ryrow1988@gmail	yes
ROWAN STONE	YES		
KATHY KOWALCZYK	yes	dks222@msn.com	yes
JULY MANVEL	YES		
Ado	yes		
Nick KIM	yes		
Paula Parrish	Yes	paulaann25@hotmail.com	Yes
Marse Terrell	Yes	marse-t@hotmail.com	Yes
Laura Collingsworth	Yes	Collingsworth.Laura@gmail.com	yes
Emma Engel	yes	engeleemma10@gmail.com	YES
Kathryn Murillo	yes	kaymurill@gmail.com	yes
Audrey Stokes	yes	aempson8toher@gmail.com	no
CATHERINE VELLER	YES		
Jason Lavallee	Yes		no
Rokanda Davis	yes	RokandaDavisRale.com	no
Katlynn Switzer	Yes	KatlynnSwitzer@gmail	no
Logan Umbarger	Yes	Lumbarger06@gmail.com	yes
Jan Hornbaker	Yes	jan.hornbaker@gmail.com	no



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Please add your name if you agree!

Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
CATHERINE JAQUIN	Yes	dactyl00c@15@gmail.com	OK
Melissa Bowling	Dallas	@gmail.com	OK
Emily Wiczorek	yes	ejw444	no
REENA	YES		
Patricia C. Zisler-Davis	Y's	p2psycho@yahoo.com	OK
Jeremy Hoffman	yes		no
Michael Boman	yes		
Mohamed Abdillahi	Yes	mohamed.abdillahi@yahoo.com	NO
Troy Thao	yes	troythao5@gmail.com	no
Kristen Jensen	yes	Kjensen2930@gmail.com	yes
Simone Thao	yes	nakamura-simone@yahoo.com	no
Natalie Nunn	yes	Natalie39Nunn@gmail.com	NO
Shelley Kaplan	yes		
Matthew Stone			
Matthew Stone	yes	mdean1984@gmail	NO
Ryder Stone	yes		
Jess Bashourn	yes	Jessbashourn.com	yes
EVAN MANUEL	yes	evanmanuel@gmail.com	yes
Merrilynn Rhoads	yes	merrilynnrhoads@gmail.com	yes
Robert E Terrell	yes	bob.terrell55@yahoo.com	yes
Lynette Collingsworth	yes	collingsworth-lynette01@gmail.com	yes
Judith L. Davis	yes	davis.judith@yahoo.com	yes
Emmette George	yes	emmettegeorge@yahoo.com	yes
Elizabeth R. Stokes	yes	rosiebanks@yahoo.com	yes
Tim Krueger	yes	tymmmmjk@gmail	no



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Please add your name if you agree!

Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
Casaria Taylor OKCAM Okanto	y		
Gregory Okanto			
JOHN JOHNSON	YES		
Alaina Lahmann	yes		
Jeneen Sobato	yes		
Nicholas Kibwi	yes		
Gleanna Southern	YES		
Guadalupe Gonzalez PRADA	yes		
Andrew Steele			
Cathiel	YES		
Matthew Blythe	Yes	MBBLYTHE@gmail.com	Yes
Amanda McDougall	yes	amanda.mcdougall71@gmail.com	no
Ted Cony	yes	tedcony48@gmail.com	No
Kathleen Fields	YES	tom and Kathy fields	at live.com ^{YES}
Nick Dominick	YES	NickDominick922@mei	NO
Nysharie Thompson	Yes	minimalistnoir@gmail.com	Yes
Ian Davidson	No	iantdavidson@gmail.com	Yes
Paul Mettman	yes	phermun02134@gmail.com	no
Trina Marie Nepomuceno			No
Celina Magaña			
Noah Magaña			
Ricky Davis			NO



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Please add your name if you agree!

Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
Denise Talbert			
Denise Talbert	yes	duhknees@aol.com	yes
Austin Edgemoan	yes	austinedgemoan@gmail.com	yes
Elisabeth Schumacher	yes	sofunwithfive@gmail.com	yes
Julia Schumacher (14)	yes	sofunwithfive@gmail.com	yes
Susanna Schumacher (12)	yes	sofunwithfive@gmail.com	yes
Corrina Hawkins	yes	corrina.m.hawkins@gmail.com	yes
Karina Zaragosa	yes	kz08@ymail.com	yes
JONATHAN W. HOILAND	yes	jonhoiland@yahoo.com	yes
Jacob Schnell	Y.	th30r3p0r@tuck.com	Y
Ann D. Brown	yes	annbenedette@yahoo.com	yes
RUBY 7			
Madison Barrow	yes		
Matt Robbin	yes	mjrobbinstor@gmail.com	yes
Violet Robbin 3 yrs old	yes		
Sarah Navarro	yes		
Mckinzie Knoll	yes	mckinzieknoll2004@tuck.com	yes
nara 8	NO		
LUCY 5	NO		
Ama 16	yes		
Tracy Hampton	yes		
Michelle Kelley	yes	KelleyM74@gmail.com	
Zufi Kelley 13	yes	ZufiKelley05@gmail.com	
Emily Bush	yes	Emily.bush.09@gmail.com	Y



Dear Salem City Council:

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Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
MAUREEN D. DEAN Robert Scott Street	YES yes	maureendianedean@gmail.com	YES yes
DAVID GREYSMITH Megan Young	YES yes	GREYSMITH@YAHOO.COM meganryoung27@gmail.com	YES yes
Ryan Firestone Sage Firestone	yes yes		
Alice Laviolette Christina Steele	no yes	alaviolette@comcast.net msyandrew23@yahoo.com	yes no
Joseph Schneider Pat Badger	yes yes	schneiderjm08@gmail.com pa.badger@hotmail.co	no NO
Charlotte Sturdley Ken Bierly	yes yes	charlottestardley@gmail.com bierlykenneth@gmail.com	NO NO
SOZIE PAULSON Elizabeth Tice	yes yes		NO yes
Karisa Davis Taylor Davis 9	yes yes	kkaygordier@gmail.com	NO
Ann Niederehe Karen Speer	Yes YES	anniederehe@comcast.net Kag47@yahoo.com	NO NO
Daniel McDonald Lindsay Smart	yes yes		NO
Yvonne Smart #18 Sarah 8	yes yes	luna_sky8@hotmail.com	no
Freedem Martinmas Sylvia Giherti	yes yes		



Dear Salem City Council:

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Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
Rose Talbert Agell			
Brian Thompson	yes	xterra316@gmail.com	no
Aby Hawkins	yes	abyrane@icloud.com	No
Curtis A. Hall	yes	delane@chevanet.com	No
Joseph Warden	yes	Teranika.J@Protonmail	yes
Avalon Teranika	yes	avalon.teranika@gmail.com	yes
Edna Reese	yes		
Amy Benedum	yes	abenedum31@gmail.com	yes
Miranda Bernard	yes		
Alex Coronado Jr	YES	N/A	N/A
Jose Martinez	yes	martinj103@msn.com	yes
Maria G. Garcia	yes	managmonte.87@gmail.com	yes
Nathaniel Brown	yes	natebrown714@unitan	No
Alexandra Barton	Yes	ambarten77@gmail.com	Yes
Natalily Barton (age 19)	Yes	libymckenziebarton@gmail.com	Yes
LAVI O'CALLAGHAN	YES		YES
Kelina Delgado	yes		No
AVA O			
Juliano			
David A. Craig	YES	DAVE.CRAIG57@gmail.com	YES
Christina Darrow	Yes	skellibeau22@gmail.com	no
Derrin Wright	yes	Derrinwright@gmail.com	NO
Alice Bradshaw	yes	Alice.N.Bradshaw@gmail.com	
David P. Craig	yes	dpcraig@willamette.edu	yes -



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Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
Jaxson Steele			
Jace Steele	yes		
Jayden			
Linda Bierly	yes	bierlyslc@gmail.com	✓
JULIA			
Emily Spae			
Deborah Dobay	yes		no
Noah			
Dustin Andrew	no	1011101102@gmail.com	
Chloe Shultz 11	yes		no
Megan Forsythe	yes	forsythemegan@msd.k12.or.us	yes ☺
Noah Talbert age 9	yes		NO
Matthew Kardus	yes		
Mariah Schumacher	yes	sofunwithfive@gmail.com	yes
Bailey Thompson 12	yes		
Janet Shaw	yes		
Yasmeen 8			
Megan			
did doerwacs	yes		
ISITIAN	yes		
Juli Thach	yes		
Bella Thach	yes		



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Please add your name if you agree!

Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
Dawn Banks	Yes!	dawn.banks@ ^{sbc} global.net	Yes
Judith Rankin	yes	oldnewtchr@aol.com	
FRANK F. JULLISON	Yes	FRANKJULLISON@HOTMAIL.COM	
Felicity Handen	YES!	Fhanden@salemrossvillageschools.com	12
Alex Ragsdill	Yes	Ragsdill14@gmail	
Susan Tunquist	yes	stunquist2015@gmail.com	
Emilie Morris	yes	thelittlenest@gmail.com	
Lauren Peters	yes	LJPeters18@gmail	
WREN KOSTERIE	Yes	N/A	—
Therese Mac Isaac	Yes	New Leaf Center, Lunk, mt	
FERRI MITCHELL	Yes	"	
Jeremie Robins	Yes	jtrobins@yahoo.com	
MORGAN GROY	Yes	morgan@morgangroy.com	yes
ROBIN GRAVES	YES	HETARNELOZ@HOTMAIL.COM	YES
Jacob Prater	yes	thejacobprater@gmail.com	Yes
Porothy Kimball	Yes	daksalem2@gmail.com	Yes
Kathy Kayser	yes	kathrynram.kayser@gmail.com	Yes
Karl Fritz Buehr	Yes	fuehr@comcast.net	Yes
Kitty Lee Anderson	yes	KittyLeeB3@gmail.com	Yes
Melissa Deaton	Yes	jsushara570@gmail.com	YES
David Craig	yes	dcraig@willamette.edu	yes
Pamela Garland	yes	pamelag Garland@gmail.com	Yes
Katrina McEwell	yes	dtree1f@gmail.com	Yes
Ginger Moore	yes	coach.ginger.m@gmail.com	yes
Nancy Myers	yes	myersbn@msnc.com	



Dear Salem City Council:

Let Us VOTE on a Full Service Library!

For as little as a \$5 per month increase in our property taxes we could have:

- A main library open seven days a week and three evenings a week.
- A West Salem Branch open 5-6 days a week with evening hours.
- Reading programs for children every day at main or West Salem.
- More downloadable audiobooks and ebooks.
- And more!

Please add your name if you agree!

Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
Robert VanSant	✓	bobvan91@gmail.com	yes
Mackenzie VanSant	✓	mackenzievansant@gmail.com	✓
Megan Mizuta	✓	megan.mizuta@gmail.com	✓
Julia M Jellison	✓	mjellison@yahoo.com	✓
Bill Howden	✓	billhowden01@gmail.com	✓
T.N. Corsini Greenbaum	✓		
Kathi McCorkle	✓	mccorklekathi1990@gmail.com	✓
Jackie Rakey	✓	Jackierakey@gmail.com	-
Jennifer McLaughlin	✓	jennie.mclaughlin@gmail.com	
Carol Odenweller	✓	carolodenweller@aol.com	
Alex Curtis	✓	wondersong@live.com	
Cynthia R Bagley	✓	CBagley3@MSN.COM	
MARY ANN BARIKZI	✓	mbarikzi@live.com	✓
PATRICIA PARVIN	✓	patriciaparvin@gmail.com	
Alison Okinaka	✓	alisonokinaka@gmail.com	
P B F L U E			
Rachel Alpert	✓	rachel@alpert.com	No
Nikki O. Envela	✓	nikkienv@g.com	Yes
RONALD SLOVICK	✓		No
Silnev Aberman	✓	AbermanSilnev@gmail.com	yes
Katherine Kuhnast	✓	Katie.Kuhnast@gmail.com	✓
William Nixn	✓	archaicly@gmail.com	✓
Molly Hood	✓	mollyhood.bus@gmail.com	
Leia Deaver - Roberts	✓	MangoSunrise@aol.com	✓



Dear Salem City Council:

Let Us VOTE on a Full Service Library!

For as little as a \$5 per month increase in our property taxes we could have:

- A main library open seven days a week and three evenings a week.
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- Reading programs for children every day at main or West Salem.
- More downloadable audiobooks and ebooks.
- And more!

Please add your name if you agree!

Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
Jonathan Baumgarten	Yes	jonathan.baumgarten.24@gmail	✓
Emma Baumgarten	Yes	kidrongirl92@yahoo.com	✓
Peter Jones	Yes	preesjones@hotmail.com	✓
Jan Esther Friedman	Yes	ibclprof@comcast.net	
Joan Stenbridge	Yes	stembri.j@yahoo.com	
Kurt Page	Yes	Kurtispag@yahoo.com	✓
Lotus Page	Yes	-	
Roberta Starnegg	Yes	rstarnegg@gmail.com	ok
Sue Kidwell	Yes	bands111@gmail.com	no
Dena Boeger	Yes	dsboeger@yahoo.com	no
Andrea Newkirk	Yes	-	no
Brianna Barikzi	Yes		
Mike Elkins	Yes		
Emily Peters	NO	Petershouse18@gmail.com	NO
ASHLEY KOSTER	YES	ashley.j.koster@gmail	YES.
Mia Strickland	Yes	miakate2001@gmail.com	yes
Lauren Smith	Yes	lsmith@uoregon.edu	✓
Ligh Rothweiler	Yes	leigh.rothweiler@gmail.com	✓
Jennifer Belle	Yes	j.belle@emporia.edu	✓
Katrin Hood	Yes	khood13@mail.wou.edu	✓
Linda Nugent	Yes	lnugent@gmail.com	✓
Zenn Raska	Yes	Pikay.P.Had@gmail.com	✓
Joan Stenbr	Yes	J Stenbr	✓
Jordan Millett	Yes	Jordan Taylor Millett@gmail.com	✓

From: stembrij@yahoo.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Fw: Livability Levy
Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 12:00:13 PM

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "stembrij@yahoo.com" <stembrij@yahoo.com>
To: "City Council" <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>, "Chris Hoy" <choy@cityofsalem.net>
Sent: Wed, Aug 7, 2024 at 11:58
Subject: Livability Levy

We are in favor of the Livability Levy! Please vote 'YES!'.

Jim & Joan Stembridge
1695 Winter SE

46-year residents of Salem and frequent library users.

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [Juliana Ha](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony for the August 19th Work Session
Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 1:48:43 PM

Dear Salem City Council,

I write to ask you to let us vote in the May 2025 election on a "Livability Levy" as recommended by the Revenue Task Force.

Our library, parks, and Center 50+ are in serious jeopardy of suffering further cutbacks without new revenue in FY 2026. This is unacceptable. We already have the worst funded major library in the state. Our two libraries are open only half the hours that they were open 20 years ago. Many working people in Salem cannot use the library because it is closed on Sunday and in the evening. We will not have splash pads for children or programs in Riverfront park in FY 2026 without new revenue. Center 50+ has had to close two Saturdays a month and raise fees because of budget cutbacks, and it will suffer more cutbacks without new revenue.

For a very modest increase in property taxes, we could restore our libraries, parks, and Center 50+ to full service operations once again. Please let us vote to do this. I am confident that a Livability Levy election in May 2025 can be successful and that we can once again have the livability services in Salem that we deserve.

Thank you for your service,

Juliana Tuong-Van Ha
4255 Trapper Drive NE
Salem, OR 97305

From: [Karen Sjogren](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony for the August 19th work session
Date: Friday, August 9, 2024 5:06:44 PM

I ask that the City Council vote to allow the Livability Levy to be placed on the May 2025 ballot, as recommended by the Revenue Task Force. As I understand it, this 5 year levy on property taxes, amounting to about \$11 per month on an average value home, would provide \$5 million for the two libraries, \$2 million for parks, and \$1 million for the Senior Center. I think the levy is quite reasonable and at any rate should be put on the ballot for the voters to decide. I was the chief petitioner about 20 years ago for an initiative to create a special district to fund the two libraries. The initiative got on the ballot but did not pass. We are all familiar with the payroll tax which would have funded these services but failed because it was unfair. The City Council should not be dissuaded from putting this levy to a vote simply because previous measures have failed. They failed for reasons other than the value city residents put on the library and parks (I am not familiar with the Senior Center). (para) With respect to the libraries, the present situation is untenable and shameful. I know from my years of circulating petitions in front of the main library that it is used quite a bit in the evenings and on Sunday afternoons, for meetings and events at the adjacent auditorium as well as ordinary library use. Many library patrons I saw worked during the day so this was the only time they could come, bring their families, etc. Now the concerts and other events are not possible when most people would be able to attend, for lack of security personnel. The West Salem branch, largely built with donations and granted a free lease by Mr. Roth, is only open a few hours a week with no events and even the landscaping is dying. And yet voters want another branch library in east Salem. (para) With respect to parks, I have been a Parks seasonal employee and a member of the Minto Brown patrol for over a decade. Salem residents love their parks and they are heavily used. What is badly needed is an additional Park Ranger or two, making some of our larger parks safer and therefore more readily used. Volunteers help greatly with upkeep but there still need to be paid maintenance people to a greater degree than there are now. With more people living in apartments, clean, safe parks are a necessary component of making Salem livable.(pars) I am not familiar with the Senior Center but it is a nice facility and obviously important given Salem's large senior population. I leave it to others to comment on its value. (para) This concludes my comments. Please acknowledge receipt thereof.

From: [Laura B. Stein](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony for the August 19th Work Session
Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 3:45:45 PM

Dear Salem City Council:

I write to ask you to let us vote in the May 2025 election on a “Livability Levy” as recommended by the Revenue Task Force.

Our library, parks and Center 50+ are in serious jeopardy of suffering further cutbacks without new revenue in FY 2026. This is unacceptable. We already have the worst funded major library in the state. Our two libraries are open only half the hours that they were open 20 years ago.

Many working people in Salem cannot use the library because it is closed on Sunday and in the evening. We will not have splash pads for children or programs in Riverfront park in FY 2026 without new revenue.

Center 50+ had to close two Saturdays a month and raise fees because of budget cutbacks and it will suffer more cutbacks without new revenue.

For a very modest increase in property taxes we could restore our libraries, parks and Center 50+ to full service operations once again. Please let us vote to do this. I am confident that a Livability Levy election in May 2025 can be successful, and we can once again have the livability services in Salem that we deserve.

Thank you for your service,

Laura Stein, 2620 Crestview Dr S, Salem 97302

From: [Mary Ginnane](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony for the August 19th Work Session
Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 9:29:26 AM

Good morning Salem City Council Members,

The work of the Revenue Task Force resulting in a recommendation for a liveability levy in 2025 strikes me, a Salem resident and taxpayer, as a sound idea. As a library user the juxtaposition of the terrifically remodeled and safe Main Library and the 2023-2024 curtailment of hours and services is head-shaking. No evening hours? Only one weekend day to access materials? Very disappointing for a capital city. Across the river in West Salem library branch hours are so limited that the residents (and those in East Salem) must travel downtown for full-service access. There are visible inequity issues with the current library situation even with the availability of digital access to extend some services.

I know Salem's parks and Center 50+ have experienced cutbacks in the same time period that impact families and seniors. The Revenue Task Force's solution is smart: for a modest increase in property taxes libraries, parks and Center 50+ could be restored to full service operations once again. I would welcome the chance to vote to support a liveability levy to regain and sustain library, parks, and senior services. I encourage you to proceed with this recommendation.

Thank you for all you do.

Respectfully,
Mary Ginnane
5141 Zosel Ave. S., Salem, 97306

From: [Mark wigg](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: livability bond
Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 3:56:19 PM

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

Livability includes safety. A livability bond should include a couple million dedicated to implementing the measures needed to reduce gun violence, gangs, and graffiti. We have tried to pass stand-alone library and park bonds several times and they failed. Broaden the Livability Bond to include specific efforts to reduce violent crime and we may have enough supporters to pass it.

Grateful for your service,

Mark Wigg

From: [Nancy Layton](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony for the August 19th Work Session
Date: Thursday, August 8, 2024 3:35:42 PM

Dear Salem City Council Members:

I write to ask you to let us vote in the May 2025 election on a “Livability Levy” as recommended by the Revenue Task Force.

Our library, parks and Center 50+ are in serious jeopardy of suffering further cutbacks without new revenue in FY 2026. This is unacceptable. Many working people in Salem cannot use the library because it is closed on Sunday and in the evening. The same is true of families whose children are in school and have limited time access as the library hours currently stand.

As a Friends of the Salem Public Library volunteer and Board Member, every time I work in the Friends Bookstore I see the joy on the faces of the children as they come into the library on those Saturdays and how many of them are walking with their faces already focused on one of their precious books as they leave.

I became a writer and publisher of books in great part because I had access to a wonderful public library in my hometown of Mason City, Iowa. Those Saturdays Mom took me and my brothers to check out books to read were special and certainly made me a better reader over the years. I still remember my favorite book series, *Carbonal*, *King of Cats*, and all the adventures the young boy in those stories had.

Libraries are essential to the health and wellbeing of a village, town, or city. The other programs addressed by this proposed measure are very important, as well. But, I consider providing full access for our citizens to a fully staffed and funded Public Library an absolute necessity and would continue to speak in favor of this city measure right through the voting process if given the ability to do so.

For a very modest increase in property taxes we could restore our libraries, parks and Center 50+ to full service operations once again. Please let us vote to do this. I am confident that a Livability Levy election in May 2025 can be successful, and we can once again have the livability services in Salem that we deserve.

Thank you for your service to an important Oregon city I've come to love,

Nancy Layton

Registered Voter, living in SE Salem since March, 2022.

Email: nancy.layton5@gmail.com

From: [Rainbow Olmstead](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony for the August 19th Work Session
Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 3:42:00 PM

Dear Salem City Council:

I write to ask you to let us vote in the May 2025 election on a “Livability Levy” as recommended by the Revenue Task Force.

The library is very important to me. I am a housebound disabled person. I was very grateful for the library’s monthly home delivery service until it was discontinued, and I would be interested again if it’s reinstated. If my health improves, I hope to be able to physically visit the library someday, and it would be important that the library is open often so that some of my “good days” (more like “good chunks of a few hours”, really) might coincide with the library being open. I am also excited about maybe someday attending one of the craft meetings I’ve heard happen at the library. And obviously I want my fellow community members, including people who are working during the library’s current open schedule, to have access to the library as well! Of course all of this requires funding.

I hope you will listen to us and allow us to vote for this tax.

Thank you very much!

Rainbow Olmstead (they/them)

From: [Bob & Ruth](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Livability Levy
Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 1:49:30 PM

Dear Salem City Council:

I write to ask you to let us vote in the May 2025 election on a “Livability Levy” as recommended by the Revenue Task Force.

Our library, parks and Center 50+ are in serious jeopardy of suffering further cutbacks without new revenue in FY 2026. This is unacceptable. We already have the worst funded major library in the state. Our two libraries are open only half the hours that they were open 20 years ago. Many working people in Salem cannot use the library because it is closed on Sunday and in the evening. We will not have splash pads for children or programs in Riverfront park in FY 2026 without new revenue. Center 50+ has to close two Saturdays a month and raise fees because of budget cutbacks and it will suffer more cutbacks without new revenue.

For a very modest increase in property taxes we could restore our libraries, parks and Center 50+ to full service operations once again. Please let us vote to do this. I am confident that a Livability Levy election in May 2025 can be successful, and we can once again have the livability services in Salem that we deserve.

Thank you for your service,

Ruth Schellbach
1720 Yew St SE, Salem

From: [Shade Montague](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony for the August 19th Work Session
Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 12:20:33 PM

Dear Salem City Council:

I write to ask you to let us vote in the May 2025 election on a “Livability Levy” as recommended by the Revenue Task Force.

Our library, parks and Center 50+ are in serious jeopardy of suffering further cutbacks without new revenue in FY 2026. This is unacceptable. We already have the worst funded major library in the state. Our two libraries are open only half the hours that they were open 20 years ago. Many working people in Salem cannot use the library because it is closed on Sunday and in the evening. We will not have splash pads for children or programs in Riverfront park in FY 2026 without new revenue. Center 50+ has had to close two Saturdays a month and raise fees because of budget cutbacks and it will suffer more cutbacks without new revenue.

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Thank you for your service,

Shade Montague

From: [Virginia Green](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony for the August 19th Work Session
Date: Thursday, August 8, 2024 11:30:41 AM

Dear Salem City Council:

Congratulations to everyone who has so carefully considered the Livability Levy as recommended by the Revenue Task Force!

I am so thankful to the group who constructed this valuable city plan and to the council who will give it its earnest consideration.

This will certainly be money well spent for the benefit of all Salem residents, no matter where they are located, or their age, or social needs. So often we take the benefits of community life, or allow them to slip away, without notice. Here we have an example of true thoughtful planning

All three of these community assets touch lives: library services that are vital to family and community cultural enrichment, the parks that provide places that remind us of the natural beauty of our city, and a wonderful site for senior citizens to share their experiences and make new friends as the years pass.

Yes, everyone who lives in Salem deserves the enhanced services and pleasures this Levy will provide.

Thank you for recognizing its value.

Virginia Green
1601 Water St., NE
Salem, OR 97301