

**From:** [Annie Battee](#)  
**To:** [Linda Nishioka](#)  
**Cc:** [Amy Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Just Walk Salem Keizer Livability Levy Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:51:51 AM

---

Thank you for your response and for helping to assure our comments are included for the February 10 City Council meeting by copying Amy.

I appreciate both of you and your work.  
Annie Battee

On 02/03/2025 10:53 PM PST Linda Nishioka <[lnishioka@cityofsalem.net](mailto:lnishioka@cityofsalem.net)> wrote:

Annie,

Thank you for sharing your message and for your organization's important work in the community. We appreciate your support for placing the levy on the May ballot and your commitment to maintaining vital services that enhance the quality of life in Salem.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to promoting healthy, positive activities and for your collaboration with Center 50+.

I have included the City Recorder to ensure that your testimony is provided for the February 10<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

Best regards,

Councilor Nishioka

**Linda Nishioka (She/Her)**

*City Councilor - Ward 2*

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

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**From:** Annie Battee <[ab9@comcast.net](mailto:ab9@comcast.net)>  
**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2025 at 10:19 PM

**To:** citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>

**Subject:** Just Walk Salem Keizer Livability Levy Testimony

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Just Walk Salem Keizer is a partner with Center 50+ and many of our walks are in City Parks. Therefore, we want to express our support, and we ask that these comments be part of the official record of the February 10 City Council Meeting when a possible Levy will be under consideration to be placed on the May Ballot for funds to support Center 50+, Parks, Library, and other Livability Services. We believe that it is essential for a Levy for all these services be voted on in May to maintain these services and the quality of life in Salem.

Grassroots groups like ours, volunteer our time to provide positive healthy activities at no cost to participants. We rely on our partnership with Center 50+ to provide background checks to ensure safety and we mutually publicize both of our programs and services. Parks Operations provides safe and clean places for our walks, and for others to also use our Salem parks.

If this is the only way to provide these community services, we support placing this levy on the May ballot to fund Center 50+, Parks, Library and other Livability Services.

We appreciate our comments being included in the official record.

Thank you for your consideration.

Just Walk Salem Keizer Steering Committee

Pat Norman, Resident

Jennifer Carley, Resident

Ann Scheppke, Resident

Annie Battee, Resident

Sally Cook, Resident

**From:** [engberganita1@gmail.com](mailto:engberganita1@gmail.com)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the Feb. 10th Council Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 7:11:37 PM

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City Recorder, Council Members,

As a supporter of the Livability Levy, please instruct the City Attorney to draft ballot language to be available to you at the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

I wish very much we could ask for the \$1.10/\$1000 assessed value to completely fund the library, parks, and Senior 50+, but.....I doubt that would pass. If 98 cents/\$1000 assessed value could be supplemented by fund raising, then I am in favor of that amount. Better to get something than nothing.

Whatever decision is reached, the public MUST be fully informed and educated before the May ballot by whatever means necessary. The payroll tax was wrongly and too quickly presented; it didn't have a chance.

Thank you all for your hard work on this important decision.

Anita Engberg

Ward 3 resident

**From:** [Bob Elliott](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Livability Levy Faces Decision February 10  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 7:02:34 PM

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Does this mean sometime soon after this May Levy is voted on the levy for Fire and Police will be placed up for a vote? If so, you are basically splitting the major funding needed to cover the Cities projected up coming shortage of millions. This would make both Levy's look smaller than having it all bundled together making voters see a smaller amount and maybe vote yes. Maybe a good idea. However, what happens if the first Levy fails? I assume that amount would then be added to the second Levy and bundled together for a larger amount that maybe a "sticker shock" to tax payers and voted down. Tough situation the City is in. If the Levy "tax" fails cuts in Fire and Police will be needed and not liked by taxpayers. Maybe the budget committee will need to look at extreme cuts to park maintenance and shut down the library system till funding can be restored later or for the limited amount of citizens who use the library they pay a fee to use the library and make it self sufficient, also shutting down the 50+ center or make it self sustaining (never happen, not enough seniors to support it). Perhaps deleting funding for the homeless support that the City provides. Cutting above items is better than Police and Fire which are basic needs to taxpayers. Good luck, but I think taxpayers will see the act of spiting the Levy and resentment might cause a failure to Levy(s). Of course cuts across the board will also be required. , West Salem advocate, Bob Elliott  
Begin forwarded message:

**From:** City of Salem <[info@cityofsalem.net](mailto:info@cityofsalem.net)>  
**Date:** January 24, 2025 at 5:05:01 PM MST  
**To:** [robert.eugene.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:robert.eugene.elliott@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Livability Levy Faces Decision February 10  
**Reply-To:** [us1-8832877d37-494bb3c5c8@inbound.mailchimpapp.net](mailto:us1-8832877d37-494bb3c5c8@inbound.mailchimpapp.net)

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## Council Livability Levy to February 10 Meeting

At a work session January 21, the [Salem City Council](#) talked about a plan to fund important community services including park operations, more library hours, recreation activities and Center 50+ programs.

The main topic was whether to ask voters to support a property tax levy in May 2025 and what services the levy might cover. The City Council discussed community benefits of each service, and what services could be restored at tax rates between \$0.98 and \$1.10 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The City Council confirmed its interest in pursuing a livability levy for the May 2025 ballot. They asked staff to come back with more specifics about the rate and services that would be restored. The Council plans to consider the new draft at its February 10 meeting.

[Read the full Livability Levy story](#)

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## Safe Routes to Schools will Fund Planned State

**From:** [Brittanie Riddle](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Letter to City Council & Mayor Hoy  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:30:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-A picture](#)

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Dear Salem City Council & Mayor Hoy,

As a lifelong Oregonian and a proud resident of the Willamette Valley for 14 years, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed closures of Center 50+, Salem Public Library, and Salem Parks and Recreation. These institutions are not just services; they are vital pillars of our community, providing essential resources, programs, and spaces that contribute to the well-being of Salem residents, especially our most vulnerable populations.

In my professional and volunteer capacities, I have seen firsthand the profound impact these facilities have on our community. As a member of multiple boards, including the Willamette Health Council, Community Action Committee, and the Association of the United States Army, as well as a volunteer with organizations like the Red Cross and Oregon National Guard, I have worked closely with these institutions to serve our seniors, veterans, and broader community. By day, as a liaison for Willamette Vital Health, I have partnered extensively with Center 50+, Salem Public Library, and Salem Parks and Recreation to provide critical services and programs.

Closing these facilities would have devastating consequences:

- **Center 50+** is the heart and soul of our senior community. It provides programs and events that enhance mental health, social connection, and education. I have personally taught classes there and facilitated events that make difficult topics, such as end-of-life planning, less taboo and more accessible. In the fiscal year 2022-2023, Center 50+'s Wellness on Wheels program reached more than 8,000 older adults, demonstrating its extensive outreach and impact.
- **Salem Public Library** is a cornerstone of education and accessibility, offering vital resources for children, job seekers, and residents without internet access. It is an irreplaceable space for learning and community engagement. According to the Oregon Public Library Statistics for 2022-2023, the library serves a population of 177,694, with an annual circulation of 1,148,570 items, highlighting its significant role in the community.
- **Salem Parks and Recreation** create spaces where families, children, and individuals can find recreation, solace, and connection. Parks are essential for the physical and mental health of our residents and contribute significantly to the livability of Salem. Studies have shown that access to green spaces can reduce stress, improve health outcomes, and foster community bonds.

These facilities play a critical role in emergency preparation. Both Center 50+ and Salem Public Library are designated emergency hubs, equipped to serve as central locations for essential workers and services in case of a major disaster, such as "the big one." Closing them would compromise our city's ability to respond effectively in such emergencies.

This is not the first time these institutions have faced the threat of closure, and it underscores the need for long-term, sustainable solutions. I implore the City Council to:

1. **Explore alternative funding sources:** Consider partnerships, grants, and other innovative funding strategies to keep these facilities operational.
2. **Reevaluate tax allocations:** Assess current spending and prioritize these essential services over less critical expenditures.
3. **Minimize the impact of the new tax levy:** Ensure that any proposed levy is carefully calibrated to meet community needs without imposing undue burdens on residents.

Closing these facilities would not only affect individual lives but also have a broader economic impact. Parks and recreation spaces, for instance, contribute to property values, attract tourists, and create jobs. The loss of these services would also strain social and mental health services, leading to higher long-term costs for the city.

Furthermore, I have heard countless stories from community members who have benefited from these facilities. For example, a senior who found companionship and purpose through programs at Center 50+, a child inspired by the library's reading programs, or a family enjoying quality time together in our parks. These stories highlight the irreplaceable value these institutions bring to our city.

Finally, I urge the City Council to engage the community in finding solutions. Establishing a task force, hosting public forums, or creating partnerships with local organizations could yield innovative ideas and shared responsibility for preserving these vital services.

The decision to close these institutions would disproportionately affect children, seniors, veterans, and BIPOC communities—populations already facing significant challenges. It would erode the fabric of our community and hinder progress on addressing mental health crises, social isolation, and educational inequities.

I urge you to listen to the voices of Salem residents and community partners who depend on these facilities. Preserving Center 50+, Salem Public Library, and Salem Parks and Recreation is not just an investment in infrastructure—it is an investment in the people of Salem and the future of our city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brittanie Riddle

971.720.3499.

Resident of Salem, Oregon

## Bibliography

4. National Council on Aging. "NISC Programs of Excellence: Wellness on Wheels." Accessed January 2025. <https://www.ncoa.org/article/nisc-programs-of-excellence-wellness-on-wheels>.

5. Oregon State Library. "Oregon Public Library Statistics, 2022-2023." Accessed January 2025. <https://www.oregon.gov/library/operations/Documents/FINAL-OregonPLStats-2022-23-v1.03.xlsx>.

Brittanie Riddle  
Community Liaison  
Pronouns: she/ her/ hers  
Willamette Vital Health  
1015 3<sup>rd</sup> St NW  
Salem, OR 97304  
Office: 503.588.3600  
Mobile: 971.240.2072  
wvh.org



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**From:** [Info](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Livability Levy Faces Decision February 10  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 7:43:25 AM

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Can you please assist with the email below?

**Bethany Nazario** | 503-763-3494

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**From:** BRUCE WOOD <bbwoodshed@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2025 8:10 PM  
**To:** us1-8832877d37-494bb3c5c8@inbound.mailchimpapp.net; Info <info@cityofsalem.net>  
**Subject:** Re: Livability Levy Faces Decision February 10

May I suggest a levy to repair all the Salem roads...pavement and potholes. Take care of our city infrastructure first!

On 01/24/2025 4:00 PM PST City of Salem <[info@cityofsalem.net](mailto:info@cityofsalem.net)> wrote:

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## Council Livability Levy to February 10 Meeting

At a work session January 21, the [Salem City Council](#) talked about a plan to fund important community services including park operations, more library hours, recreation activities and Center 50+ programs.

The main topic was whether to ask voters to support a property tax levy in May 2025 and what services the levy might cover. The City Council discussed community benefits of each service, and what services could be restored at tax rates between \$0.98 and \$1.10 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The City Council confirmed its interest in pursuing a livability levy for the May 2025 ballot. They

asked staff to come back with more specifics about the rate and services that would be restored. The Council plans to consider the new draft at its February 10 meeting.

[Read the full Livability Levy story](#)

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## Safe Routes to Schools will Fund Planned State Street Sidewalk Improvements

An agreement with [Marion County](#) for **sidewalk improvements on the south side of State Street** will be discussed at the Salem City Council meeting on Monday, January 27. This meeting takes place after the Salem Housing Authority and Salem Urban Renewal Agency meetings, which start at 6 p.m.

You can also stream the meetings live on YouTube.

[In English](#)

[In Spanish](#)

The City received a grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation's [Safe Routes to School Program](#) to build sidewalk improvements on State Street between Oakmont Drive SE and 49th Avenue SE. The construction is planned for 2026 and will connect the East Park development north of State Street to a sidewalk on 49th Avenue SE, south of State Street. Some curb ramp upgrades are in Marion County.

The Council will also review an agreement with the Siletz Tribe about City Services to [Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians](#) **trust land**. As a sovereign nation, the Tribe's land isn't subject to City rules and is exempt from property taxes. This agreement ensures the Tribe gets the same services as other City residents, in exchange for payments similar to property taxes.

Council will also hear a report on **Public Works Reaccreditation**.

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**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [coltonbond@gmail.com](mailto:coltonbond@gmail.com)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Contact City Council  
**Date:** Saturday, January 25, 2025 12:30:45 AM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

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Your Name	COLTON B BOND
Your Email	coltonbond@gmail.com
Your Phone	5419083641
Street	4760 RISING ST SE
City	SALEM
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	<p>Salem City Councilors, I'm writing to urge you to move forward with putting a local option levy to fund our library and parks. I voted no on the city payroll tax, but I am more than happy to vote yes on this and pay a few hundred dollars more each year for these services. Please go with the higher levy rate. I am also hopeful that Representative Andersen's bill (HB 2531) for the state to pay \$7 million to the City of Salem for police, fire, and public safety services. Hopefully, this bill will pass this year. Additionally, I strongly urge you to share your expertise with Salem Keizer Public Schools. While a bump in funding for public schools is likely this year, it is unlikely to be sufficient to meet our community's needs. I suspect SKPS may be in a position to consider a local option levy on the ballot in 2026. Again, happy to pay more for public schools. While this is separate from the city, it also play a big role in the livability and attractiveness of our city. Thanks for your time and consideration! Best Wishes, Colton Bond</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 1/25/2025.

**From:** [Dawn Banks](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the February 10th Council Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:32:05 PM

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I want to pay more taxes. Here's why:

I understand how we got to this budget shortfall. I know it is not my fault, or your fault. I know it is not because of poor management by the City of Salem. But here we are, and while Salem and the State of Oregon continue the good work of trying to figure a way out of this situation, I am 100% prepared to pay a \$1.15-per-thousand Livability Levy added to my real estate tax obligation.

I want to be able to rely on our beautiful parks continuing to be maintained and enhanced. The parks are part of my daily life! The parks play a major part in my physical, mental, and emotional health. I want to know that I can continue to visit my parks safely, for communion with nature and with my human friends.

I want to see my Library open back up to full hours, with full staff, and full activities. It is not just that I personally use the library for pleasure reading, for research, for electronic technology access, for community activities, for important meetings and information events, for continuing education, and for performance art events. The Library is an important vehicle for community literacy. It is an important place of safety and growth for our kids! Literacy is teetering across the country, and I do not want my city to be contributing to this problem.

I want to continue to have access to senior support at Center 50+, whether it be fitness, community, personal growth, or access to senior services. Our city is not growing younger. It is growing older. I want to continue to be able to exercise, dance, learn a new craft, get a flu shot, play an instrument, listen to music, and generally have a good time, senior-style, among senior friends.

I want to NOT be embarrassed to have to say that the Capitol City of Oregon had to close its library, chain-up the entrances to its parks, and forsake its senior population. I do NOT want to hear about how people and businesses leave Salem because of lack of services, and diminished livability. I moved to Salem just-shy-of 2 years ago because of its high livability quotient. I want Salem to shine for its citizens, and help them to live their best lives, by providing the best in community services.

For these reasons, and because I want to help all of Salem's citizens live better lives, I am in favor of the Livability Levy placed at the high end of the potential figures discussed, and will absolutely vote for it on the May ballot. I wish it could somehow be applied on a sliding scale based on income, or have some method of relief for lower-income homeowners, because of potential hardship for them.

Thank you to everyone who is working on this.

Sincerely,

Dawn Banks

4895 7<sup>th</sup> Ave SE

**From:** [snowflake \(she/her\) on Santiam land](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Written public testimony for tonight's council meeting :-)  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 12:10:28 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Dorrie Board, I live at 450 12th street Lebanon, OR. I want to make sure my opinion is heard re: the tenuous future of the Main Branch of the Salem Library.

Libraries are still important to communities. It's not all about just checking out books, (although with the price of books these days, libraries are a blessing.) Libraries produce free programs and events for children and adults alike, most of which are enjoyed by low-income families and older adults. Libraries provide a quiet, safe place to study or read for people who live in households that are loud, violent, and/or unstable.

One can say with the advent of computers and the Internet, we no longer need libraries. Unfortunately, this is untrue. Due to the rising costs of Internet service, as well as the expense of purchasing a laptop that may cost the same as, say, utility bills for the average-to-low-income citizen or family per month, it is cost-prohibitive for some families and older adults to participate fully in the 21st century.

I work for a virtual school, and I am on the Lebanon Senior Center Board. For the former, we automatically send laptops to our students, but we also have to send many free hotspots because the families cannot afford the Internet cost and can't go to their local libraries due to closures or extremely limited hours. For the latter, I see a regular flow of older adults come into the Senior Center to use our computer...and not just to play games. Were the Lebanon Library to close, the Senior Center would be flooded with users we couldn't accommodate.

To supplement the library, and three other departments, the Lebanon City Council decided to tack on an \$18 city utility fee to each household. The revenue collected from the fees goes to the Senior Center, Police, Parks, and the Library. If a smaller town like Lebanon can do this, why not Salem? Do only a monthly fee to save the library. With approximately 60,000 households in Salem, \$2 per month per household could really help the library.

Thank you for your time,

Dorrie Board  
541-405-0495

"Rules are not necessarily sacred, principles are."-FDR

**From:** [David Madsen](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the February 10th Council Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2025 9:39:00 AM

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In these turbulent times, I'm happy to hear that the Salem City Council is in agreement that we need to take measures to fund our libraries, parks, and Center 50+. With that in mind, my choice for a livability levy is \$1.10/\$1000. In spite of voters being a little price-sensitive in regards to anything, I think having full funding for all these services settled in writing is more important than hoping these same price-sensitive voters will make up the difference in fund raising.

Thank you,  
David Madsen

**From:** [Elizabeth Nelson](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#); [Julie Hoy](#)  
**Subject:** Livability levy  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 22, 2025 6:17:37 PM

---

Please place the proposed livability levy on the ballot so that we can vote for it and help fund our beautiful parks. One of the reasons we chose Salem to move to from Houston was because of the beautiful, clean, and well-maintained parks.

Elizabeth Nelson  
Salem, Oregon



**From:** [Galayna Wade](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Salem Public Library  
**Date:** Friday, January 24, 2025 3:07:51 PM

---

To whom it may concern,

I am a Willamette University alumni who spent several years living in Salem. The impact of having a public library in the community is irreplaceable. When I was a poor college student looking for a place to feel safe and relax, the library was available. When I wanted a break from academia and just enjoy the escapism of literature, the library was there.

In this day and age when it is difficult to even find a bathroom to go to without having to pay something, having the library as a place where anyone is welcome and can use the resources is so important. Having a library helps kids in the community, it helps people who don't have internet access at home, it helps anyone who wants to learn.

Please do not let the Salem Public Library close. We need community spaces now more than ever.

I urge city council members to truly consider what is best for the community they promised to serve.

Thank you,

**From:** [Hazel Patton](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** [SUSPECTED SPAM] Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2025 8:36:43 AM

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I support the Salem livability levy that the Council is considering at their February 10 meeting. We all love and yes need our Librarys, Parks and Center 50 and want to see them funded. However I would hope the Council would consider carefully the levy amount. I suggest no more than 60 cents per thousand instead of the higher amounts proposed. We are finding ourselves in uncertain and yes troubling times and in hopes of the chance of this passing I would think we have a better chance not pursuing the full amount needed and promising to seek donations or volunteer sources to fill the gap. It seems wiser to get less that is fully needed than to have it fail completely.

Thank you for your consideration

Hazel Patton

Ward 1

**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [jessica.weichert@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.weichert@gmail.com)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Submission  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 11:52:43 AM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

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Your Name	Jessica Shumate
Your Email	jessica.weichert@gmail.com
Your Phone	(503) 508-0002
Street	2240 Dorchester Dr S
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	<p>I am writing to express my concern that our beautiful library is once again the target of potential budget cuts. I am a special education teacher and learning specialist for Salem-Keizer Public Schools. Our school system serves a diverse student population. We support kids without books in their homes. We support families who can't afford pricy enrichment activities or home resources like books, media, and internet. We support families who need access to information and to safe, free places in our community to exist. The library is one of the only free, indoor, child-friendly spaces in Salem. Watching dozens of families walk through the front doors of the library last week to attend a story time, my heart was warmed by the children's excitement and the cheerful welcome extended to each patron as they passed the front desk. Cutting Sunday hours has been a hardship for families in our city, who need free and enriching places to go to access resources. Over half of our district's students come from low income families. Cutting bilingual staff makes little sense in our multicultural city, where almost half of the students in our school district identify as Hispanic/Latino. Please consider the many people negatively impacted by cuts to our library programs. Our district is facing an uphill battle remediating stagnant reading scores and achievement. Further cutting library funding and services will only compound our literacy crisis. Our teachers and families need partners in this fight. Salem must do better. Respectfully submitted, Jessica Shumate Salem, Oregon</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 1/27/2025.

**From:** [Jane Wille](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the February 10 Council Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 11:30:58 AM

---

While there are many expenses borne by taxpayers, many of which are invisible or happen in a "bait and switch" scenario, helping build suspicion and distrust among taxpayers, here in the proposed levy is something we in Salem can have in Salem for people in Salem: our public library, our parks' maintenance and attention to, and the Center 50+.

Maybe novel, maybe not, perhaps taxpayers could be given a voice in choice around how much they would be willing to spend to preserve the services they are shopping for. Say "tax" and it's a dog-whistle; say what would you be willing to give to have such-and-such, and perhaps we wouldn't drown our services, our good sense, our futures in a sea of "tax tears."

Thank you for reading.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Linda Bierly](#)  
**To:** [Micki Varney](#); [Micki Varney](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Livability Levy questions  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 8:25:36 AM

---

Councilor Varney,  
I have some questions regarding the Livability Levy.

1. If the Livability Levy passes, will it sever parks, libraries and Center 50+ funding from the General Fund?
2. If so, what funding category will be created?
3. How would it be sustained?

I am supportive of more funding for Community Services, I just am concerned that this levy might sideline or isolate them in some way from future funding strategies.

For example, if a sales tax were to be considered at some point to add more revenue to the General Fund - would it fund parks, libraries and Center 50+ as well as General Fund services such as Emergency services?

Or if the State of Oregon agrees to some kind of "in lieu of taxes" payment - would that be distributed to all services including parks, libraries, and Center 50+ - or since they would have the Livability Levy, would they be excluded?

Thank you,  
Linda Bierly  
Ward 8

**From:** [Larry Sipe](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the February 10th Council Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 2:38:40 PM

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Dear City Recorder and Salem City Council:

With all due respect, you must instruct the City Attorney to draft ballot language for Salem Livability Levy to bring back to the City Council on 24 February. Here is my argument for \$1.10/\$1,000: This rate would provide all the funds needed to adequately fund libraries, parks and Center 50+ in FY26 and beyond. It is only about \$2 a month more than the lower rate for the average household.

I support the Salem Livability Levy

- Library
- Parks
- Center 50+

Respectfully, you must instruct the City Attorney to draft ballot language for Salem Livability Levy to bring back to the City Council on 24 February.

With gratitude,  
Larry Sipe, Ward 8

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**From:** [Info](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** FW: no levy  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 7:42:55 AM

---

Can you please assist with the email below?

**Bethany Nazario** | 503-763-3494

---

**From:** lynda wenninger <huffypetunia@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2025 11:18 PM  
**To:** Info <info@cityofsalem.net>  
**Subject:** no levy

I will vote NO. I can't afford more taxes on social security income.

**From:** [Mark wigg](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** livability bond and plan b  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:08:20 PM

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Dear Mayor Hoy and Councilors,

Please do not put the Livability Bond up for a vote if polling indicates it will fail.

Please have a Plan B if the bond does not pass. My suggestions for alternative funding include:

1. Increase franchise fee or create a carbon tax fee for natural gas use in the city. This may be easy to implement and could bring in \$5million/yr. This will encourage people to go electric as recommended in the Climate Action Plan.
2. Add a local gas tax of \$0.20/gallon so we can maintain our street and sidewalk and improve safety. This will also encourage people to go electric as recommended in the Climate Action Plan
3. Increase water and sewer fees for those outside the city limits. Current rates encourage people to stay outside city limits as they do not cover our administrative costs such as the City Hall remodel.
4. Inventory and sell surplus city land such as unused street r/w. I have a few million dollars worth of parcels identified in my neighborhood. Selling them will expand housing opportunities and increase the tax base.

Thank you for your service.

Mark Wigg



**From:** [Paul Nelson](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [Julie Hoy](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed livability levy  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:07:12 PM

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I am writing to urge you to place the proposed livability levy on the ballot and give us all the chance to vote on it.

Thank you

Paul Nelson

865 Salem Heights Ave S 97302

**From:** [Sharon Crocker](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the February 10th Council Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, January 27, 2025 2:51:43 PM

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I think 98 cents/\$1000 might pass but, upping the assessment to \$1.10 would fail because it just sounds like too much to voters who don't care about the library or Center50

Sharon Crocker  
975 Orchard Heights Rd NW  
Salem 97304

**From:** [Stephania Fregosi](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the February 10th Council Meeting  
**Date:** Sunday, January 26, 2025 9:31:23 AM

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To the City Council,

I am writing in support of the Salem Livability Levy for our public libraries, our parks and the Center 50+. You must instruct the City's Attorney to draft ballot language to bring back to them on January 24th regarding the levy.

I am a 50ish long-time resident with a daughter in our local schools. I live in Northeast Salem and have an assessed property valuable above Salem's median home price. I am more than happy to pay either of the two levy rates, but feel that the \$1.10 levy rate would be more appropriate to ensuring long-term financial security for our community services.

This is an investment that pays back by ensuring that those with the least opportunities in our community have access to services that open doors for them to be prosperous contributing members of our society.

Thank you,

Stephania Fregosi  
Northeast

**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [Kenny\\_n\\_tammy@msn.com](mailto:Kenny_n_tammy@msn.com)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Contact City Council  
**Date:** Friday, January 24, 2025 4:53:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

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Your Name	Tammy Noeske
Your Email	Kenny_n_tammy@msn.com
Street	4588Beth St NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	“ restored at tax rates between \$0.98 and \$1.10 per \$1,000 of assessed value. ” as retired people living on social security, how the heck are we supposed to pay this?

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 1/24/2025.

**From:** [Talia Turner](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment for the February 10th city council meeting  
**Date:** Sunday, January 26, 2025 8:09:18 AM

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The livability Levy is a great step to save the library but I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that I currently hate living in this city. The fact that city funds have been played with so haphazardly is maddening beyond belief. The city is in debt and has been for decades? Guess we could have gone without the new police station. Guess we should hold up on gentrifying front street. You have a responsibility to the people of this city and you have failed fantastically. The decline of places to go besides school and work is already a measurable problem and getting rid of the library would just expedite Salem's and downfall

**From:** [Valorie Freeman](#)  
**To:** [Linda Nishioka](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** May Ballot / Levy  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 22, 2025 3:35:56 PM

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I wish to extend my appreciation for your decision to advance a plan to ask voters to pass a levy on property taxes in support of Library, Parks and Center 50+ programs. I understand this decision is not easy nor is it one without challenge. I urge Council support for these services and a levy amount sufficient to sustain and restore the Library's hours and staffing.

I believe these services are essential to the livability of the City of Salem, are particularly important to young families, youth and vulnerable residents in our community and will vote to approve such a levy.

Valorie Freeman  
Ward 2