

From: [AJ](#)
To: [Amy Johnson](#)
Cc: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Re: Safe Salem Public Comment Submission
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 8:45:04 AM

Amy Ashcroft

On Mon, Jul 10, 2023, 8:43 AM Amy Johnson <AJohnson@cityofsalem.net> wrote:

Good morning,

If you would like your comments to be included in the record for today's public hearing on this matter, please provide your first and last name.

Sincerely,

Amy Johnson

Deputy City Recorder

City of Salem

555 Liberty Street SE, Rm. 225

Salem, OR 97301

ajohnson@cityofsalem.net | 503-588-6091

From: AJ <ajashcroft3@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 7:32 AM
To: CityRecorder <CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Safe Salem Public Comment Submission

I work for the State Hospital here in Salem. I see daily, how shamefully wasteful our government is with taxpayers' money, my money. I can't imagine that the city is following much different practices than the state. Use the money you already have or create more, don't steal it. I do not live in Salem, have absolutely zero desire to ever live in Salem and

now have one more reason to not work in Salem. I can't believe it's legal to *tax a resident of another* city, to pay for *your* residents' municipalities. Based on my ruff calculation I will be paying the City of Salem 5.00 every time I come to work. Salem needs to support Salem. You allowed the situation to become what it is. You fix it.

Sincerely,

Soon to be former Employee in the City of salem

From: [Angela Flores](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT: Ordinance Bill 12-23 Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:14:57 AM

To the Salem City Council:

Regarding Ordinance Bill 12-23 Employee-paid Payroll Tax, this bill puts undue burden on the people who work within the City of Salem. A .814% tax is not an insignificant amount, especially during a time where inflation is already impacting how far our hard-earned dollars reach. A tax such as this should always be put to the voters first, in an upcoming election. This bill does not appear to address if the percentage taxed can increase over the next seven year term. What guarantee do employees have that this amount will not increase and put further burden on people's monthly budgets? It is also not clear if State employees, who make up a large amount of workers within the City, are exempt from this tax. It would be unfair for some people within the City limits to be exempt but not others.

It feels as though our emergency services are being held hostage to enact this tax. As individuals, we are responsible to manage our personal finances and monthly budgets. Immediate needs must be prioritized first and optional items have to be last. In this same way, the City's responsibility is to the safety of its citizens and emergency services should be a top priority. The City of Salem should review its priorities and put together a budget that does not sacrifice our immediate needs.

Lastly, many people affected by this do not live within the City of Salem. I work in Ward 5, but I live outside the City limits and, therefore, can only let my voice be heard through public comment. As a small business owner, this will hurt employers who are trying to hire quality employees in an already challenging hiring environment. It will drive business out of Salem and into the surrounding areas.

I urge the City Councilors to vote NO on this ordinance. Thank you for your consideration.

Angela Flores
Ward 5
3095 River Road N

From: [Austin Hilfiker](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Proposed Salem Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 12:38:24 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Austin Hilfiker
4676 Commercial St SE
Turner, OR, 97302

Salem City Council
City of Salem

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Salem Payroll Tax

City Council,

I am reaching out to voice my opposition to the proposed employee-paid payroll tax currently under consideration by the Salem City Council. I strongly believe that any significant taxation measure should be subjected to a democratic process. It is disconcerting to learn that this payroll tax could be implemented without voter approval. By bypassing the voters, this tax disregards the fundamental principle of representation and undermines the democratic values upon which our society is built.

While I understand the need for adequate funding to support community safety services, I question whether imposing an additional burden on Salem workers and self-employed independent contractors is the most equitable solution. Considering the current level of inflation, it is crucial to prioritize the economic well-being of Salem residents and ensure that any new taxes are carefully considered to minimize the impact on their livelihoods.

It deeply concerns me that Salem workers are being made to suffer due to the previous years' budget cuts to first responders. It is imperative to find a fair and balanced approach that does not unfairly burden the very individuals who contribute to the economic growth and vitality of our city. What happened to the money that was taken away from them a few years ago? It is essential to ascertain how these budget cuts were managed and whether alternative solutions could have been explored.

I believe there is an opportunity to address the issue of unemployment by connecting job seekers with the numerous businesses in our city that are looking to hire. Instead of burdening workers with an additional tax, we should focus on fostering a supportive environment that promotes job creation and economic growth. By encouraging collaboration between job seekers and local businesses, we can alleviate financial strain and help individuals find meaningful employment opportunities.

I urge the Salem City Council to reconsider the proposed employee-paid payroll tax and engage in a more inclusive decision-making process that allows for public input and democratic

discourse. Please explore alternative sources of revenue, reevaluate the burden placed on Salem workers, and consider the long-term implications of this tax. Let us work together to find solutions that benefit our community without unduly burdening its citizens.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will give due consideration to the concerns raised in this letter and act in the best interest of the residents of Salem.

Sincerely,
Austin Hilfiker

Austin Hilfiker
Northwest Customz
Phone: 503-508-9302



From: [Alvin M. Klausen](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Public Testimony - Salem City Council - 7/10/23
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 8:13:51 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Salem Payroll Tax - Marion County LoO.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Please accept the attached letter regarding the *Safe Salem employee-paid tax on wages earned within the City of Salem* from the Marion County Board of Commissioners for tonight's City Council meeting (7/10/2023).

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Alvin Klausen

Government Relations

Marion County Board of Commissioners

Email: Aklausen@co.marion.or.us

Cell: 503-302-8440



Marion County
OREGON

Board of Commissioners

June 07, 2023

(503) 588-5212
(503) 588-5237-FAX

Salem City Council
555 Liberty St SE #240
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Marion County Opposes Salem Payroll Tax

**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

Colm Willis, Chair
Kevin Cameron
Danielle Bethell

Dear Mayor Hoy and members of the Salem City Council:

The Marion County Board of Commissioners writes in opposition to imposing a payroll tax on employees that work in the City of Salem. An employee-paid payroll tax could have harmful impacts on economic growth in the region and on citizens within the City of Salem.

**CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER**

Jan Fritz

As an employer, Marion County tries to maintain competitive salaries and benefits to counties across the state and country to attract and retain the highest quality employees to serve our citizens. The implementation of an employee-paid payroll tax would impede our ability to be competitive and discourage candidates from applying for or accepting positions within the county. A tax of this nature would also disincentivize new business growth or further business investment in the community, which could lead to economic stagnation in the region.

Additionally, payroll taxes are some of the most regressive taxes and have some of the largest impacts on workers' pay. Payroll taxes generally lead to a raise in prices of purchased goods and would impose a greater burden on citizens in our community. In a time of historic inflationary growth, adding a payroll tax could create undue hardships for families in the City of Salem and across Marion County.

We understand the difficult choices Salem's leadership needs to make but an employee-paid payroll tax is a short-term solution that could bare long term consequences. The Marion County Board of Commissioners urges the Salem City Council to reconsider implementing payroll tax on employees who work in Salem.

Sincerely,

Colm Willis
Chair

Kevin Cameron
Commissioner

Danielle Bethell
Commissioner

BOC: AMK

From: [Amber Padilla](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: "Safe Salem" payroll tax - opposed
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 7:55:47 AM

Good morning,

I'd like to officially register my opposition for the safe sale and payroll tax. The city of Salem has shown over and over that the police services are neither safe nor reliable and pulling more taxes from us to fund them is not acceptable. Were you to have asked for this money to pay solely for a mental health program, an intervention program, a housing program, you would have had a different reaction. However to pay for the city police who have had a history of violence especially in the last year is something that I can never support.

You are asking for taxes at a time where Oregonians already saw their tax bill increase due to Paid Leave Oregon \$50 to \$80 a month, at a time where inflation has drastically increased and wages have not kept up. This tax will put a hardship on your city residents.

Pushing this through city council and not to the city of Salem residents for a vote is absolutely unacceptable. Shame on you City of Salem.

Amber Padilla
West Salem Resident (670 Burley Hill Loop NW)
Employed within Salem City Limits

From: [Angela Plowhead](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#)
Subject: Testimony re: Employee Paid Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 12:41:57 PM

As a small business owner in Salem, I am imploring you to reconsider your employee paid payroll tax. Small business owners and workers have taken multiple hits to revenue and business sustainability over the last several years with the implementation of the CAT tax, Covid restrictions and difficulty with employee retention and hiring. Oregon is one of the most unfriendly states in the nation for business owners and as such many businesses have fled to other parts of the nation. Adding additional taxes to Salem workers is really a tax on businesses, as the business owners will need to raise compensation to adjust for this hit you are proposing on workers.

While a few hundred dollars a year may seem like a small amount to you, this can have huge impacts on the single mother or older adult who is forced to work to provide for living essentials for themselves and their families. With the current difficulty in employment hiring, most employers are required to pay substantially more than minimum wage to secure and retain employees. Therefore, your proposed exemption for minimum wage employees will not sufficiently negate the impact of this tax on the working poor who are already struggling with historically high housing rates and overall general inflation impacting necessary services such as childcare and living essentials such as energy cost, fuel and groceries.

With the rise in inflation affecting all segments of our population, I would ask that you do what all the rest of us have had to do, tighten your belts and find cuts that can be made in overspending and special projects in order to pay for essential services and safety in our community. Please do not pass additional taxes at this time in our nation when every dollar spent by a family can mean the difference between community members remaining housed or feeding their children. Please do the right thing and find novel solutions to budgetary issues, not through more taxes but by making the tough choices to cut programs that we as a community cannot afford to fund.

Angela Plowhead, PsyD
2755 Commercial St SE #101-258
Salem, OR 97302

Phone: [503-896-0297](tel:503-896-0297)
Fax: [1-503-470-1108](tel:1-503-470-1108)
aplowhead@capacitysolutionsllc.com
www.capacitysolutionsllc.com

[Psychology Talks](#)



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From: [Sierra-Barrera Alexandra](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Salem Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 12:57:03 PM

SECURE EMAIL DELIVERY: This email message was securely transmitted from a sender at Oregon ODHSOHA to your email system using Transport Layered Security (TLS).

Hello,

As a state worker who gets taxed 40-50% of what I make, I do not think it is fair to get more taxes added on. People with kids get a tax break and can keep more of their wages.

I work hard and went to school for a long time to be successful and obtain a professional job. I work a job where "tips" are not allowed. People who work other customer service jobs can keep more money. I am responsible for someone's health and more. I want to keep my hard earned money.

I highly decline getting taxed more it is NOT right.

Thanks

Alexandra

From: [annamarie.stephens](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Vote NO on the payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:39:53 PM

Please add this statement to the public record:

To the City Council of Salem, Oregon:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed city payroll tax.

Please, vote NO on the payroll tax!

People living & working in Salem, or just working in Salem, are already facing the highest cost of living ever in the 40+ years I've lived in Oregon.

The people who work in Salem already spend most of their income in this area, with food & housing taking a large bite of their income, plus gas, and this only after federal & state taxes. Please do NOT add to the tax burden of those working in Salem, OR.

Sincerely,
Anna Marie J Stephens
Salem, OR 97306

From: [Deanna Gwyn](#)
To: [Tami Carpenter](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Fw: Vote NO on payroll tax, thank you!
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:58:04 PM

From: annamarie stephens <ampenstep@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:38 PM
To: Deanna Gwyn <DGwyn@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Vote NO on payroll tax, thank you!

To Deanna Gwyn,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed city payroll tax.

Please, vote NO on the payroll tax!

People living & working in Salem, or just working in Salem, are already facing the highest cost of living ever in the 40+ years I've lived in Oregon.

The people who work in Salem already spend most of their income in this area, with food & housing taking a large bite of their income, plus gas, and this only after federal & state taxes. Please do NOT add to the tax burden of those working in Salem, OR.

Sincerely,
Anna Marie J Stephens
Salem, OR 97306

From: [Bryan L. Mansell](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Salem City Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:29:08 PM

Hello,

I am writing to add my voice to the countless others that oppose the city council trying to sneak this tax in on all of the people who live and/or work in Salem. Let there be no confusion here, that is exactly what is trying to be achieved. I have spoken with a number of Salem residents, co-workers, family, and friends who live in the area, and no one was even aware the city was trying to do this. It has been terribly advertised and comes across as a very shady deal the council is trying to pull.

Another reason I strongly oppose this sudden, drastic, last minute attempt to fix the budget, is the fact that it shines a light on the city officials' inability to do their jobs in balancing a budget, which, according to your own information regarding the reasons for doing this, they knew for over 30 years was going to come to a head thanks to good old Measure 5. 3 decades, and a solution couldn't be found, so in the bottom of the 9th you try to secretly dump the shortage on the people of Salem? There are people who do not even live here and commute to work, so why should they pay a city employment tax for a city they don't live in? The answer is they shouldn't. Should the people who live here but work outside of the city get away with not paying a tax even though they use the services? No. This tax will do nothing but drive current employees away, while also making it hard for businesses to hire new staff once they realize their paychecks will be taxed extra than in other cities.

I tried your little game on the website where someone can try to submit their version of balancing the budget, but that is a sham. The problem is not necessarily how the money is being distributed, but more so, how the funding is being used. A prime example would be the fact that Police and Fire are 2 of the highest funded programs in the area, and I would like to know exactly how those funds are being used. Having gone to school at Western Oregon 25 years ago, I can tell you right now, I am not about to pay another dime to Polk County Police if they are still spending the majority of their time harassing and targeting college students over going after real crimes. How about the piles of money that have been invested in homelessness over the last several years, yet the situation just gets worse and worse. Why would I just think throwing more money at it is going to resolve anything? It is the definition of insanity to continue to do what doesn't work repeatedly while expecting a different result.

Finally, considering the new things I see popping up in Salem since I last lived here, I have to question how the city prioritizes it's funding. I see so much frivolous and unnecessary expenditures on new buildings and events, that if the city is truly in a financial crisis, I have to ask why is it spending on these things? Maybe it is time for this city to get back to the practices of cinching the belt, being a little conservative with how it spends money, so there is actually a surplus when times like these come along. In your information packet you simply gloss over the fact that the reserve you had built up is now depleted, with no explanation of where all that money went? Again, the city needs to be more transparent as to not only where the money is going, but exactly how it is being spent as well. Until the city council can come up with a solid justification for why they have been unable to come up with a solution for this known issue in 3 decades, it should not even be a

consideration to put it on the backs of the tax payers.

DO NOT DO THIS TO THE PEOPLE OF SALEM.

Bryan Mansell
Senior A/V Engineer
Salem Hospital

SALEM HEALTH
Hospitals & Clinics
bryan.mansell@salemhealth.org
665 Winter St. SE | Solution Center | Salem, OR 97301

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From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of dancynb@gmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 10:29:56 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Cyndi Bolduc
Your Email	dancynb@gmail.com
Your Phone	503-508-7062
Street	PO Box 546
City	Sublimity
State	OR
Zip	97385
Message	Attn: Salem City Council I am strongly against the proposed Safe City Tax that you are attempting to place upon those who work in Salem. This is taxation without representation. We are already supporting the safety and systems for the towns we live in. We bring commerce to the city, support the state agencies, and should not be burdened with an additional tax because we work in a city besides where we reside. Please vote no on this tax.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/10/2023.

From: [CME](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [Trevor Phillips](#)
Subject: Proposed tax for City of Salem
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 8:15:37 AM

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am writing to voice my concerns for this proposed tax.

First I want to acknowledge that the need behind the tax is very valid and I believe that we do need to find funding to support the needs of the houseless citizens of our city. It is beginning to greatly affect this beautiful city, what used to be beautiful parks and green spaces and what used to be a safe and fun downtown area. I don't know anyone that lives here who does not have a personal story of being accosted, harassed or vandalized by our growing homeless community.

So, yes, funds are needed. However, this is the wrong time to consider taxing the residents who work in this city and are battling rising costs in every direction we look. While the tax might seem like only \$8 for every \$1000 earned - that is removing 2 gallons of milk a week from a family whose head of household brings home \$4000 a month. It is 1 and 1/2 tanks of gas, a week of electricity- 3 days of heat in the winter. Where is this family to replace this? They stop spending that same amount in the city's economy. Personally, I will eat out one time less a month (already reduced to only twice a month). I always support local restaurants. This isn't about me eating out less- it's about reduced spending in the local community which has been our only option for "tightening the belt." If a family has already done that, as many I know have - what's next? Turning down the thermostat this winter? Buying less food for their table?

Instead of asking the taxpayers to tighten our belts and reduce our spending (discretionary OR necessities) please consider tightening the belt of the city's vast budget. Instead of asking us to look and see where we can budget better in order to pay this tax - look and see where the city is misspending, over spending. Tighten the city budget to pay for this.

We are in the middle of a recession - tax payers are already robbing Peter to pay Paul, making the hard choices because our pay isn't increasing while cost of living has skyrocketed over the past 3 years. Don't add to the burden of your citizens, right now, please. Or, put it to a vote instead of trying to implement it without resident consent. If I am wrong and this IS the right time for this - the taxpayers will show that in their vote.

Sincerely,
Charlotte Eugenio

From: [Conrad Herold](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Vote NO on the payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:10:05 AM

Please add this statement to the public record: As a resident and voter of Salem Oregon I ask that the city government stop levying any new taxes that are supposedly going pay for 'solutions' to problems that are not the responsibility of the taxpayer to solve. If you government elected officials can't do your job- please resign the position you were elected to and we the people will find someone that can. Sincerely, CONRAD HEROLD. 370CHURCH ST SE APT9E SALEM OREGON

From: [Deanna Gwyn](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Fw: New City income tax.
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:59:40 PM

From: Conrad Herold <cjherold52@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:20 AM
To: Deanna Gwyn <DGwyn@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: New City income tax.

I know of no one who voted to elect you to raise taxes. If you can't do your job- resign and we the people will elect someone who can. Sincerely, Conrad Herold.

From: [Pope, Craig](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Polk County opposes payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:48:03 PM
Attachments: [Salem payroll tax 7-23.docx](#)

Please submit the attached testimony from Polk County in opposition to the proposed payroll tax.

--



Craig A. Pope
Polk County Commissioner

503-623-8173 office
pope.craig@co.polk.or.us



POLK COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

POLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE * DALLAS, OREGON 97338-3174
(503) 623-8173 * FAX (503) 623-0896

Commissioners
CRAIG A. POPE
JEREMY GORDON
LYLE MORDHORST

GREGORY P. HANSEN
Administrative Officer

July 10, 2023

Salem payroll tax ordinance scheme:

Salem Councilors and Mayor Hoy,

The Polk County Board of Commissioners writes this letter in protest of a taxing scheme that would seem to violate the premise of the State of Oregon Constitution and the Constitution of the United States of America to preserve taxing decisions to the electorate of an area or jurisdiction to which the taxes would be applied.

We believe that it is the right of the people being taxed to have a voice and representation in the process of those taxing decisions. This payroll tax plan not only denies the right to have a voice through the ballot box but substantially impacts people that are not residents of Salem and have no rights under representation by Salem government.

The very concept that any local government can “trap” workers that have to commute to jobs inside the city boundaries with a tax that is taken from their paycheck without represented consent is an abomination of good government and will garner deeper distrust of **all** local governments.

Additionally, it seems that this “plan” is certainly not ready for any serious public review as it has so many un-answered questions. For example, the potential for unchecked increases by the Council over time is unfair to all employees that will be charged with this as it is likely that they will not have an avenue to be made aware of increases and little chance to challenge.

Polk County government prefers an open and transparent form of implementing new tax needs that allow a community dialogue and an eventual vote by the electorate that may be impacted. We would have a strong disagreement with a concept that would tax people that did not have a voice (vote) as well and would not be able to support this concept even with a vote of taxpayers in Salem as has been suggested by others.

Every employer in our state struggles to draw, and afford their needed workforce and would appreciate less government impact on their efforts to recruit and retain those employees. This tax scheme does nothing to aid in that effort.

For the citizens of Polk County that will be impacted by this tax plan, we implore you to reconsider this faulty taxing scheme and any other that fails to consider the sanctity of transparent government and the relationship of trust to those that govern.

Commissioner Jeremy Gordon, Board Chair

Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst

Commissioner Craig Pope

Cindy Tobiasson
4676 Commercial St. SE #335
Salem, OR 97302

Salem City Council
City of Salem

Opposition to Proposed Employee-paid Payroll Tax

Dear City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed new tax that is currently under consideration by the City of Salem. I am self-employed, as well as an employer and employee (yes, I have 3 jobs).

It is important to acknowledge that employees (and employers) in our city already shoulder a large tax burden; not to mention the additional new tax implemented this year (Oregon Family Leave tax). This proposed additional tax, coupled with the current inflation and the rising cost of living, places an overwhelming financial strain on both employees and self-employed individuals. Introducing yet another tax at a rate of 0.814%, would only exacerbate this already challenging situation.

Instead of imposing additional taxes on hardworking individuals, I would urge the City of Salem to review its priorities. It is disheartening to see funds being allocated towards supporting drug addicts while the burden of community safety falls upon the shoulders of those who are diligently contributing to the economy. And the irony is that many of those employees have to be drug tested in order to keep their job! While I understand the importance of providing assistance to those in need, it should not be solely at the expense of the working population.

As you know, the private sector is currently struggling to find people that want to work and that will show up every day. Many individuals are barely making ends meet, and the proposed tax would only discourage them further. As a result, I believe many will find it more financially viable to quit working and rely on public assistance, as the income received would be comparable. This creates a counterproductive cycle where we inadvertently discourage people from working and reward those who choose not to contribute to the tax pool. **It is crucial that we incentivize and reward individuals who actively participate in the workforce, rather than burdening them with excessive taxes to subsidize those who make different choices.**

I ask the City of Salem to reconsider the proposed tax and explore alternative means to address funding requirements. It is imperative that we find a balanced approach that supports the needs of the community without disproportionately burdening the working population.

MANY of my colleagues have the same concerns that I do, but they are busy 'working' and do not have the time to write letters or attend hearings! I trust that you will carefully consider the comments expressed by concerned employees like myself.

Sincerely,

Cindy Tobiasson

From: [Darci Adams](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Payroll tax hearing
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 6:08:35 AM

I oppose the new payroll tax.

Darci Adams

--

Darci Adams PTA,LMT, ASTYM Certified Personal Trainer
For Your Health Massage LLC
3589 Farview Industrial Drive S.
Salem Oregon 97317
(503)910-9146
www.massageofsalem.com

From: [Deanna Gwyn](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Fw: Vote NO- Payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:00:22 PM

From: Darren Allen <darrenallen97306@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:00 AM

Subject: Vote NO- Payroll tax

Vote NO- Payroll tax

I strongly urge you as a council member to vote NO on Salem's proposed tax on worker paychecks!

As a Salem native for over 35 years, this is one of the most absurd proposals brought forward. Yet, I have to remind myself it is the government at its finest.

- Let's pause and recall that the city just increased utility bills effective July 1st a whopping 62% where a single family home that once paid \$8.93 will now be \$14.43 according to the Statesman Journal. While the dollar amount may seem immaterial, the percentage increase is astonishing!

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/local/2023/06/14/salem-oregon-raising-utility-fees-utility-bill-operations-fee-increase/70322052007/>

Clearly elected officials are out of touch of the current high cost of living due to record inflation, high rent, soaring food prices for the median worker. And now to penalize workers even more with one more tax?!

- As we have already witnessed the Covid-19 era drawn-out labor shortage, another tax out of my paycheck is not only un motivating and penalizing as a worker, but only adds to the onslaught of other taxes taken out of my hard earned pay to include Pay Leave Oregon, ORWBF, Oregon Statewide Transit Tax, on top of the traditional social security, medicare, federal, and state tax among such other things as property or gas.

While some may think a tax is the solution to get the city out of mismanagement and an unbalanced budget, let me remind you that our neighboring city of Portland in 2020 became the highest personal income tax in the United States. According to the Cascade Policy Institute, despite thoughts that higher taxes would lead to a better society, the facts speak for themselves.

- "Do we have great schools? No. We have the fifth worst graduation rate in the country."
- "Do we have flourishing businesses? No. Over the past few years it seems more businesses are leaving than arriving."
- "A lot of our taxes go to the Oregon Health Plan. Do we have great health care? According to U.S. News and World Report, our state ranks near the bottom in adult and child wellness visits as well as child dental visits."

<https://cascadepolicy.org/tax-and-budget/portland-has-highest-income-taxes-in-the-u-s-are-we-getting-our-moneys-worth/>

Will the City of Salem fill the gap for community safety, unsheltered services, and other promises? If past history is any reflection, the answer is a clear no. Taxes are not a quick fix, otherwise we would already be living in utopia!

To make ends meet, get away from a lack of bipartisan city governance, misspending, and poor public policy, would I move from the city I am so vested in? Without a doubt, yes, if this slippery slope continues.

It is clear a tax decided upon a select few elected officials is not the right manner and only a slap in the face, disguised as short-term band aid.

I'll be right behind you waiting in longer check out or ordering lines, as this would only be another set back and demotivator to want to work.

Yours truly- an exhausted tax payer,

-Darren

From: [Deborah Butler](#)
Subject: NO on the Wage Tax - Ordinance 12-23
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:42:43 PM

Dear Salem City Councilor:

Please vote no on Ordinance 12-23 Wage Tax.

People are worn out from all the changes and sadness of the past few years.

Another tax at this time is very unwise.

I have not talked to anyone in favor of this.
They cannot afford another tax.

.
Vote to help the working people. Vote to help families.
Vote NO!

Thank you,

Deborah Butler, Silverton

From: [Daryl Knox](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Proposed Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:33:52 AM

Mayor Hoy & City Council,

I am unable to attend the City Council Meeting this evening, but I would like to provide written comment for the public record on Salem's proposed payroll tax.

My name is Daryl Knox. I am a Certified Public Accountant and I have been serving the Salem community for over 25 years. I am a partner in a firm that was founded in Salem, and we now employ over 400 people on the West Coast and serve clients both domestically and internationally. We serve many businesses and individuals in the Portland/Metro area, so I've seen first-hand the impact of taxes enacted by the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Metro, Tri-Met, etc. Adding a new payroll tax to Salem workers/residents will come at quite a cost, and I think it is important that we clearly understand those costs.

Cost to Workers – We are in the middle of an economic period when wages are not keeping pace with real inflation. Personal savings rates continue to decline while consumer debt rates are increasing in the United States. Workers cannot afford a pay cut, but the proposed tax will cost most workers close to 1% of their take-home pay. To fairly enact the tax and capture all earned income for self-employed individuals, it is likely that every qualifying individual will be required to annually file a new Salem tax return. In addition to the cost of the tax, each person will bear the additional cost of compliance – either their own time or fees paid for professional preparation of their Salem tax return. The cost to workers will be greater than the tax.

Cost to Employers – Every employer in Salem will likely be tasked with withholding the new Salem payroll tax and filing reports monthly, quarterly and annually. There is a cost to the additional time spent on compliance. Additionally, Salem area employers will face more difficulty recruiting much needed employees and may incur costs to move out of Salem to retain their workers.

Cost to Consumers – Since workers will be unable to afford the reduction in their pay caused by the tax, employers may need to increase wages to subsidize the tax. However, those same employers may need to raise their prices to consumers to cover the additional cost of wages. Local consumers may bear a cost of the tax. If the employer is engaged in the traded sector and competes against businesses not subject to the Salem tax, the employer will be unable to pass along the additional costs to the consumers and forced to operate at a competitive disadvantage.

Cost to City of Salem – A new tax filing will result in considerable cost to the City of Salem to process quarterly and annual tax filings, process payments, pursue collections on delinquent accounts, and audit enforcement. The IT and security risks of maintaining account history for all taxpayers in Salem will require a significant investment. Administration of this tax program will require a much bigger bureaucracy and reduce the net benefit to the City's budget.

Cost to Local Economy – In the short-term, there will be an immediate cost for a drag on productivity for the time and costs spent on unnecessary compliance. In the long-term, there will be a significant cost to the local economy because people and businesses will move out of the taxable area to avoid the tax. It will also create obstacles for businesses and individuals who will be willing to move into the Salem area subject to the new tax.

The economy of the City of Portland and greater Metro area is suffering, in part, because of their tax policies. The City of Vancouver has been the beneficiary of Portland's missteps. According to CBRE, Portland's commercial vacancy rate is currently 26.8% compared to 5.5% just across the river in Vancouver. In my personal experience, I've seen a significant number of businesses and individuals implement strategies to avoid paying the taxes in the Portland Metro area or move out of the area all-together. Salem area businesses have already begun the same discussions upon hearing that City of Salem is planning to implement a payroll tax. One of Salem's advantages for recruiting and retaining businesses is that we are not Portland. Is it wise to implement similar tax policies and not expect similar results?

Perhaps you believe the negative impact to the private sector will not exceed the benefit of collecting taxes from captive public employees based in Salem? Given the significant cost to our community from implementing this tax, the people impacted by this tax should be allowed to decide if they are willing to bear that cost. Some people might think I would support this tax because of the new tax work it would generate for my business, but I see the negative impact of these programs on businesses and workers in other jurisdictions. I personally believe the cost to our community will be greater than the benefit. However, a majority of voters in Salem may disagree, so the prudent course would be to put this to a vote of the people.

Thank you for your consideration,

Daryl Knox, CPA, CCIFP®

Partner

Aldrich CPAs + Advisors LLP

680 Hawthorne Avenue SE, #140, Salem, Oregon 97301

P: (503) 485.2430 • C: (503) 559.9802

[Web](#) • [LinkedIn](#) • [Twitter](#)

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From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Romanodeb42@yahoo.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:34:33 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Deb Romano
Your Email	Romanodeb42@yahoo.com
Your Phone	7195537400
Message	I am against the payroll tax for those who work in Salem. Taxes are absolutely out of control and I'm sure that you can come up with other options. I would like to suggest a cut in monies going to the homeless population.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/10/2023.

From: [Dari](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Vote NO on the payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:12:01 PM

Please add this statement to the public record:

I strongly oppose this payroll tax and urge all city counselors to vote NO on this proposal! This will only hurt all in this city by taking more \$ out of our pockets in an already high inflation economy.

Dari Shaffer

From: [Chris Hoy](#)
To: [Amy Johnson](#)
Subject: FW: Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 10:21:56 AM

From: David Snook <dave@snooks-saw.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 7:59 AM
To: Chris Hoy <CHoy@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Payroll Tax

Dear Salem City Mayor, Chris Hoy,

I am a citizen of Salem. I have lived in the Salem City area for 46 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.

With all due respect, 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 every year, out of the pockets of individuals who work in Salem! With costs just to live are rising for everyone and families are struggling to just make ends meet, this is not the time or the way to fund city operations, services or proposed initiatives. Please vote no on this tax -- 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 new annual tax. It will have lasting negative effects on all Salem workers!
- 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! This tax will actually hurt, not help, Salem's businesses, low-skilled employees 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, struggling families and businesses of Salem. PLEASE VOTE NO ON THE PAYROLL

TAX PROPOSAL! Please think about the lasting and harmful effects of this tax and vote "NO"!

We are depending on you and will remember which City Council members support the children, families, employees and business owners of Salem at election time -- Please vote NO on this proposed

Sincerely,

David P Snook

dave@snooks-saw.com

Salem, Oregon

503-910-3169

From: [Deanna Gwyn](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Fw: Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:00:44 PM

From: David Snook <dave@snooks-saw.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 7:45 AM
To: Deanna Gwyn <DGwyn@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Payroll Tax

Dear Salem City Council Member, Trevor Phillips,
For Public record.

I am a citizen of Salem. I have lived in the Salem City area for 46 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.

With all due respect, 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 every year, out of the pockets of individuals who work in Salem! With costs just to live are rising for everyone and families are struggling to just make ends meet, this is not the time or the way to fund city operations, services or proposed initiatives. Please vote no on this tax -- 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 new annual tax. It will have lasting negative effects on all Salem workers!
- 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! This tax will actually hurt, not help, Salem's businesses, low-skilled employees 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, struggling families and businesses of Salem. PLEASE VOTE NO ON THE PAYROLL TAX PROPOSAL! Please think about the lasting and harmful effects of this tax and vote "NO"!

We are depending on you and will remember which City Council members support the children, families, employees and business owners of Salem at election time -- Please vote NO on this proposed

Sincerely,

David P Snook

dave@snooks-saw.com

Salem, Oregon

50-910-3169

From: [Don Taylor](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Safe Salem Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 8:15:58 AM

Good morning. My name is Don Taylor and I am NOT a resident of Salem. My wife and I live in Turner. However, I would like to express my strong opposition to the proposed Safe Salem payroll tax. My wife works for the State of Oregon and her office is located in Salem. However, she works from home and is not required and does not go to her "office." However, my understanding of this proposed tax is that because she simply "works" in Salem, her wages would be subject to this new tax. When Covid hit, many businesses, both public and private, learned that employees didn't necessarily need to work from an office and more and more folks began working from home. For someone to be penalized and taxed simply because the company they work for is located in Salem, yet they never even enter your city, seems a bit unfair and frankly, it is absurd. We are not a resident of your city therefore we do not and should not be required to contribute to your city's issues and problems. Your residents are responsible for this burden, not folks who live in a different city or even a different state. We are opposed to this tax.

Don Taylor
4826 Bethel Loop SE
Turner, OR 97392
503-991-1548

From: [Michele T](#)
To: [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); tphilips@cityofsalem.net; [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Chris Hoy](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Citizen comment from a city councilor RE Salem Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:09:07 PM

Hello Mayor Hoy and Salem City Councilors,

I am on the Detroit City Council, but am commenting as a citizen and not for my city.

I am **in opposition** to the proposed Salem Payroll Tax. Please vote no to taxing Salem workers. My husband works in Salem, but we live in Detroit. Taxing us to pay for a city that we do not live in is wrong. You do not represent us and therefore should not vote to tax us. My husband and I did not vote you in and therefore cannot vote you out either. And, we have zero power with our recall signature because we are not Salem citizens.

Further, my city has financial issues as well and we are working hard at dealing with those and realize it is practically impossible; we are leaning hard on volunteers because we cannot even afford to have a playground at our one city park.

Our family (my husband, me and our 4 children) is in the middle of rebuilding our house, post wildfire, and the employer tax is going to hurt us especially since our property tax is going to increase to a level we have never seen. Our food, clothing, fuel, property tax costs could cause us to have to sell and live in our RV (that we still live in due to high rebuilding costs).

We are a one-income family of six. Your vote matters to us financially and we by definition right now are homeless and have been since the September 2020 wildfire.

Please vote no to taxing Salem employee's that work out of the city.

Sincerely,
Don & Michele Tesdal
100 Tumble St.
Detroit, OR 97342

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

From: [Eli T Brody](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Pay Roll Tax Would Be A Plus
Date: Sunday, July 9, 2023 11:28:15 PM

Greetings - I'm in favor of the Salem City Council voting to approve the proposed payroll tax. This would help Salem maintain & advance plans to serve its unhoused population as well as every other resident here.

As a NE Salem resident with a home near the intersection/overpass of Market Street & Interstate 5 I have worked on many volunteer street cleaning crews & have been very pleased this year to observe the dramatic reduction of displaced individuals & tattered encampments along this area's streets.

A few years ago - volunteers I worked with were encountering people reduced to living in the weeds along sidewalks as well as black patches of burned grass & shubbery in front of large buldings between I 5 & Hawthorne NE.

Impossibly large heaps of trash that wouldn't go away - desperate camp sights along trails trampled through private property & wooded lots - vandalized buildings & communication terminals - piles of broken glass in the streets & on sidewalks - ripped open chainlink fences & torn apart landscapes reeking with human excrement were what greeted volunteers trying to make a dent in the mess that covered this area in the all too recent past.

But - over the last 18 months - to my eyes at least - a turning point's been reached & I have a new sense of hope & belief that Salem can still be revitalized.

It's a remarkable achievement & its impact on the city's budget proves that the price of saving a community from the edge of despair is painfully high.

And also - yes - it's not perfect but can we afford to let things go back to what they were ?

What a horrible waste of community resources it would be to let this dearly won but imperfect solution sink back into an abyss of squalor & become our city's legacy.

Who would want to take responsibility for that ?

A great many people come to Salem everyday to work. They come from locations isolated from Salem's problems & they leave everyday without contributing very much to help Salem provide the public services they enjoy while earning a living wage they could never earn if they had to work close to home. This community would never deny them a safe & healthy environment to work in & they should be giving something back to this community in the form of revenue to help it serve them as well as everyone else here.

By standing to approve the proposed payroll tax & ensure the funds Salem needs to maintain traction & move foward - City Councilors will be taking a bold stance that demonstrates strong leadership & vision worthy of respect now & gratitude in the future.

Respectfully -

Eli T Brody
1545 23rd NE
Salem OR 97301

From: [E Easterly](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Payroll Tax - Revised version
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 8:58:05 AM

Please replace earlier version. eme

----- Original Message -----

From: E Easterly <emeasterly@comcast.net>
To: "CITYRECORDER@CITYOFSALEM.NET"
<CITYRECORDER@CITYOFSALEM.NET>
Date: 07/09/2023 11:47 AM PDT
Subject: Payroll Tax

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

E.M. Easterly
Ward 8

From: [erica euen](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Ordinance Bill 12-23 - OPPOSED
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:38:53 PM

Dear Salem City Council Members,

I am writing to provide public comment on the proposed action of Council to approve Ordinance Bill 12-23 - Employee Paid Payroll Tax. I vehemently oppose this proposal and expect Council to hear the will of the people and vote no. I have read through all of the written comments made public thus far and it is blatantly obvious the vast majority are opposed to passing this new tax at all - not to mention without a proper democratic process. Enacting this bill without putting it on the ballot would set a very problematic precedent. I agree with many of the comments already submitted in that before new taxes are implemented, the City needs to audit its current spending to ensure taxpayers are not paying more because of poor budget management.

In addition, the proposed tax has way too many problematic aspects and before going on the ballot needs to be completely rethought. Many of those have already been addressed in other comments of opposition, but a few I would like to highlight include:

- Not everyone who works in Salem lives in Salem, therefore have absolutely no say in this which seems unconstitutional at best. They didn't vote for you, they didn't vote on current budgets, they wouldn't be able to vote on it even if it does go on the ballot.
- Minimum wage workers definitely should be exempt, however, \$15, \$16, \$17+ dollars an hour is not that much more than minimum wage and they would pay the same percentage as someone making \$500K annually. That is not equitable.
- In the current economy, more than half of all households are already living paycheck to paycheck (even "high earning" families) - adding to their tax burden without doing everything in your power to work within your budget already funded by those taxpayers is unethical.
- A higher percentage of those living in Salem than ever before now work from home permanently, that means they aren't using the City's infrastructure as often, why make them pay more for services they are using less.
- The Police Department would receive over half of the revenue which is not ok. Even if the City really did need additional revenue, it should be for things that the community actually needs and supports. It is proven that investments in education, human

services, community programs, and infrastructure cut down on the need for policing.
We should be using taxpayer money proactively, not reactively.

I hope Council does the right thing by their constituents and votes **not** to approve this bill.

Sincerely,

Erica Euen

From: [Eric Weekly](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Re: Purposed tax comments.
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:01:37 AM

My name is Eric weekly

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Sunday, July 9, 2023, 7:21 PM, Eric Weekly <ericweekly@yahoo.com> wrote:

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: [Jeff Ficker](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Vote NO on the payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:52:54 PM

Please add this statement to the public record: As someone that not only lives and works in the city of Salem, I also work in and around persons that are mentally unstable and often are homeless. I understand the issues that we face, but I also understand that it should not be up to the people of Salem to pay for them.

When the mentally ill or those that have been incarcerated are released it often is within the city limits of Salem or in Marion county. That doesn't mean we should pay for it. The state is responsible for both of these situations and should therefore give funding to the city to house, provide medical care and other services. After all, they are the ones that left them go in our community!

There should not be a tax on those of us that work or live in this city to take care of them just because this is our home. It's a state issue and money is already being taken from my taxes to address this issue. If more funds are needed, then go to the legislature and get those funds, or change the process of where these people are released. We as citizens of Salem should not be responsible for a STATE problem. When these folks are in either the mental facility or the prison system, there is funding provided through Medicare and Medicaid, also with state funding. Where is that money when they are released? It's still paid for from our tax dollars, which have already been collected, we should not be taxed again.

I, along with thousands of others in this city are already feeling the pain of trying to keep the bills paid with inflation being what it is and wages not keeping up. I don't believe another tax on me is right, nor do I believe that it will make any difference.

This state spends millions on the issue already and it hasn't changed anything. The problem has only gotten worse. NO TO ANY NEW TAXES! We have had enough!

Jeffrey Ficker
Salem Resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Frank Sproul](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Vote NO on the payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:01:18 AM

Please add this statement to the public record:
Please, reduce costs, hold union contracts to less than inflation (a Democrat caused problem)
and DON'T institute any new (i.e. Payroll TAX).

Frank and Lauren Sproul

From: [Ivo Trummer](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: SAIF comments on the proposed Safe Salem employee paid tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:39:59 AM

Mayor Hoy and City Councilors,

On behalf of SAIF, I would like to respectfully offer up comments regarding the proposed Salem payroll tax.

For background, SAIF is Oregon's not-for-profit, state-chartered workers' compensation company. We make workers' compensation insurance affordable and available to the employers of Oregon. And we strengthen the Oregon economy by helping to keep workers' compensation insurance costs low while keeping the workplace safe. Since 1914, we've been taking care of injured workers, helping people get back to work, and keeping rates low by focusing on workplace safety. Together with our partners, we strive to make Oregon the safest and healthiest place to work.

SAIF employs over 1,000 employees. Our main office is in Salem, but we have employees and additional regional offices throughout Oregon in Bend, Eugene, Medford, North Bend and Lake Oswego. During the pandemic, most of our employees worked remotely, and many continue to do so to-date.

While we recognize the need for adequately funded emergency and housing services in the City of Salem, we have strong concerns as to the practicality of the proposed Salem payroll tax as it relates to implementation challenges, equity concerns, and recruitment and retention of our employees.

As stated above, many of our employees live and work outside the Salem region, serving Oregon workers statewide. For the purposes of the proposed Salem payroll tax, it is unclear how we could differentiate between SAIF employees who live and work in other regions of the state versus employees who live and telecommute from other regions of the state versus employees who live and work in Salem. Depending on how this question is ultimately answered by you, the proposed payroll tax could potentially lead to a situation where SAIF would have to withhold a payroll tax for any and all employees regardless of where they live and work —thus creating a disadvantage for SAIF when it comes to recruitment and retention of employees in other regions of the state. It could alternatively lead to a situation where many employees would want to be assigned to offices outside of Salem in order to potentially avoid having to pay the proposed payroll tax.

Any of these scenarios would impact our workforce dynamics and potentially impact SAIF's ability to attract and retain an Oregon workforce that best furthers our goal to make Oregon the safest and healthiest state to work.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our comments to you. We appreciate your consideration of our concerns.

Respectfully,

Ivo Trummer
Government Affairs Manager
SAIF

Ivo Trummer

SAIF Government Relations Manager
400 High St SE, Salem, OR 97312

Confidentiality Notice: This email may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the addressee or it appears from the context or otherwise that you have received this email in error, please advise us immediately at itservicedesk@saif.com, keep the contents confidential, and immediately delete the message and any attachments from your system.

From: [Jeff Corner](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Proposed Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:45:34 AM

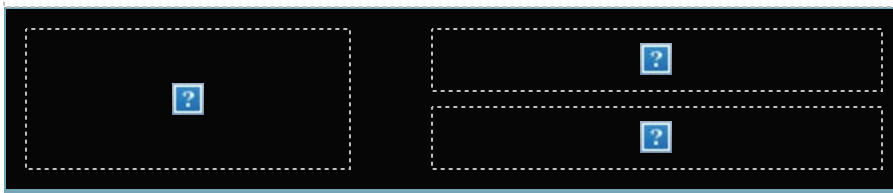
I am writing to convey my objections, in the strongest possible terms, to the Salem City Council's consideration of a new employee-paid payroll tax assessment. In my 30 plus years of owning and operating 3 different private businesses in Salem, I am confident in saying that this is the most ill-conceived, ill-timed, uninformed, anti-local economy, anti-family, tone-deaf initiatives that I have ever seen rise out of the Council Chambers. And, believe me, I have been witness to some stupendously bad public policy decisions over the years! The fact that this proposal is even being considered at all speaks to a shocking level of disconnection to the real world realities faced by families and businesses in the current economy. Simply put, it is a mean-spirited slap in the face to the already stressed and struggling organizations and working people of Salem.

I strongly urge the Council to immediately halt any further discussion and deliberation of this payroll tax proposal and instead focus your energies on how to best serve the citizens of Salem utilizing the considerable resources that you have already been entrusted with.

--

Jeff Corner MBA, PRINCIPAL BROKER

☐ 503.584.1838 ☐ 503.910.0650
☐ Jeff@CohoCommercial.com ☐ www.CohoCommercial.com
☐ **Waterplace** 500 Liberty St SE, Suite 410 • Salem, OR 97301



Jeff Corner is a licensed Principal Broker in the State of Oregon with Coho Commercial. If you are contacting him for the first time and/or have never worked with a licensed RE broker, please read the [initial agency disclosures pamphlet located here](#).

From: [Deanna Gwyn](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Fw: Proposed tax on worker paychecks - please oppose
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:59:50 PM

From: Jim and Amy Green <angjeg@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:05 AM
To: Deanna Gwyn <DGwyn@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Proposed tax on worker paychecks - please oppose

Counciler Gwyn -

I am writing to you to oppose the proposed tax on worker paychecks that the City Council will be considering tonight. If you cannot oppose it, at a minimum refer it to the voters of Salem and let them decide as was the plan in 2020 when this was first considered.

I am not opposed to providing necessary services within Salem, but there must be other ways to address these issues within the existing budget.

I am the executive director for a statewide organization that is headquartered in Salem. Many of my 45+ staff do not live in Salem and are primarily working from home. I am trying to slowly bring back my employees to the Salem office environment for a variety of reasons. However, if you simply implement this tax without a vote of Salem residents, I am almost assured that my staff will not come back to the office, which cause other financial losses to the City (meals and other purchases).

Additionally, this will be an internal accounting nightmare for my staff to calculate how many hours a person actually worked within the city vs. working from their home that may be outside the city.

Please do not support the tax, or please refer to the voters.

Thank you.

Jim Green
(503) 881-0282

From: jimmy.hackl@gmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Public comment payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 8:25:06 AM

As a teacher working in Salem I am against the payroll tax. Please reject the proposal.

Jim Hackl

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Jkjamieson1@comcast.net
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:50:06 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	JayJamieson
Your Email	Jkjamieson1@comcast.net
Your Phone	503-580-6707
Street	1097 Pawnee Circle SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	No more taxes! How much is our city and our private assistance organizations spending on the homeless? Is our current plan cost effective? Our utility bill is too high .. \$200 / month and then \$300 during the summer irrigation season. I urge no on income tax. JayJamieson

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/10/2023.

From: [Jim Mills](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: "Safe Salem" payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:06:23 PM

I wish to record my dissatisfaction with the attempt of the City of Salem to sneak a tax pass the voters and especially those who do not live in the city limits of Salem. Hard working employees should not be punished while others utilize free services to their own detriment. If the city wishes to resolve these issues, which are a problem with their own spending, they should look to cut back on wasteful and meaningless spending before attacking hard working citizens. If anything, this should be limited to those who live in the city limits and actually vote to have this done. This is another example of a corrupt city government losing the trust of the people. Sad.

Jim Mills
Marion County Resident.

From: [Joel Pawloski](#)
To: [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [CityRecorder](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Micki Varney](#)
Subject: Salem Payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:02:53 PM

Salem City Councilors,

Please enter this into the record.

I am the Chair of the Marion County Republican Party. I represent over 62,000 Marion County voters, many of whom live and work in Salem.

The proposed payroll tax being considered by the Salem City Council will be another burden imposed on the taxpayers of Salem. The estimated average of \$506 per person is more than many small businesses and families can afford in this time of high inflation. Oregon is already suffering under recession; this additional tax will make it harder for the working-class families of Salem to meet their own needs.

We are all having to manage our money wisely at this time. The city of Salem should be no different.

I urge you to vote no on this Tax.

Thank you,

Joel Pawloski LTC(R)

Chair

Marion County Republican Party

Marioncountygop.org

From: [Info](#)
To: [Amy Johnson](#)
Subject: FW: City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:21:01 PM

Hello Amy,
Please see the email below regarding the Council meeting tonight.

Thank you,
Bethany

Bethany Nazario, Customer Service Center Supervisor | 503-763-3494

From: Dawn Persels <dawnpersels@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:16 PM
To: Info <info@cityofsalem.net>
Subject:

Hello -

I am submitting our rejection of the proposed funding from those that work in the city of Salem, and I am deeply offended the City Council and Mayor Hoy would consider this increase in revenue through the hard working people of this city. The reasons for our objections are many, and I would be happy to expand of those in another communication if that is helpful, but for now it is more important that our objection is registered.

Thank you for this avenue of input -

Jeff and Dawn Persels
Salem residents
Salem worker

From: [John Sipple](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Vote NO on the payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 12:05:47 PM

Please add this statement to the public record:

We find it difficult to understand how we have a budget shortfall to begin with, but in the end as we all have to do from time to time with our own budgets we need to cut expenses rather than going to the proverbial “money tree “. This should be presented to the voters of our community and not passed without their approval.

Thank you,

John and Kristine Sipple

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Deanna Gwyn](#)
To: [Tami Carpenter](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Fw: Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:58:36 PM

From: John Sipple <sipple11@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 12:12 PM
To: Deanna Gwyn <DGwyn@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Payroll Tax

Hi Deanna,

We are writing to you to express our opposition to the new payroll tax.

We find it difficult to understand how we have a budget shortfall to begin with, but in the end as we all have to do from time to time with our own budgets we need to cut expenses rather than going to the proverbial “money tree “. This should be presented to the voters of our community and not passed without their approval.

Thank you,

John and Kristine Sipple

Sent from my iPhone

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of jon@thePTproject.net
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 12:58:09 PM
Attachments: [Ordinance 12-23.pdf](#)

Your Name	Jon Moore
Your Email	jon@thePTproject.net
Your Phone	559-281-5384
Street	5355 Norma Ave SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	VOTE NO on 12-23

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/10/2023.



July 10, 2023

Mayor Hoy and City Counselors
City of Salem

Dear Mayor Hoy and Members of the Salem City Council,

I am writing you regarding Ordinance Bill No. 12-23, the "Safe Salem" employee tax. I am strongly urging you all to VOTE NO on this bill.

As a resident of Salem for 30+ years, growing up and attending high school and college here, I have watched firsthand the changes that our City has gone through during this time. I have progressed from a minimum-wage earner to now owning my own physical therapy practice. I have experienced poverty and now am responsible for the well-being of my employees.

This tax will be detrimental to Salem!

First off, this bill takes the money out of the hands of hard working people of our City. This is money they use to provide basic necessities for their families, including groceries and clothing. Furthermore, this reduces the disposable income they have to shop at local restaurants and businesses, reduces their ability to financially support local charities and non-profits, and it comes at a time when many are dealing with extremely high housing prices, inflation that is at record levels, and for many, a time where they are still trying to climb out from under the economic burdens created by COVID-19.

This also hurts business here in Salem. Business' will have a harder time attracting and retaining employees. In a field that already struggles to attract talent to the Salem area, this would be a huge nail in the coffin. We will be forced to pay even higher wages to make up the difference in our employees salaries or potentially lay-off employees to ensure our business stays viable. That impacts how our business's are then able to provide financially to non-profit organizations like Family Building Blocks, Salem Free Clinics, Church in the Park, and so many other organizations that provide valuable resources for those in our community hurting the most. Quite frankly, strong business is the foundation of a strong community, and this works to tear that apart.

Please, VOTE NO on Ordinance Bill No. 12-23!

Sincerely yours,



Jon Moore

5355 Norma Ave SE

Salem, OR 97306

From: [Lillian Elaine](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 12:26:56 PM

I have lived and worked in Salem my entire adult life, and I believe that it is entirely unfair to levy this new payroll tax against workers without allowing voters to decide if they agree with the tax.

Furthermore, it is incredibly unfair to levy this tax against individuals who do not live in Salem and will not benefit from the services it is intended to fund.

0.814% is an exorbitant tax amount. Instituting a tax and determining the tax rate based on the budget needs of the state, and not the needs of the taxpayer, is a slippery slope. We deserve a voice in how much of our money you're taking, since you're only taking it to cover your budget-balancing incompetency to begin with.

In conclusion: Let Salemites vote. After all, if everybody wants to fund these services so bad, shouldn't it be a resounding yes? What is the city so scared of, letting us vote? Perhaps it's the fact that we don't 10.5 million more dollars going to fund departments that are repeatedly proven incapable of ethically and efficiently carrying out their duties.

From: [Liz Schaecher](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Proposed Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:26:23 PM

Hello,

I am writing in opposition to the new payroll tax that the City of Salem is proposing. I work for an organization that is based within the city limits, however, not a single person employed for this organization lives within the city limits. We all pay our own city and county taxes, and it is not our responsibility to pay for additional services to attempt to fix issues that have been created by the lack of leadership in Salem over the past 20 years. I strongly encourage you to not pass this additional tax.

Liz Schaecher

From: [Martha Cracolice](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:08:32 PM

I oppose this tax
Martha Cracolice

From: [Mark Fisher](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: New payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 12:47:55 PM

As a single father I oppose this tax for many reasons, it's already difficult enough for someone who works and supports his family, let alone have money taken from me and my family and handed to people who have no desire to work for it. This should be put to a vote to the people so they can be represented.

From: [Hale, Matthew](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: 7/10/23 City Council Comments for Public Record
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 7:53:14 AM

Public Record Comments for City Council Meeting on 7/10/2023

Ask the Voters – Don't Take from the Voters

Good evening – I'm Matt Hale from Ward #4, and tonight I stand before you as an extremely concerned citizen.

I have watched this council and City staff for 3 work sessions, and several council & budget meetings this year and I'm so concerned that you are so anxious to make any decision, even a very bad and flawed one, as long as it doesn't involve communicating with the City's voters. Have you fully analyzed that your decision to enact a payroll tax will take over \$506 a year from someone making the Salem average hourly wage, and \$254 a year from someone making just \$15 an hour! I heard many of you state on May 15th that communicating and engaging with voters and asking for their approval is "grueling", a "big lift", and there is "not enough time to educate voters and gain their trust." Might I remind you that is part of your job description as a city councilor.

I understand our City respects the fine research DHM Research has performed for many years, yet I'm so perplexed that you are ignoring their recent Focus Group results. John Horvick, their Senior VP stated in his presentation that 9 out of 10 voters would want to be able to vote on a tax increase of this magnitude. In addition, his presentation stated under Final Advice to "Emphasize transparency; inform and engage with Salem residents to help fill gaps in knowledge about how services are funded, and where exactly funds come from." Were you listening to DHM's advice and results? 72% of the Focus Group participants, on the subject of a payroll tax, "do not think it is a good way to fund services, as it could exacerbate the impacts of inflation and put lower-wage earners in a more vulnerable position."

On May 15th, when asked "will we need more" tax increases by concerned councilors, the CFO stated "can't say for sure" and the City Manager stated it's "a half-step" to eliminate the fiscal cliff in the short term. So how can anyone in this room be assured that this rushed decision, based solely on increased revenue with NO budget cuts or efficiencies, is even close to a good decision when you aren't sure it will be the end of more and more taxes. Let me remind everyone that on May 15th, the highest payroll tax rate being considered was 0.66, and now it's 0.814!

Let's go back and start this decision-making process from the beginning. Do some detailed budget cut and efficiency analysis, and take the advice from groups like the Chamber

of Commerce, the Focus Group participants and the general public. I fully support the Chamber's position that "Just as residents were entrusted with their vote on the City of Salem's \$300m infrastructure bond, so too should they be entrusted with this decision."

A lot of us would say a picture is worth a thousand words. Go look at the picture from the Salem Reporter's booth at the Salem Market in early July –

Approximately 47 of 50 (94%) want the decision to be referred to the voters!

Ask the voters for their approval, don't tell them that you plan to take more money from their hard-earned wages.

From: [Chris Hoy](#)
To: [Amy Johnson](#)
Subject: FW: Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 10:21:12 AM

From: Mikki Hittner <mikki@mwinv.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:14 AM
To: Chris Hoy <CHoy@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Payroll Tax

Dear Mayor Hoy,

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

I am NOT in support of the payroll tax. When it comes to police and fire support I am genuinely all in. Not this time. I do not feel it is fair to ask working citizens to contribute more to the homeless crisis. I work downtown and have recently encountered human feces in our parking lot, someone urinating in our shrubbery, an individual smoking a crack pipe next to my car. I don't believe that contributing more of my paycheck will change any of that. Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Mikki Hittner

From: [MICHAEL LIVINGSTON](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Cc: [Owens, Sarah](#)
Subject: Ordinance Bill 12-13 -- Employee Paid Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:24:15 PM

TO THE SALEM CITY COUNCIL;

We are writing in support of Ordinance Bill 12-23 – Employee Paid Payroll Tax, which is scheduled for public hearing before Council on July 10, 2023, under agenda item 4.a. The bill itself sets out in clear detail the pressing need for the revenue, and the City’s Budget Committee has recommended its adoption by Council.

Submitting the question to the voters at this time is not an answer. Given the time pressures, the likely low turn-out and the misinformation now being circulated about the consequences and the City’s options, it is simply unreasonable to assume that a rejection of this proposal by the voters would mean unequivocally that *the community* would rather face a profound reduction in essential services than pay a few more dollars to insure their continuation.

This is the time for the members of the Council to step up and do the right thing – to take the courageous and principled path -- and preserve the public's welfare. The bill’s “sunset“ provision and the initiative process authorized by SRC Sections 11.262, et seq, provide more than adequate opportunities for the public to reject the tax, if indeed that is the will of the community. But, for right now, the Council needs to act responsibly and adopt the ordinance bill.

Michael Livingston & Sarah Owens
Ward 1

From: [Chris Hoy](#)
To: [Amy Johnson](#)
Subject: FW: Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 10:21:42 AM

From: marilynn rabie <marilynnrabie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 8:50 AM
To: Chris Hoy <CHoy@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Payroll Tax

Dear Mayor Hoy,

The unprecedented challenges of covid have left many cities and communities trying to maintain a sense of the place they once were. However, it is getting more difficult as the number of people still living on the streets is still considerable. This presents numerous safety and humanitarian problems including poor sanitation, increased mental health issues, fires, etc etc., all of which are putting a huge strain and burden on the cities in managing these many issues of concern.

Church at the Park in particular, has been very successful in helping houseless people get off the street, into alternative housing and job training. Their approach is working and it would be prudent to continue going forward. It is a win-win situation benefiting those who are receiving their services and in a broader context is serving the best interests of the community as a whole. We need to have our cities feel safe, clean and orderly and the essential services are necessary to ensure that happens. Passing the payroll tax will help to ensure the best outcome for everyone during these challenging and difficult times.

Thank you.

From: [Deanna Gwyn](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Fw: Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:00:32 PM

From: marilynn rabie <marilynnrabie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 8:48 AM
To: Deanna Gwyn <DGwyn@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Payroll Tax

Dear Councilor Gwyn,

The unprecedented challenges of covid have left many cities and communities trying to maintain a sense of the place they once were. However, it is getting more difficult as the number of people still living on the streets is still considerable. This presents numerous safety and humanitarian problems including poor sanitation, increased mental health issues, fires, etc etc., all of which are putting a huge strain and burden on the cities in managing these many issues of concern.

Church at the Park in particular, has been very successful in helping houseless people get off the street, into alternative housing and job training. Their approach is working and it would be prudent to continue going forward. It is a win-win situation benefiting those who are receiving their services and in a broader context is serving the best interests of the community as a whole. We need to have our cities feel safe, clean and orderly and the essential services are necessary to ensure that happens. Passing the payroll tax will help to ensure the best outcome for everyone during these challenging and difficult times.

Thank you.

From: [Michael Robinson](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Re: Payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:43:01 AM

Dear Salem City Councillors-

The proposed .8% payroll tax sounds small and affordable, but it amounts to a 40%+ increase in our tax load from the City of Salem. We currently pay \$3500/year in property taxes. If the payroll tax passes we would pay an additional \$1500 per year, or 42%. That is a dramatic increase, not the small micro-percentage that we've been sold. Vote NO, or at the very least refer this to the voters!

Michael Robinson

South Salem

From: [Chris Hoy](#)
To: [Amy Johnson](#)
Subject: FW: No to Ordinance Bill 12-23: A Heavy Blow to Salem's Workers
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:18:11 AM

From: Michael Wright <MikeinWestLinn@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:13 AM
To: Chris Hoy <CHoy@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: No to Ordinance Bill 12-23: A Heavy Blow to Salem's Workers

Dear Mayor Hoy,

YOU are at a crossroads where a pivotal decision is about to be made about the impact Bill 12-23 will have on our community.

Ordinance Bill 12-23, the Safe Salem employee-paid payroll tax is a stark proposal that would be a cruel, heavy blow to our city's workforce, offering at best a temporary solution to budget concerns.

Say it loud, say it clear: NO to the wage tax!

This tax will severely hit the hardworking individuals of Salem, who are already struggling with soaring inflation rates and increasing living costs.

Snatching away 0.814% of our wages doesn't sound like much but in these trying times it could be the difference in choosing to skip a meal, gassing up the car, or making the rent.

That "tiny" percentage could have huge, devastating consequences in Salem residents' lives.

Stripping them of their hard-earned income is not the solution to budgetary imbalance.

Yes, we need funds for community safety, emergency services, unsheltered services, and administration of our beloved city. But at what cost?

Are you ready to jeopardize the financial stability of our fellow Salem citizens? The revenue generated from this tax would be at the expense of the already struggling many, benefitting the City's coffers...

...but harming community spirit.

There must be a better way, a path that doesn't involve placing an undue burden on our

workers. YOUR task is to devise an alternative that is just and sustainable for all parties involved.

Your role as an elected official is not just about maintaining a balanced city budget; it is about ensuring the well-being of every citizen in our community.

As you consider Ordinance Bill 12-23, I implore you to vote NO, rejecting a tax that harms the very people you aim to serve.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

All the best,

Michael Wright
3547 Camellia Dr. S
Salem, OR
503-475-6313

From: [Deanna Gwyn](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Fw: No to Ordinance Bill 12-23: A Heavy Blow to Salem's Workers
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:59:17 PM

From: Michael Wright <MikeinWestLinn@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:22 AM
To: Deanna Gwyn <DGwyn@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: No to Ordinance Bill 12-23: A Heavy Blow to Salem's Workers

Dear Councilor Gwyn,

YOU are at a crossroads where a pivotal decision is about to be made about the impact Bill 12-23 will have on our community.

Ordinance Bill 12-23, the Safe Salem employee-paid payroll tax is a stark proposal that would be a cruel, heavy blow to our city's workforce, offering at best a temporary solution to budget concerns.

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Yes, we need funds for community safety, emergency services, unsheltered services, and administration of our beloved city. But at what cost?

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There must be a better way, a path that doesn't involve placing an undue burden on our

workers. YOUR task is to devise an alternative that is just and sustainable for all parties involved.

Your role as an elected official is not just about maintaining a balanced city budget; it is about ensuring the well-being of every citizen in our community.

As you consider Ordinance Bill 12-23, I implore you to vote NO, rejecting a tax that harms the very people you aim to serve.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

All the best,

Michael Wright
3547 Camellia Dr. S
Salem, OR
503-475-6313

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of dragonflies.3@hotmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 10:18:13 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Naomi Sherman
Your Email	dragonflies.3@hotmail.com
Your Phone	9715999112
Street	7427 Terry Ct SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97317
Message	I do not want to be taxed for what you are proposing. I do not see how this will benefit me or anyone else who works extremely hard for their pay. We were previously taxed for better roadways but what I drive on every day is not better at all! I see a lot of quick fixes with tar. So NO, I vote no! I am tired of being taxed on everything that comes up! We did not create the financial problems so why are we paying for them?

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/10/2023.

From: [Nick Williams](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Payroll Tax: please send to voters
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:47:09 AM

Mayor Hoy and Councilors:

My name is Nick Williams, I'm a resident of Polk County and my business is located in Ward 3. While I would pay this tax, I'm unable to vote on it - nor am I able to cast a vote for a councilor.

I'm writing today to urge that you allow voters of Salem to decide on the funding mechanism currently proposed. Your constituents gave you overwhelming support for the bond measure this past year, and Salem certainly seems to have an appetite for community investment.

When I ask voters in Salem whether they are for or against this tax, the vast majority do not even know that it's being considered. What a vote of the people would stimulate is additional outreach on the part of the City and those in favor of this effort to adequately educate the electorate. Our city should not become known as one that financially blindsides its taxpayers.

We're in a season of record inflation, and in the midst of an economy teetering on the brink of recession. Many families have been taken to the financial woodshed. Please relieve yourselves of this burden, and allow Salem voters to determine the merit of this investment.

Respectfully,

Nick Williams

From: [Paul Parker](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: "no" on payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:55:40 PM

Greetings

the request for a payroll tax for police and fire and homeless services should not be adopted at the July council meeting. There is too much opacity in the SafeSalem Document -- the claim is that staffing is at 2008 per capita levels, which read correctly, means staffing has grown.

there is also broken trust with the community -- you just overspent on the new police fortress, and in the 3.5 months since a stop-sign runner killed a bicyclist, there has been no apparent police action except deferring to the feds. a community member died this is shameful. it is difficult for the community to support a tax when the community does not feel supported.

cheers
Paul Parker
Salem

From: [Deanna Gwyn](#)
To: [Tami Carpenter](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Fw: Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:57:46 PM
Attachments: [Salem payroll tax 7-23.docx](#)

I assume I'm not the only one who received this letter. Please make it part of the public record.

From: Pope, Craig <pope.craig@co.polk.or.us>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:54 PM
To: Deanna Gwyn <DGwyn@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Payroll Tax

Dear Councilor Gwyn,

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

The Polk County Commissioners in a vote of 2-1 oppose the proposed payroll tax and the burdens it places on our constituents without a vote or representation.



POLK COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

POLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE * DALLAS, OREGON 97338-3174
(503) 623-8173 * FAX (503) 623-0896

Commissioners
CRAIG A. POPE
JEREMY GORDON
LYLE MORDHORST

GREGORY P. HANSEN
Administrative Officer

July 10, 2023

Salem payroll tax ordinance scheme:

Salem Councilors and Mayor Hoy,

The Polk County Board of Commissioners writes this letter in protest of a taxing scheme that would seem to violate the premise of the State of Oregon Constitution and the Constitution of the United States of America to preserve taxing decisions to the electorate of an area or jurisdiction to which the taxes would be applied.

We believe that it is the right of the people being taxed to have a voice and representation in the process of those taxing decisions. This payroll tax plan not only denies the right to have a voice through the ballot box but substantially impacts people that are not residents of Salem and have no rights under representation by Salem government.

The very concept that any local government can “trap” workers that have to commute to jobs inside the city boundaries with a tax that is taken from their paycheck without represented consent is an abomination of good government and will garner deeper distrust of **all** local governments.

Additionally, it seems that this “plan” is certainly not ready for any serious public review as it has so many un-answered questions. For example, the potential for unchecked increases by the Council over time is unfair to all employees that will be charged with this as it is likely that they will not have an avenue to be made aware of increases and little chance to challenge.

Polk County government prefers an open and transparent form of implementing new tax needs that allow a community dialogue and an eventual vote by the electorate that may be impacted. We would have a strong disagreement with a concept that would tax people that did not have a voice (vote) as well and would not be able to support this concept even with a vote of taxpayers in Salem as has been suggested by others.

Every employer in our state struggles to draw, and afford their needed workforce and would appreciate less government impact on their efforts to recruit and retain those employees. This tax scheme does nothing to aid in that effort.

For the citizens of Polk County that will be impacted by this tax plan, we implore you to reconsider this faulty taxing scheme and any other that fails to consider the sanctity of transparent government and the relationship of trust to those that govern.

Commissioner Jeremy Gordon, Board Chair

Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst

Commissioner Craig Pope

From: [Chris Hoy](#)
To: [Amy Johnson](#)
Subject: Fwd: Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 12:52:15 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "rbanther@rogerbanther.com rbanther@rogerbanther.com"
<rbanther@rogerbanther.com>
Date: July 10, 2023 at 11:56:32 AM PDT
To: Chris Hoy <CHoy@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Payroll Tax

Mr. Hoy,

I am writing in opposition to the 12-23 wage tax. My family cannot afford more money taken out of our incomes - food and other costs are astronomical at this time.

We cannot afford this tax at this time.

Roger Banther

From: [REN EARL](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Vote NO on the payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 10:50:18 AM

Please add this statement to the public record:

I oppose any payroll tax because we barely afford our house payment in the winter.
This off the top reduction in my paycheck would hurt our ability to pay our bills in the winter.
Vote no, for those of us who work for a living.

From: [Roy Lytle](#)
To: [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [CityRecorder](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Micki Varney](#)
Subject: Re: Salem Payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:05:28 PM

Salem City Councilors,

Please enter this into the record.

My name is Roy Lytle, I am writing to ask you to vote against the proposed pay roll tax. This will only add to the burden of our families and business who are already struggling under these difficult financial times. We are all needing to cut cost in order to make ends meet. An additional tax is not appropriate. The city needs to do more to limit spending.

We are all having to manage our money wisely at this time. The city of Salem should be no different.

I urge you to vote no on this Tax.

Thank you,
Roy D Lytle

From: [Virginia Stapleton](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Fwd: Salem Payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:00:15 PM

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From: Roy Lytle <rdlytle911@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:55:00 PM
To: Vanessa Nordyke <VNordyke@cityofsalem.net>; Julie Hoy <JHoy@cityofsalem.net>; Jose Gonzalez <JGonzalez@cityofsalem.net>; Deanna Gwyn <DGwyn@cityofsalem.net>; Trevor Phillips <TPhillips@cityofsalem.net>; CityRecorder <CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net>; Virginia Stapleton <VStapleton@cityofsalem.net>; Linda Nishioka <LNishioka@cityofsalem.net>; Micki Varney <MVarney@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Re: Salem Payroll tax

Salem City Councilors,

Please enter this into the record.

My name is Roy Lytle, I am writing to ask you to vote against the proposed pay roll tax. This will only add to the burden of our families and business who are already struggling under these difficult financial times. We are all needing to cut cost in order to make ends meet. An additional tax is not appropriate. The city needs to do more to limit spending.

We are all having to manage our money wisely at this time. The city of Salem should be no different.

I urge you to vote no on this Tax.

Thank you,
Roy D Lytle

From: [Ryan Miller](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:40:27 PM

Dear City Recorder,

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. I am well acquainted with many people that work in law enforcement, as well as in providing homeless services, and I have heard many stories of the need for additional funding for these services.

It has always been ridiculous to me that the State own's a significant portion of the property in downtown salem, and they use salem's resources to operate those buildings, yet they don't compensate the City of salem for that. Yes they provide direct funding for various programs, but they don't compensate the City for the emergency services they use. So taxing the state employees is beyond fair to me. Especially the employees that commute and don't pay any Marion County taxes.

My only wish is that the threshold for where the tax starts at be at persons receiving over \$20 an hour. Other than that, I am in full support of the tax.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ryan Miller

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Rich@RichSueBluffhouse.com
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Date: Sunday, July 9, 2023 7:09:40 PM
Attachments: [CC Ordinance 12-23 Jul 9.pdf](#)

Your Name	Richard Reid
Your Email	Rich@RichSueBluffhouse.com
Your Phone	9712180400
Street	3242 Bluff Ave SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	Please see attached.

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

7.9.2023

To: City Council, City of Salem

RE: Ordinance Bill 12-23

FROM: Richard Reid

Rich@RichSueBluffhouse.com

971-218-0400 ; : 3242 Bluff Ave SE

Dear Councilors,

Council is considering Ordinance Bill 12-23, the proposed tax on folks working in Salem. If adopted the bill assumes revenue of nearly \$28 million annually would be committed to fund public safety agencies. Seven years after Council adopts the Bill and \$208.6 million has been collected there is a sunset provision giving the taxpayers an opportunity to continue or terminate the payroll tax.

The Background for the Bill says, "demand for services are growing, but the City's revenues and services have not kept pace". Unfortunately, this problem is not new.

For example the demand for public safety funding is due to inevitable population increases, increases in maintenance needs and inflation. Are other funding needs increasing for the same reasons?

The Background also states how Measures 5 and 50 passed in the 1990s and "capped property tax revenue growth to no more than 3% per year." This is an important limit. Has the City adjusted over the decades these Measures have been in effect?

Either way deficits like those impacting public safety can occur any time public investment in growth lags behind the public revenue receipts necessary to fund services. To my mind the McGilchrist Project is a case in point.¹ I believe before we tax incomes, more must be done to solve the ongoing problem; growth is not paying its way.²

¹ McGilchrist Still Isn't an Improvement, but Here's the Math

Dave Marohn, Executive Director of Strong Towns basic analysis concludes the costs of the McGilchrist improvement will never be repaid.

<https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2022/11/2/mcgilchrist-still-isnt-an-improvement-but-heres-the-math>

² **City of Salem Five Year Financial Forecasts** - <https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/budget-finance/financial-reports>

2017 p 10 the updated view of the General Fund for the five years beginning in FY 2016-17 continues to project revenue growth that is insufficient to cover the increasing costs to provide the current level of services.

2018 p 9. "continued evidence of a structural imbalance between the proposed cost of General Fund services and anticipated revenues. The structural imbalance continues to be the key message of the General Fund five-year forecast."

2019 p 4. “continues the trend experienced with the two most recently completed fiscal years where expenditures exceed revenues. The gap widens in the forecast with the costs of services escalating more steeply.”

2020 p. 8 “continues the trend experienced with the two most recently completed fiscal years where expenditures exceed revenues. The gap widens in the forecast with the costs of services escalating more steeply.”

2021 p.8 “continues the trend experienced with the three most recently completed fiscal years where expenditures exceed revenues. The gap widens in this forecast with the costs of services escalating more steeply.”

2022 p.8 “continues the trend experienced during fiscal years 2017 through 2019 where expenditures exceed revenues. In the out years, the growth rate of expenses has flattened which has positively impacted the gap between revenues and expenses.”

2023 p.8 “continues the trend experienced during fiscal years 2017 through 2019 where expenditures exceed revenues. In the final three years of the forecast, the growth rate of expenses stabilizes, and expenses are approximately \$8.6 million more than revenues each year.”

From: [Judy Proctor](#) on behalf of [Dick Withnell](#)
To: [Chris Hoy](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#)
Cc: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Community Member Opinion: Employee-Paid Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:39:19 PM
Attachments: [Payroll Tax Testimony.docx](#)
Importance: High

Hello Honorable Mayor Hoy and Salem City Council Members...

Please find attached my Opinion for tonight's City Council Meeting Agenda item regarding the proposed Employee-Paid Payroll Tax for those doing business in the city of Salem.

Thank you for your consideration.



R.E. Withnell, Founder
Withnell Motor Company
dick@withnellauto.com
(503) 931-1991

Dick Withnell
2650 Commercial St. SE
Salem, OR 97302

I know this will sound counter-intuitive: Cutting taxes increases receipts in treasury.

- 1. President John F. Kennedy, in the mid-'60s, cut federal taxes.**
- 2. President Ronald Reagan, early '80s, cut federal taxes.**

Within months, treasury receipts increased significantly—just like a u-turn.

Another truth about taxes: In 1980, luxury taxes were put in effect on the wealthy.

A Vancouver, Washington large boatyard built expensive yachts. With the luxury tax, in 18 months, it went broke. More than 150 workers lost their jobs. The rich took off for other countries—Spain, mainly.

Remember, we just passed record bond issues:

- 1. 24J School Bond**
- 2. Salem Police facility**
- 3. Library facility**

Plus, the community, out of their abundance, helped raise funds for the Union Gospel Mission, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club—their giving was in the millions.

Another thing to think about: Chemeketa Community College is going up for a bond issue in 2024—a need we can all agree upon. This additional tax will contaminate the electorate to becoming negative, because of expenses, such as taxes.

From: [Sue-z Barnes](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Salem Safe Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 7:35:52 AM

Hi ~

I am writing in regards to the proposed Salem Safe Payroll Tax. I do understand the need to fund fire and police services and the homelessness issue in Salem is extremely bad - is this the best way to solve the situation? You are taking more money from people who are working and causing more of a strain on them - on me. It is so hard to pay for all of the other increases in fuel prices, food prices, home expenses, taking care of kids and now you want to take more money from those who are actually working. Is there a different way to solve this? Have you looked at all other options and really worked through to why the funds are not there in the first place? Haven't you already taxed me on my home to pay for these? What was done with that money?

Sue-z Barnes

From: [smechambsn2015](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Ordinance bill 12-23
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:30:24 PM

I ask that council members vote no on Ordinance bill 12-23.

Sequoia Carr
5412 Fort Rock Ave SE
Salem, OR 97306

From: [Chandrasclinic](#)
To: [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [CityRecorder](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Micki Varney](#)
Subject: Salem Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:03:10 PM

Honorable Salem City Councilors

Kindly accept this written testimony against the proposed payroll tax being considered by the Salem city council and vote no.

I am an immigrant, practicing physician, psychiatrist and Salem Keizer School board director. In the course of my practice and as a public servant, I have engaged and listen to many who work and live in Salem including teachers, staff and those who work in hospitals, small businesses, restaurants, etc. Many are immigrants and people of color who have recently moved here and many also support their families here and back home from where they migrated. We have migrants who speak nearly 110 languages from different parts of the world. They struggle as they have no family support or any generational wealth here in this country.

After the perfect storm of the pandemic and social and economic crisis, families are struggling emotionally, financially and barely making it. Many have just started to work again after the period when everything was shut down and have incurred accumulated debt and credit card bills which helped them through the pandemic shut down.

This proposed payroll tax increase is a big burden, and a new hardship which is not affordable or is perceived as a negative incentive to finally getting back to the workforce. On the contrary, people are hoping for tax relief and an incentive to return to work and help jumpstart the economy and ensure that they can have some spending money.

Please find other ways to save money by streamlining the budget and being focused on important priorities instead of increasing the payroll taxes for those who just started working or continue to work.

I request you to vote no on this tax.

Respectfully yours

Satyanarayana Chandragiri MD
Salem Keizer School board Director zone 4

Address:
Chandras clinic PC
PO Box 4060
1249 Fairview Ave SE
Salem , OR 97302

From: sheila_sheilabambeila.com
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: New taxes
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:05:50 AM

Dear City Council-

I can't afford your new tax. The city doesn't seem to be "worker friendly". You want traveling nurses, people to come work on buildings, but then you will tax them to death. I strongly oppose this. Put it to a vote... like you should. I'm tired of being taxed to death. How about you make a law that other states cannot ship their homeless to Oregon? Montana asks them where they want to go because they urge them strongly to leave... and then buy them a bus ticket. I'm sure they are not the only state sending us their homeless. That should ease up on the amount of funds we spend on homeless projects.

Sheila Gramlich

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From: [Deanna Gwyn](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Fw: Safe Salem Property Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 1:58:57 PM

From: Steph Hatfield <hatfields1023@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:53 AM
To: Deanna Gwyn <DGwyn@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Safe Salem Property Tax

City of Salem Counsitor,

Re: Safe Salem Payroll tax

I am unable to attend the meeting tonight which I just heard about on a local radio station this morning.

I oppose this tax that you will be voting on tonight for several reasons.

I do not live within the City of Salem; however, I do work within the City of Salem and have for 16 years. In those 16 years I have never needed a police officer or the fire department. Other than if my car is on fire in Salem, the homeowner/business owner should be paying their portion of taxes to fund those calls.

Having this nearly \$600 reduction in my yearly pay will be a huge burden on my family!

I notice the comment on your website about Measure 5 and Measure 50. Instead of just involuntarily adding new taxes, how about you look at changing an outdated and unfair taxing system. M05 and M50 need a reset or change to help keep up with rising values and inflation!!!

Within the City of Salem, there is a very large number of new homes, and apartments being built. This will bring in more taxes. I saw the mayors' comments about new homes being taxed less than older homes. I don't see how that could be true since M50 is based off current values and older homes were based on values that were much lower in 1995. The facts are not adding up!

I also see on your website that a portion of the funds (About half of the Safe Salem payroll tax funds will be used to stabilize current police and fire services.) will go to fund staff for a fire station to be built with 2022 voter approved bond funds. When this bond was approved in 2022, did you not take into consideration what the cost of staffing would be? That sounds like it was either that you didn't think the voters would approve a larger amount, or just poor planning. Either way, that shouldn't be left to people who don't live in the City to pick up the slack.

If this is passed it would take effect in 2024 and will be asked in 2031 to the voters of Salem to keep the tax. You will tax me as I work in Salem, however since I don't live here, I do not get the opportunity to vote to repeal it in 2031. Where is the fairness in that? Don't you think

that this might push them into changing jobs and the City employees will then have a hard time finding people who want to pay this tax?

I'm sorry, but why in the world is \$9.6 Million not enough to help unsheltered people? I am so tired of these millions of dollars being taken away from taxpayers and it not ever being enough. When will it end?????

With this additional tax, it will cost me roughly \$600!!! That's 6 months of paying my electricity bill, or roughly 4 months of groceries that you are taking out of my family's pocket. That is a huge reduction of my income to my already struggling family!!!

I hope you take time to look at mine and other's emails that will come or have come into your office listen to all of the concerns and effects this will have on many already struggling families.

Since I do not live in the city of Salem and therefore don't have a ward, I will be sending this letter to each member in hopes it gets seen by one of you.

Thank you for your time,
Steph Hatfield

From: [Sarah McCrea](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Public Comment for July 10th City Council Meeting RE: Safe Salem Ordinance
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:23:14 PM

To Vanessa Nordyke, the Salem City Council, and Mayor Hoy:

I am writing in regards to the Safe Salem Ordinance. I ask that you put it to the voters and allow them to decide if they are willing to take on an additional tax burden. Let us not follow in the steps of Portland. Even Mayor Wheeler acknowledges their burdensome tax rates and the effect it has on businesses and the community. Portland passed a similar 1% tax hike in May 2020, the "Supportive Housing Services tax." Do not put Salem in the same situation or we will find ourselves in the same boat with businesses and residents leaving in droves. Let the voters decide.

www.oregonlive.com/politics/2023/05/portland-mayor-ted-wheeler-says-he-will-seek-1-year-freeze-on-nearly-all-city-tax-fee-utility-rate-increases.html

<https://www.wweek.com/news/2023/02/01/they-left-portland-is-losing-some-of-its-biggest-fans/>

Sincerely,
Sarah McCrea
Resident and employed within the City of Salem
625 W Vista Ave S
Salem, OR 97302
Ward 7

From: [Stacie Miner](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Stacie Miner](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#)
Subject: Proposed Payroll Tax - needs voter approval
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:25:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Good morning!

This Payroll Tax needs to be put to a vote to those of us working in Salem.

Many of us depend on every \$ we get paid. How would this apply to those working two or more jobs?

Thank you,



Stacie Miner :: Sr Logistics Specialist (she/her)
Kerr by Ingredion :: 2340 Hyacinth Street NE :: Salem, OR 97301 USA
t: 503 587 8324 **c:** 503 580 4588
e: stacie.miner@ingredion.com **w:** kerrbyingredion.com
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MAKE NOTE:

Truck Entrance is found through Americold (4095 Portland Rd NE, Entrance "A"). Look for **RED BLOCK**

From: [Stephanie Moll](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#)
Subject: Add to Public Record: Opposition to City of Salem Payroll Tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:06:51 AM

Greetings Councilors and Recorder for the City of Salem:

Please accept this email as written public testimony opposing the City of Salem Payroll tax for self-employed, remote workers and those working in the City of Salem. Charging people who are making the city a better, productive place, is not the answer. Stop with the fear tactics of pulling police and fire services every time you want more money. I am familiar with drug addiction and mental illness. I think many of us have had family and/or friends suffer from drug or alcohol addiction. It isn't easy. Enabling and condoning their behavior, adding comfort and more services so they can keep doing what they wish is not the answer. I suggest you place your efforts and requests to the Governor and State of Oregon Legislative offices to provide the resources you need to clear the streets, open back up our mental institutions and allow incarceration when citizens are trespassing, stealing, loitering, littering and vandalizing the city. The addicts and mentally ill that want help already know help is available if they wish to get it. There are already rehabilitation centers and non-profit companies in place to help those that want it. Oregon is an armpit and it's because of this drug accepting, behavior condoning, enabling, irresponsible behavior. I will not provide more of my income through taxation without representation for something I don't believe in or support. The addicts I know had to hit rock bottom before wanting to get help. Most people on the street are there because they don't want to get better yet. Enabling them is not helping them, quite the contrary, it is killing them. I prefer you focus on rewarding good business practices, allow law enforcement to do their job and cut services to the homeless projects if you truly want to help them get healthy. Stop the handouts and don't force hard working citizens to pay extra taxes without a proper vote. Your overreach and assumptive behavior is offensive.

Respectfully,
Stephanie

Stephanie Moll
Owner | Principal Broker | REALTOR®
Santiam Real Estate, LLC
Cell: (541) 992-3173
<https://santiamrealestate.com>
Licensed in the State of OR
Stephanie@SantiamRealEstate.com

From: summertime1105@yahoo.com
To: [Amy Johnson](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Re: Don't pass this tax bill
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 8:53:31 AM

Summer weekly

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Monday, July 10, 2023, 8:05 AM, Amy Johnson <AJohnson@cityofsalem.net> wrote:

Good morning,

If you would like your comments to be included in the record for today's public hearing on this matter, please provide your first and last name.

Sincerely,

Amy Johnson
Deputy City Recorder
City of Salem
555 Liberty Street SE, Rm. 225
Salem, OR 97301
ajohnson@cityofsalem.net | 503-588-6091

From: summertime1105@yahoo.com <summertime1105@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 9, 2023 7:20 PM
To: [CityRecorder](#) <CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Don't pass this tax bill

I'm am absolutely flabbergasted that you would even think about passing this tax bill. I work hard for my money and I scrape by. This is a financial burden. I don't want to give my money to the bums. They chose there life. I shouldn't have to pay for theirs. If this passes we will be taking our hard worked earned money to another state.

From: [Tara Lulay](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#)
Subject: Vote NO on the payroll tax
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:32:42 AM

Please add this statement to the public record:

Dear Salem City Council,

I understand you will be voting on a nearly 1% payroll tax for most workers in Salem. The average worker in Salem will pay a shocking **\$506.24 more in taxes per year** if this should pass. I ask you to please do your best in "opposing" this job killing tax. Vote NO on the Salem Payroll Tax.

Respectfully,

Tara Pyle