

From: [Jim Scheppke](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Agenda Item 5c
Date: Thursday, October 9, 2025 9:47:04 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2025-10-09 at 5.34.11 PM.png](#)

Dear Salem City Council:

I regret to have to make this comment on Agenda Item 5c, the 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey results.

I am baffled as to why a question was included in the survey about “Library Levy Priorities” and whether citizens would prefer expansion of library programs over expanded library hours.

When my “Save Our Library” team and I tabled outside the library for 80 hours between March 8th and May 17th we told prospective voters that voting for the Livability Levy would result in an expansion of library hours at the main library and the West Salem Branch.

We were just repeating the information on the City’s website concerning the levy which had this to say:

What would the levy fund exactly?

If passed, the levy would maintain 37.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) library positions, 45 parks FTE positions, five recreation FTE positions, and 7.6 Center 50+ FTE positions. It would also add three library assistants to restore the main branch to 48 hours a week and the West Salem branch to 20 hours a week. (Both branches cut hours in January 2024 to adjust to lower staffing levels. The main branch eliminated night-time hours and Sunday service. The West Salem branch is currently open two days a week.)

The ballot title said, if approved, the levy funds would result in “restored hours at the main and west Salem branches.”

So substituting more programming for more library hours is not an option. The City needs to do exactly what you stated on your levy web page: “restore the main branch to 48 hours a week and the West Salem branch to 20 hours a week.”

As for the main library, what most citizens would consider a “restoration” of services would be four hours on Sunday and some evening hours that would allow more use of Loucks Auditorium and more student use of the main library. This would be very similar to open hours in the past:

Main Library Hours

Tuesday: 10-8 10

Wednesday: 10-8 10

Thursday: 10-6 8

Friday: 10-6 8

Saturday: 10-6 8

Sunday: 1-5 4

A 20 hours schedule for West Salem might look like this:

West Salem Hours

Wednesday: 12-5 5

Thursday: 12-5 5

Friday: 12-5 5

Saturday: 12-5 5

It has been over four months since the Livability Levy passed overwhelmingly and many library users are disappointed that we still have not restored library hours. We know some hiring had to happen, but recruitment could have begun in late May. I hope you weren't waiting to hear the results of this survey which can have no bearing on the expansion of hours without violating your promises to voters. It's a shame that money was spend to ask this question in the survey. Please disregard the responses to the question.

Sincerely,

Jim Scheppke
Ward 2