

From: [Kasia Quillinan](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Council meeting Aug. 28, recall of proposed measure
Date: Monday, August 28, 2023 4:45:12 PM

City Council, Mayor
Salem City Hall
555 Liberty St.
Salem, OR. 97301

RE: Recall of Safe Salem proposal
Aug.28, 2023

Councilors and Mayor:

Councilor Julie Hoy's desire to recall the council vote on the Safe Salem measure which would levy an employee payroll tax is ill-advised at best.

No one likes to pay additional taxes and fees. However, the City's budget deficit will not cure itself. Unless, Councilor Hoy has another revenue plan which has a higher probability of raising the funds needed to keep the city in operation, I strongly suggest that you reject any attempt to scuttle this proposal.

Over twenty years ago, my council proposed the same idea and for the same reasons. 1) A large percentage of State and County workers do not live in Salem, 2) they do not contribute financially in any way to Salem's upkeep, yet presumably use its services, 3) Salem residents continue to pay increasing property taxes and various assessments, for schools in particular, 4) Salem residents continue to have new revenue measures attached to their water-bills which is clearly discriminatory and unfair on its face, 5) The amount of revenue needed is too great to be met by minor adjustments such as cutting staff by some percentage (a favorite but ultimately futile and counter-productive measure.)

We also heard all the same negative reasons to not implement this proposal, particularly from the business community which routinely insists that whatever revenue measure is imposed, it will automatically mean that businesses will move out of the City. That is a simple canard, and there has never been any proof that this has actually happened in any significant way.

One issue which I have not seen discussed pertaining to this measure is collection. My council had extensive negotiations with DAS and reached an agreement on collection and distribution, before the measure was torpedoed by the same interests which are attempting to sink this one. Therefore, the collection issue (if it is) is resolvable.

To those Councilors fighting this revenue measure, start thinking about saving the City. That's your job. Starving the City is bad management. My only quibble with this measure as currently proposed is that it ties new revenue to police, fire and safety services. While these are necessary, the City needs revenue to meet other pressing needs. And while I disagree with limiting the use of this revenue, the revenue is needed and the proposal should go forward.

A final comment: it is the Council's job to make the tough decisions, especially when it comes to money. The public does not necessarily understand public finance, but the public does understand a police officer not showing up, a huge pothole in the street going unrepaired, or increasing crime rates related to homelessness.

Please think carefully before voting to scuttle this proposal, or voting to send it to the voters (a grand way of shirking your responsibility.)

Kasia Quillinan. former councilor Ward 1
1145 14th St. NE, Salem, 503-370-7801