

From: [Jake Miller](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Why aren't you discussing ways to make money that don't involve cuts?
Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 11:11:31 AM

This comment is for public record

You should raise taxes on businesses that make above x amount of money per year. That would solve your problems, maintain funding for essential services like libraries, homeless shelters/services, and firemen, and it would make it so people don't see their paychecks gouged. It doesn't make any sense at all that taxing businesses hasn't been discussed. Portland does it, why can't Salem? It feels like the people making these decisions are trying to twist the collective arm of Salem residents to try and force them to pay for things they shouldn't have to be paying for when there's a massively viable alternative sitting right there, waiting to be taken advantage of. Businesses that make a lot of money per year - like Walmart, Target, Starbucks, etc - wouldn't even feel a tax like that overall, it wouldn't hurt them, it wouldn't hurt the residents, and it wouldn't harm essential services like y'all seem so intent on doing. Tax multi-million/multi-billion dollar businesses. Problem solved.

From: [Sarah Clovis Bishop](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Public comment on today's discussion of the revised FY24 budget (10/25/23)
Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 2:20:24 PM

Below please find my public comment related to today's City Council discussion of the revised FY24 budget.

I write in support of funding the Salem Public Library.

I was alarmed and dismayed to see that in two of the scenarios in the Reduction Comparison Summary, closure of the Salem Public Library was considered. The library is an essential resource for our community. It not only provides open access to countless books, magazines, dvds, and electronic resources, but also offers an inclusive space for all Salem residents (and visitors) to come together, learn, work, study, and relax safely and comfortably. It serves all members of our community--from toddlers who can enjoy storytime and cultivate a lifelong love of reading to seniors who can learn new computer tech skills; from immigrants who can improve their English skills to lifelong locals who can learn about the diversity of the community and the broader world through programming like the recent Indian and Mexican dance performances. The teen program provides an inviting space for Salem youth to gather and connect; the Teen Advisory Board, recently recognized with a Mayor's Youth Achievement Award, actively promotes the well-being of Salem through the Take What You Need program. The library is not a luxury. Without it, our community members would lose access to technology, information, and safe spaces that are essential to their daily lives. While I understand that Salem must make painful decisions in this budgetary moment, closing the library would likely increase costs related to policing and serving the unhoused. This option should be taken off the table.

All best,
Sarah Clovis Bishop
Associate Professor of Russian, Willamette University

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Sarah Clovis Bishop
sclovisbishop@gmail.com

From: [Suzanne Cox](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Proposed Library Closure
Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 2:41:25 PM

I add my voice to those imploring the city to take closing the library off the table due to lack of funding. The library is a vital part of our community that serves a large segment of the population, making literature accessible, as well as providing a forum for addressing societal concerns, among other things. Losing our library would be a huge loss and devalue the quality of life in Salem.

Respectfully,
Suzanne Cox

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From: [Leann Moore](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Robert Romanek](#)
Subject: SPRAB Letter
Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 12:31:40 PM
Attachments: [SPRAB Letter.pdf](#)

See attached public comments from SPRAB regarding the October 25, 2023 City Council Work Session.

Leann Moore

Staff Assistant

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Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

(SPRAB)

October 24, 2023

Dear Mayor and City Council,

We write as members of the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (SPRAB) encouraging the continued prioritization of parks and recreation funding in the coming year. We recognize the challenging budgetary situation the City is facing, but strongly believe that the community, well-being, and economic benefits are essential investments for our community to thrive.

Our Board is concerned about the projected budget shortfalls and the impact it will have on our community's ability to enjoy their parks. While we understand the need to limit new positions and programs, projected cuts currently proposed would drastically impact existing access through closures at neighborhood parks, removing drinking fountain access, and increasing fees in a way that will make usage less accessible to many in the community. We believe that any cuts should be accompanied by a plan to recover those services in the future, and we as a Board stand ready to assist Council in this effort.

The Covid-19 Pandemic showed us the negative impacts of reducing City amenities and cutting off access to parks and natural areas. As we emerge from the pandemic, there has been a renewed appreciation for our urban green spaces that is backed up by research showing the positive benefits these areas provide. City Parks encourage active lifestyles and reduce healthcare costs. Parks strengthen local economies and create job opportunities. They attract residents and businesses. City parks increase community engagement and reduce crime.

It is often the case that there are no easy decisions when it comes to budget cuts or revenue generation. However, our Board strongly believes that the benefits of park access, recreation programs, and robust green space vastly outweigh the relatively low cost needed to provide these services to our entire community. As our Deputy City Manager said, parks and playgrounds are not options. They are necessities. We ask that you strive to limit or omit cuts to Parks and Recreation services in the ongoing budget conversations.

Sincerely,



Dylan McDowell
Board Chair
On behalf of the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

From: [Valorie Freeman](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: 2024 Budget - City Council Work Session
Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 9:10:45 AM
Attachments: [FIND A WAY Oct 2023.docx](#)

This is my comment submission for the budget deliberations currently in process.

Valorie Freeman
295 Church St SE #301
Salem, OR 97301
503-510-6463

FIND A WAY

October 25, 2023

I have cast my vote in favor of the Payroll Tax.

I hold no opinion regarding what the “best” mechanism of revenue generation is to support crucial city services. What I do know is that the current proposals for cost cutting are not acceptable and **revenue generation is a necessity.**

I am not sharing anything you are not struggling with. Volunteer citizen councilors wish to see the City of Salem and its children, families, seniors and houseless living on the margins succeed and thrive.

We need library and safety services to make that a reality. These are critical elements of our infrastructure that must be present to preserve community. We need a strong city workforce. The fragile new service network to support those living in our community without housing must continue and grow to preserve the livability of Salem and in particular its downtown core – to do less sacrifices the vision of a vibrant downtown community of businesses, residences, entertainment, cultural happenings and much of what makes any city attractive to live in.

Find a revenue matrix to back up either a failed or successful payroll tax. Plan for adequate revenue well into the future.

Valorie Freeman
295 Church St. SE #301
Salem, OR 97301

From: [Victoria Timm](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Do not cut the library (council work session 10-25-23)
Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 1:14:31 PM

Dear council,

It has come to my attention that one of the potential cuts you will all be discussing today is closing down the main library and using that funding to fully fund police and firemen. I'm writing this letter to strongly urge you not to consider this option. It would be a major loss to Salem as a whole and frankly I wouldn't want to live here if there were no library.

In one of the main discussions of cuts, the West Salem library was suggested to be closed down and the main library's hours were to be reduced. I would frankly not even want that. But that is a better option than closing down the main library. Even the loss of West Salem's library is a major blow to our city.

My solution would be to take more funding from the police. I have not trusted them in years. They are essentially, at the very best, a poorly trained social worker with a gun. I recall them working with the Proud Boys during 2020 and I was personally *tear-gassed* by them while protesting. I would feel safer if they had less money to terrorize the minorities of Salem. Sure, perhaps there are some roles for police to play in society. But they don't need the lion's share of the budget when the library, an actual useful institution, is going to be cut.

Yours in rage,
V. R. Timm