

**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [angelique.cervantes.ac@gmail.com](mailto:angelique.cervantes.ac@gmail.com)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Submission  
**Date:** Monday, June 12, 2023 4:12:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Angelique Cervantes, CST
Your Email	angelique.cervantes.ac@gmail.com
Your Phone	971-283-8580
Street	carson Drive SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97317
Message	<p>In regards to the proposed employee tax: I am against this tax. I work at Salem Hospital, one of the biggest employers in the area. Many of my co-workers live in Portland where they pay Portland taxes. Asking them to contribute more taxes to Salem is an unfair burden after paying those taxes and state income taxes. Those of us who live here have been living with inflation, including gas and food. It is a terrible time to be asking us to pick up this burden when many of my co-workers and family can't even afford rent an apartment let alone buy a house. Don't forget about college students trying to make tuition on a limited income. There is also a high population of retirees living on limited income This is too much. The City of Salem needs to find a different way to make up the budget shortfall, not burden everyday people trying to live with the rising prices of everyday necessities. If you do decide to take this route, then I implore you to choose upper income levels of those whose incomes can handle this. Perhaps set the tax to those making over \$700,000 per year. Leave the farm workers, single mothers, students, baristas, and other support workers to use their income to survive in this city. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 6/12/2023.

**From:** [Heidi Hand](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** "NO" to a new City of Salem payroll tax  
**Date:** Monday, June 12, 2023 3:01:35 PM

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City of Salem,

Today I heard about a proposed new payroll tax for employees who work in Salem. I am deeply concerned about this for many reasons.

- Increases in taxes should go to voters first
- With your proposal you would take \$71.59 out of my personal paycheck!!! That is ridiculous!!! NO!
- Citizens are dealing with huge inflation pressures. This is not the time to take more out of people's paycheck. We have have had to make cuts ourselves. Why shouldn't the city of Salem make cuts to their spending as well?
- Balance your budget and cut expenses and frivolous waste before asking for more money. .
- You waste a lot of money. Get your house in order before reaching into my pockets for more.
- How much are you going to keep paying to keep drug addicts addicted and comfortable? STOP enabling unsafe, unhealthy behavior! You are already overspending on homelessness for addicts and encouraging more addicts to come to our city. Stop spending so much and start actually helping people get treatment so they can make positive changes and then give back to society rather. This new tax would go to more "programs" but you need some accountability for actually helping people and making a difference rather than simply spending money.
- There is already money budgeted for police, fire, emergency services, and 9-1-1. If you cut those programs that's your own damn fault. Fix it within your budget!
- It was very short-sited to take federal money without a plan to be able to continue it. It sounds like some of that "free money" costs more than we can pay. So stop!
- Once again stop thinking about spending tax payer money as fast as you can grab it and slow down your spending. Conserve, cut your budget and do better.

Thank you,  
Heidi Hand

**From:** [Jose Dominguez](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony against restricted funding  
**Date:** Monday, June 12, 2023 3:41:48 PM

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My name is Pastor Jose L. Dominguez of La Luz Del Valle Church in Keizer, Oregon. I am sending my written testimony on the Payroll Tax vote.

I strongly encourage our City Council not to restrict funds for police services, fire, emergency services, 911 call services, code enforcement, and especially unsheltered services.

The faith community deems it necessary that unsheltered populations be provided with health services that contribute to their mental well being, and a better quality of life.

We ask our City Council to find a funding stream(s) that would help keep the services now provided in place but to continue to fund them in the future for the good of our community.

Sincerely,

Pastor Jose L. Dominguez  
Iglesia Luz Del Valle Church

**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [jenna.b.drader@gmail.com](mailto:jenna.b.drader@gmail.com)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Submission  
**Date:** Monday, June 12, 2023 3:36:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

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Your Name	Jenna Oakes
Your Email	<a href="mailto:jenna.b.drader@gmail.com">jenna.b.drader@gmail.com</a>
Your Phone	5035594431
Street	1627 S 7th St
City	Independence
State	OR
Zip	97351
Message	<p>I have a comment about the payroll tax. I do not live in this city, I am already paying extra safety taxes in my home city. Those taxes I got to VOTE on. I do not see how the city of Salem could tax me when I do not even have voting rights for the city, or the right to vote on the city council members. This does not feel fair to me to have to pay even more in taxes when I'm already paying my fair share for the city I live in. Please do not take more out of my pay check because of where I work. I love where I work, and being a loyal servant to the people of Salem. But, I also need my pay check. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns, I hope you take them into consideration.</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 6/12/2023.

**From:** [Jenna Veloz](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Comment Regarding Proposed Payroll Tax for Salem  
**Date:** Monday, June 12, 2023 3:40:29 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I have reviewed the proposal for the payroll tax and other options to help finance city services. I will say all are frustrating. While as a citizen of this city I know that we have to pay for services, but also times are tough right now with inflation. I wish I could come forth into this argument with better options but anyway that the weight of this budget proposal can be lifted off of constituents would be helpful. We made the move to Oregon coming from a much lower payroll tax state but luckily our new job wages accounted for the increase; however, at what point does it stop? Oregon already has one of the highest payroll taxes. Will we be able to stay? I am all for supporting the community but my irritation comes from what is my money really going toward and how is it being managed?

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment.

Jenna Veloz

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lindsay T. Newcomer](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed payroll tax comment  
**Date:** Monday, June 12, 2023 4:54:54 PM

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Dear Salem City Council,

I would like to provide comment on the proposed payroll tax. I live in Canby and work remotely from my home for Salem Health. My husband and I operate a small farm that is currently not producing enough revenue to meet our farm expenses. Therefore, we are injecting our own personal income to subsidize our farm. The cost of fertilizer, fuel, and labor have increased 100-200% in the last 3 years. The price per pound we get at harvest has dropped to less than half of what it was 2 years ago. Instead of making some profit for our farm work, we are not breaking even and had to make the decision to forgo fertilizing this year because of the costs. Having to pay this tax to the City of Salem would have a huge negative financial impact on our household. I live in Clackamas County where I financially support the county and the City of Canby. I don't live in Salem.

Let us take a step back and look at the whole landscape, not just my household. People are struggling. Inflation has far outpaced any rise in wages and people are having trouble making ends meet. Groceries, gas, electricity, goods and services have skyrocketed. My cousin was just telling me that her bills have gone up by \$200 a month. Families who are already scraping by to provide for their kids/families will now have even less to work with if you pass this tax. While 0.814% might not sound like a lot, it is a significant amount when you're pinching every penny that comes in. This tax would put further significant stress on everyone who works in Salem. Looking downstream, it could push even more people to need these services that you are trying to fund. This could cause an even bigger deficit.

In conclusion, we need responsible fiscal governance, allocation of current taxes for support of the mental health services, substance abusers, and the homeless all encompassing. Throwing money at a problem with no provable solution is not the answer. Recently our governor even withheld funding to the City of Portland and Multnomah County because they did not have a provable solution to the homeless crisis.

Please do not approve this tax.

Respectfully,  
Lindsay Newcomer

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**From:** [Pamela Filbert](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Support for payroll tax to fund city services  
**Date:** Monday, June 12, 2023 4:57:22 PM

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I am writing in support of the proposed payroll tax to help fund city services, including public safety and services for the unhoused. It is impossible to see how much our city needs to continue, if not improve, services in these areas.

My husband and I were driving home from church (near Hoover Elementary) less than two weeks ago, when we had to detour due to police action. As it turns out, we ended up being funneled right past the suspect, who was hiding in a tree while holding a firearm on Hawthorne Street near the school bus depot! Someone came into our fenced yard last summer while our house (near McKinley Elementary) was being painted and threatened the painter. Good things are happening in trying to address those who are unsheltered, but there is still so much that needs to be done. We literally can't afford NOT to find additional revenue streams to continue and improve upon addressing these issues.

Pamela Filbert  
503-705-6694



**From:** [Tracie Farnsworth](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [Tracie Farnsworth](#)  
**Subject:** Safe Salem Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Monday, June 12, 2023 4:38:39 PM

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Dear Mayor Hoy and members of the Salem City Council,

I am in opposition to imposing a payroll tax on employees who work in the City of Salem. I am an employer in the City of Salem and most of our employees work in Salem. Adding another employee paid payroll tax, right after implementing the Paid Leave Oregon payroll tax, is yet another blow to their paychecks. This payroll tax shouldn't be implemented without asking the voters. This payroll tax is also a burden to employers, who have to administer and manage another payroll tax. I would know, since I manage and administer our payroll taxes in-house. It takes a lot of time to implement and process payroll taxes. Please reconsider implementing a payroll tax on employees who work in Salem.

Thank you for your time,  
Tracie



**Tracie Farnsworth | Office Manager**  
**2180 16th Street NE Salem OR 97301**  
**O: 503-585-7403 | F: 503-585-1978**

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**From:** [Tim Hay](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Payroll Tax and Increase in Operation Fees  
**Date:** Monday, June 12, 2023 3:42:11 PM

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Dear City Council

One of your main missions is to be fiscally responsible with the public's money and to correct mistakes made by those who haven't. The City's Budget committee has failed in its mission. How dare they propose to continue funding programs when the only way to accomplish this is on the backs of the employees in Salem. Being responsible is cutting unneeded fat in the budget. So, what happens next year if there is a budget shortfall, just keep passing on the burden? Inflation is out pacing wages already and you want to cut further into people wages even more by taxing them? Remand the proposed budget back to the committee and have them come up with a sensible plan, cutting out the fat and come back with a proposal where the city can live within its existing means and not take the easy way out by putting the burden on others.

Tim Hay