

From: [Angela Ross](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: The Salem Public Library
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2025 9:46:47 PM

Dear City Council of Salem,

I heard alarming rumors that the Salem Public Library might close. I hope that this is not true. It would be terribly wasteful to close an "information center," at the dawn of the biggest information revolution in human history. The library is a vital focal point of any hard-working community, and a source of self-education at a time when education cuts threaten. Children rely on the public library, as many school libraries have been reduced to bare bones.

I don't live in Salem, but if I ever decided to invest there, I would certainly expect there to be an excellent public library. I'm sure other investors would have the same criteria.

Thank you for your time and attention.
Sincerely,

From: [Jane Cummins](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Congrats on approving a levy
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 4:17:31 PM

Mayor Hoy and All City Council Members - Thank you for deciding to send a levy with the lower cost to Salem voters. Although many of us who are strong supporters of the levy, we must see all of you out in the community helping to lead the campaign.

A few suggestions from one who has sat in your chairs:

- 1) Include strong statements in support of the levy and why it is so important in the upcoming State of the City address.
- 2) Attend all neighborhood group meetings and speak at events you attend.
- 3) Explain passage will assist with keeping funds for public safety for the 5-year life of the levy.
- 4) Be clear that the City's deficit problems will continue due to longstanding issues (for example: restrictions on property taxes which has resulted in budget shortfalls in Salem and cities across Oregon; the fact that the state does not pay in lieu of taxes even though Salem provides services to state properties) Suggest that folks contact legislative members to pass a payment to Salem.

Any suggestions for community members who will be working day and night for passage are welcome. Thank you again for listening, learning, and responding to the community.

Sincerely,
Jane Cummins
Ward 4

From: [Laurie Dougherty](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Comment on Agenda Item 5.d. Operartimng Levy for Salem Library, Prks, Recreation & Center 50+
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 5:06:37 PM

Mayor Hoy and Members of the Salem City Council,

My name is Laurie Dougherty. I live in Ward One. Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of **Agenda Item 5.d.** 25-36 Consideration of a five-year operating levy to fund the Library, Parks, Recreation, and Center 50+.

Salem’s Libraries, Parks and Center 50+ are essential for our city to thrive. They provide safe and welcoming places where people, young, old and in between find opportunities for learning, personal growth, and wholesome activities that contribute to our physical and mental health.

During the many discussions about funding these services, I keep remembering how important libraries and parks have been throughout my long life. The list is long. In some libraries and parks I spent many, many hours. Others I visited only occasionally. I read for pleasure and studied with purpose. I walked and biked and found solace and repose, in sun or shade, near water whenever possible.

I grew up in Massachusetts, moved away, moved back, went to graduate school, worked, and moved here to Salem when I retired in 2011. I can’t imagine living in a place where parks and libraries are not available, accessible, and maintained for all of us. For many people in Salem Center 50+ also provides meaningful activities that contribute to their well being. Public safety is not only about the police and fire departments. Salem Libraries, Parks and Center 50+ provide safe places to use and enjoy. They are vital components of a thriving community. I urge you to move the levy proposal to the May ballot.

This is my life list of libraries and parks:

LIBRARIES

Massachusetts

Public

Thomas Crane Public Library Quincy, MA (Main Library, W. Quincy Branch, Bookmobile)

Boston Public Library (Central Library, Connolly Branch, Jamaica Plain Branch, Kirstein Business Branch)

Brookline Public Library

Cambridge Public Library

Academic

University of Massachusetts Boston

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Dewey Management & Social Sciences; Hayden Humanities & Sciences, Rotch Architecture & Planning)

Northeastern University

Tufts University

Harvard Extension School

New York

New York Public Library (Main Library Bryant Park)

Kentucky

Louisville Public Library (Main Library, Crescent Hill Branch)

Oregon

Salem Public Library (Main Library)

PARKS

Massachusetts

Milton: Cunningham Park

Boston: Boston Common, Boston Public Garden, Copley Square, Charles River Esplanade, Herter Park, Back Bay Fens, Muddy River Path, Jamaica Pond, Franklin Park, Arnold Arboretum

Cambridge: Cambridge Common, Danehy Park, Memorial Drive Riverside Parks, North Point

Concord: Walden Pond

Brookline: Olmsted Park, Larz Anderson Park, Griggs Park

New York

New York City: Central Park, Washington Square Park, The Cloisters

Kentucky

Louisville: Central Park, Cherokee Park, Seneca Park, Iroquois Park, Shawnee Park

Oregon

Salem: Riverfront Park, Minto Brown Island Park, Bush's Pasture Park, Fairmount City Park, Clark Creek Park, State Capitol State Park, Mirror Pond Park, Pringle Park, Pathways along Mill Creek and Pringle Creek

Silverton: Oregon Garden, Silver Falls

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of lois.stark@comcast.net
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 3:49:03 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Lois Stark
Your Email	lois.stark@comcast.net
Your Phone	5035857215
Street	440 21st ST SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	Hello Salem City Council, I am deeply grateful for your dedication to the city and to our Salem Public Library, Center 50+, and our parks. By putting a levy on the ballot you have shown true leadership. Now it will be up to our citizens to vote. It's not easy being an elected official. Someone will almost always be upset with what you do. Thank you for having the courage to make this decision. I will work diligently to pass this levy. Lois Stark Ward 2

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 2/11/2025.

From: [Mike Blakley](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Five Year Local Option Levy
Date: Friday, February 14, 2025 8:03:52 AM

Greetings

I am contacting you to request that the Five Year Local Option Levy be put on the May ballot. I use the City Library and Senior Centers on a regular basis and greatly enjoy and appreciate both and believe both are well run.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards

Micheal Blakely

Salem resident for over 65 years