

From: [Alvin M. Klausen](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Safe Salem Payroll Tax
Date: Thursday, June 8, 2023 9:05:43 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Salem Payroll Tax - Marion County LoO.pdf](#)

Good morning,

Please accept this public comment (attached) on Safe Salem Payroll Tax from the Marion County Board of Commissioners for the June 12th City Council meeting.

Thank you.



Alvin Klausen

Government Relations

Marion County Board of Commissioners

Email: Aklausen@co.marion.or.us

Cell: 503-302-8440



Marion County

OREGON

Board of Commissioners

June 07, 2023

(503) 588-5212
(503) 588-5237-FAX

Salem City Council
555 Liberty St SE #240
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Marion County Opposes Salem Payroll Tax

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Dear Mayor Hoy and members of the Salem City Council:

Colm Willis, Chair
Kevin Cameron
Danielle Bethell

The Marion County Board of Commissioners writes in opposition to imposing a payroll tax on employees that work in the City of Salem. An employee-paid payroll tax could have harmful impacts on economic growth in the region and on citizens within the City of Salem.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Jan Fritz

As an employer, Marion County tries to maintain competitive salaries and benefits to counties across the state and country to attract and retain the highest quality employees to serve our citizens. The implementation of an employee-paid payroll tax would impede our ability to be competitive and discourage candidates from applying for or accepting positions within the county. A tax of this nature would also disincentivize new business growth or further business investment in the community, which could lead to economic stagnation in the region.

Additionally, payroll taxes are some of the most regressive taxes and have some of the largest impacts on workers' pay. Payroll taxes generally lead to a raise in prices of purchased goods and would impose a greater burden on citizens in our community. In a time of historic inflationary growth, adding a payroll tax could create undue hardships for families in the City of Salem and across Marion County.

We understand the difficult choices Salem's leadership needs to make but an employee-paid payroll tax is a short-term solution that could bare long term consequences. The Marion County Board of Commissioners urges the Salem City Council to reconsider implementing payroll tax on employees who work in Salem.

Sincerely,

Colm Willis
Chair

Kevin Cameron
Commissioner

Danielle Bethell
Commissioner

BOC: AMK

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of asanblise@comcast.net
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Friday, June 9, 2023 11:44:34 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Ashley Board
Your Email	asanblise@comcast.net
Your Phone	503-999-9362
Street	805 Perrydale RD
City	Dallas
State	OR
Zip	97338
Message	Hello, Regarding Safe Salem Employee-Paid Payroll Tax, file 23-212 . I am against putting more taxes towards citizens. We are taxed on property, federally, state, Social Security, PFML (even for employee/employers that already had this as part of their benefits without additional payment), between taxes and healthcare, I already see about 1/3 less of my take home pay. Enough is enough. This doesn't seem well thought out and defined, as there aren't any specifications for employees who work for businesses located in Salem, but are not actual Salem residents. Also, it seems like this would put a big burden on Salem businesses payroll departments if they were to have to make this determination in their payroll process. Hope that people vote NO to more taxes. Ashley Board Salem Employed Dallas Resident

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 6/9/2023.

From: [Aaron L. Jeffries](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Monday, June 12 public input
Date: Friday, June 9, 2023 2:32:01 PM

In regards to the budget shortfall: I support an increase in the utility city operations fee.

I would gladly pay several more dollars a month on my utility bill than have **more than my entire yearly utility costs** taken out of my paycheck!

Common ground: I think there should be some cuts to non-essential programs combined with a mild increase in city operations fee.

Aaron Jeffries, BSN, RN, CNOR
Staff RN, Main OR
Salem Hospital

SALEM HEALTH
Hospitals & Clinics
aaron.jeffries@salemhealth.org
890 Oak St. SE | Salem, OR 97301
503-814-2111

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From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of crostocil@msn.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Friday, June 9, 2023 2:04:58 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Crystal Rostocil
Your Email	crostocil@msn.com
Your Phone	503-951-3449
Street	3427 4th St
City	Hubbard
State	OR
Zip	97032
Message	<p>Mayor and City Council, I am writing this letter in opposition to the proposed 0.814% payroll tax being considered for those that work in Salem. I cannot comprehend the reasoning behind this proposed tax to those that are already struggling to make ends meet in these difficult economic times with inflation, stagnated wages, and ever-increasing fees for services. The proposed tax also being applied to those of us who do not reside in Salem and commute also seems to as if Salem city government is implementing a tax on individuals that are not even represented in the City Council. I can understand the pressure city services are under with increasing costs as well, but I would recommend the city first seek to control costs and reduce services in lieu of implementing a non-voter tax. This tax is both tone-deaf to the citizens of Salem and insulting those that must commute into Salem for employment. This short-sighted tax increase will only result in more families struggling to make ends meet and employers moving their businesses outside of the city limits. Please reject this proposal and put any further tax considerations before the voters. Crystal Rostocil</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 6/9/2023.

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of erikdwurgler@gmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Friday, June 9, 2023 11:10:29 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Erik Wurgler
Your Email	erikdwurgler@gmail.com
Your Phone	5039315466
Street	4039 Firth Ave.
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	Please, no. I understand budgeting for municipalities can be a complex puzzle, but please do not punish taxpayers with the Salem payroll tax during this time of inflation, hardship, and looming recession. My and my family humbly ask you address cuts at the service level for next year, instead of asking more of the already stressed taxpayer base. Thank you.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 6/9/2023.

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of GDZacharias@icloud.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Thursday, June 8, 2023 4:33:00 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Gloria Steele
Your Email	GDZacharias@icloud.com
Your Phone	503-581-3669
Street	3590 Eola Drive NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>I am writing to protest the Salem City Council's proposed employee paid payroll tax. While I work in the City of Salem, I do not live within the city limits of Salem, and I am already paying property tax to another county. I do not have a representative on the city council and this is nothing more than taxation without representation. I am appalled that the City Council would even consider a tax such as this without a vote of the people. I would not even be allowed to participate in that vote, again because I do not live within the city limits of Salem. You are punishing employees who choose to work for the State. What about the employees who work for the state but work at home and their home is not within the city limits??? How will you even manage this? I strongly urge a NO vote on this short sighted proposal. This proposal will do nothing but encourage people to leave and not work within the city limits. This tax is not fair and I would receive NOTHING in return. I again strongly urge a NO vote.</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 6/8/2023.

From: [Jackly Rokes](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Payroll taxes
Date: Friday, June 9, 2023 2:04:53 PM

To whom it may concern:

Hi my name is Jackie and I work in Salem but live in clackamas county. I commute as do a lot of my coworkers who work at Salem hospital. I commute 45 min to work at my place of employment because I love the company. But because I chose to live in clackamas county I already pay more taxes ie gas, renewing my car registration and I have been on the fence about finding a job closer to home but love what I do and would like to stay at my current job. But if you vote to raise payroll taxes then I will not be able to afford to stay working in Salem. Even though I make double what minimum wage is this would definitely be a burden on myself. With rent, housing prices, and the cost of living the way they are how do you expect people to pay more in taxes when most of us are barely making it? I have a double income household with hardly any debt and just trying to find a home to buy right now is a burden. Maybe fix the housing market first before you start taxing everyone like crazy or start making payroll cuts to the politicians who are not making good choices for the middle/lower class to make up the deficit. Thanks for taking the time to hopefully read this.

Jackie.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Karl Kamper](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Opposition to the proposed payroll tax
Date: Friday, June 9, 2023 3:47:30 PM

Dear Salem City Council Members,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed Safe Salem Employee – Paid Payroll Tax. I do not disagree with the council's desire to provide services in the community. I am opposed to the method proposed to fund the community safety initiatives.

As an employer in the City of Salem, I express concern about the effect this will have on maintaining a stable and adequate workforce. If approved, the proposed payroll tax will serve as a financial penalty for employees that chose to work in Salem. Employees that currently commute to Salem would be incentivized to consider work elsewhere. Local talent would also be incentivized to commute away from the city for employment. In all cases, earnings would be stronger for employees working outside of the city limits, because they would not be impacted by the proposed payroll tax. In recruiting and retaining employees, every employer operating in the City of Salem would be placed at a competitive disadvantage by having a portion of their employee's earnings taxed, simply because they choose to do business in Salem. The long term impact and effect on business economic development would be sobering.

While I work in the City of Salem, I commute from another community. As a resident of another community, I already pay taxes that support community safety services. The implementation of a payroll tax for this purpose means I will now pay for those services twice. I will fund these services where I reside, and a second time where I work. As a non-resident, I do not expect to have access to the services provided for the residents of the City of Salem. But, through the payroll tax, I would still be expected to fund them. I fundamentally believe that it is up to the citizens, the residents, to establish and provide funding for priorities within their city.

I respectfully ask the city council to consider other alternatives to your budget shortfall. A payroll tax is not the solution.

Sincerely,
Karl E. Kamper
McMinnville, Oregon

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of melpen5507@hotmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Friday, June 9, 2023 2:53:23 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Melissa Pence
Your Email	melpen5507@hotmail.com
Your Phone	5035086072
Street	2828 high st se
City	salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	The city needs to better manage current funds before asking for more taxes to be paid of City of Salem employee paychecks. So many funds are mismanaged with so much waste happening. Spend time improving current programs/systems before asking for more money to be mismanaged.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 6/9/2023.

From: [Travis Halvorson](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [Lars Larson](#); [Larson, Lars](#)
Subject: Re: Payroll Tax Measure
Date: Friday, June 9, 2023 12:39:46 PM

Lars,

I hope you are aware of Salem Oregon's City Councils effort, to blow past voters, and put into place a payroll tax, that would go to support crime and drug addicts. They've done everything to hide this from the general public that would have to pay for it!

<https://www.salemreporter.com/2023/06/09/city-council-considering-payroll-tax-without-voter-approval/>

On Fri, Jun 9, 2023 at 12:36 PM Travis Halvorson <travishalvorson@gmail.com> wrote:

This is a disgusting measure that hurts Salem workers. The excuses for this are that you can't get this in a bill fast enough for voters. So, you think dictating to people is the right answer in support of our democracy? Just because you can't do your jobs, doesn't mean you have the right to blow past the voter!

And let's talk about the lack of effort from you. Supporting drug addicts and crime instead of supporting hardworking families. You should be disgusted with yourselves! You have allowed Salem into a crime ridden cesspool! And NO! More money won't change that, getting the corrupt leaders out, and getting leaders that will uphold the laws, respect voting rights, and protect hardworking families is what is needed. You have done none of that!

From: [Tom Romanowski](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Employee Paid Payroll Tax
Date: Friday, June 9, 2023 11:29:08 AM

I oppose this.

This money is going to be wasted on the homeless and bums in our city. Instead of enabling them they need to focus on getting them back on their feet and working. Instead of allowing them to defecate in our streets, wander around on a drug bender, steal and destroy our city, you should push them to clean up after themselves. If they can't, they need to go somewhere else.

By "helping " all you are doing is enabling them. When I say "helping " I'm talking about giving them places to live, giving them taxpayer money for food, drugs, clean needles, etc, and all these handouts. If you continue to GIVE them everything they will never work for ANYTHING!!!!

Just like spoiled kids, if you coddle them they will never appreciate anything and only expect everything handed to them. We've all seen the videos of the bums in Portland that say on social media "Oregon makes it too easy for us not to be here, we get fed, we get money for drugs, and we can sleep anywhere and do whatever we want". THAT IS EMBARRASSING, why would you want this in your city!?!?!?

LETS NOT TURN THIS PLACE INTO CALIFORNIA OR SEATTLE where they (homeless/bums) rule the streets and destroy EVERYTHING!!!

I support our public workers (cops, firemen, people who actually make a difference). I DO NOT SUPPORT GIVING EVERYTHING TO THE HOMELESS SO THEY CAN CONTINUE TO DESTROY OUR PARKS, ROADS, HIGHWAYS, AND CAPITOL. Have you seen what they did to Wallace park? You can't step foot near the river without finding needles, razors, and liquor bottles, it's disgusting.

Don't take our money and make the situation WORSE!

Tom