

**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [schacher@salemelectric.com](mailto:schacher@salemelectric.com)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Submission  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 8:46:24 AM  
**Attachments:** [2023 07 06 City Council Payroll Tax Comments.docx](#)

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Your Name	Tony Schacher
Your Email	<a href="mailto:schacher@salemelectric.com">schacher@salemelectric.com</a>
Your Phone	5033623601
Street	633 7th St NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	Attached are comments for the city council July 10, council meeting regarding the proposed payroll tax for employees in Salem

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/6/2023.



July 6, 2023

Mayor Hoy and the Salem City Council  
555 Liberty St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Salem City Council Proposal for Payroll Tax

On behalf of Salem Electric, I am writing to express our opinion of the proposed payroll tax. This tax appears punitive to the hardworking employees in Salem and lacks support from residents, non-residents, and businesses.

Businesses operate in a competitive labor market. If implemented, we believe the proposed payroll tax will create a barrier for many Salem businesses to recruit and retain skilled employees who are essential to their operations.

At Salem Electric, many employees are required to live within 30-minutes of our office. This requirement is necessary for our operations yet presents some challenges for prospective job candidates due to the high cost of housing and property taxes in Salem. A new payroll tax on top of higher housing costs hurts our ability to attract new employees.

Voters need to be a part of the solution in deciding how they want to see the City Council address its budget gaps. The fact that this proposed payroll tax will affect unrepresented employees across the city is very troubling. Non-citizens of Salem have no representation or recourse to the implementation of this tax.

Salem Electric would like to see the City Council prioritize its budget to better reflect the needs of Salem residents, specifically placing funding priority on public safety and infrastructure. It is improper to implement a tax increase without an assessment of the effectiveness of current program spending. Simply put, the City of Salem must identify necessary funding, show accountability for any increase in spending, and then put the funding request to the voters.

Salem Electric would prefer to see the Council send the employee-paid payroll tax proposal to a vote of the Salem electorate at the November 2023 General Election.

Sincerely,

Tony Schacher  
General Manager

**From:** [Alexis Loflin](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 9:35:15 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing to express my concern, disgruntlement, and trepidation about Salem potentially implementing a payroll tax. I already pay taxes, federal and state. I support local Salem businesses, which are great for our local economy. And I'm sure you are well aware that most people are currently struggling with the rising cost of living and other pains inflation is causing. If this payroll tax goes into effect, it will directly impact the constituents that reside in this city. We already have a huge population of people without housing in our community and this could likely add to that number. Maybe if we lower the astronomical cost of living in our area, this wouldn't have such negative consequences for many. I am a single mother, relying on my income alone to support my two children. Their father has never paid child support, even though there is a court order in place. I do not qualify for any kind of state assistance because I make too much money. Yet somehow I can barely scrape by month after month. I should mention that my monthly bills do not include daycare costs, which are also outrageous. And because of that, my two young children are home with me while I work. I have no other options. My mental health is struggling and I have no means to actively do anything about it. Adding yet another subtraction to the little salary I bring in would be detrimental and devastating to my life. I cannot get another job. Who would watch my children? So I am begging, please do not impose this tax for Salem.

Sincerely,

Alexis L.

**From:** [Amy Nagy](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Payroll Tax - Strongly opposed  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 5:56:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you in response to the proposed payroll tax. We are a small business owner in Salem – Turner Road Storage. This year, the inflationary pressures, coupled with interest rate increases have been a major burden on our business operations. We, as many small businesses, have strived to keep our wages in step with inflation, and with what our employees need maintain their lifestyle in this costly climate. We also our facing the highest interest rates in decades, which have a chilling effect on our ability to finance any expansion.

It is short sighted and out of touch to add another tax on already overburdened small business owners. The notion that this should be kept out of the voters hands also seems heavy handed and an over-reach of authority.

Please consider the burdens that small business are facing today and find other ways to close your budget gap. This tax will have no other impact than to reduce the wages that we can pay our employees.

Thank you,

Amy Nagy  
Turner Road Storage

**From:** [abigailrollinsdmd@gmail.com](mailto:abigailrollinsdmd@gmail.com)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** New payroll tax on Salem city workers  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 9:02:40 AM

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With all due respect. You are asking for citizens at a time of outrageous inflation to to live with their paycheck worth even less than it already is. Livewithin your budget like the rest of us have to.  
Signed, Abigail, Rollins, DMD

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [brent baune](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** No on new pay role tax  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 12:37:28 PM

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I strongly apposed the new pay role tax. I already pay more than my fair share. Have a balanced budget instead of taking money from people who work for a living.

**From:** [William Hekman](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Payroll tax  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 2:24:59 PM

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In regards to the proposed payroll tax.

Talk about overreaching and confusing for employees and the self-employed in Salem, applying to residents and non-residents.

Learn to live within the city of Salem budget and stop wasting money on things the city can't afford or shouldn't do.

Stop making up new taxes and "fees".

At least put it to a public vote to get voter approval, which I'm sure wouldn't pass and I'm sure that's why you just make a new tax by fiat.

Sincerely,

Bill Hekman

**From:** [chad kernutt](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [Micki Varney](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 1:15:16 PM

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Please add this statement to the public record:

My name is Chad Kernutt, I work for the Oregon Department of Corrections and I am not okay with the city of Salem trying to go after my hard earned money. During these times of high inflation we are already taking a massive hit in our wallets. We are not getting raises to offset the inflation and anyone who has gotten a raise it has not been nearly enough to offset the damage done by inflation.

In the last couple years Correctional Officers have had our paychecks cut to funnel more of our money into PERS to cover what the state of Oregon used to pay. We have been getting taxed as well because of bad bills from the Oregon legislator that has us paying into the PERS debt to balance the budget due to the state of Oregon government's mismanagement. We also have added taxes in the last 2 years for the statewide transit tax that goes to the transit systems in the Portland area that none of us use, and also the paid leave Oregon tax that takes out a big chunk from our pay checks and that likewise hardly anyone will ever use.

We are already hurting in Salem from being overburdened with taxes and the last thing we need is more taxes!! An entire war was fought over burdensome taxes and being taxed by people who do not represent us. Do not be so foolish as to hurt people further who are already hurting in their wallets to support their families just so you city government folks in Salem can funnel more money into a homelessness problem that the state of Oregon government and big cities attracted here in the first place!!

Sincerely,  
Chad Kernutt

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy, powered by Cricket Wireless



**From:** [C Rushton](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the insane payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 9:08:24 AM

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Please add this statement to the public record:  
No payroll tax.  
Stop pissing money away, spend within your means.  
And just for fun:  
stop the WOKE BS... it's not a good look.

Thanks,  
Clay

Sent via iPhone

**From:** [Cherita Wilson](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** NO TO PAYROLL TAX!  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 3:14:48 PM

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To whom this may concern,

My name is Cherita Wilson, and I am a licensed realtor who sells real estate in the city of Salem on a regular basis. I am sending this email in response to the proposed payroll tax that is going to be voted on by the city Council. I am absolutely, 100% opposed to this tax! I don't think it is right to penalize people just for having a job. Just for getting a paycheck. I believe your counsel needs to go back and re-look at the city budget and maybe raise the business taxes for some of these corporate companies who are making millions of dollars a year. Why is it OK for you to tax those of us who are already being taxed on our income through state, income taxes? And to a further degree, property taxes? It doesn't matter that this tax is a minute amount, in comparison to other taxes that we pay. It is still even less money in our pockets that will be going to different services that no doubt are being mismanaged.

I completely disagree with you, thinking it is OK to tax people who don't even live in the city of Salem, and will not be benefiting from any of the services you claim to be attempting to withhold payroll taxes for. If you want to tax someone, I am for you to go to Walmart, target, McDonald's, and every other large billion dollar corporation and impose a higher tax on them. Stop trying to take money out of the pockets of hard-working people who are already stretched to their limits. I disagree with this, and I implore you to figure out something else that doesn't impose more money, lost to the rest of us.

Cherita Wilson, Real Estate Royal!

541-829-2133

<https://www.oregon.gov/rea/licensing/Documents/Initial-Agency-Disclosure-Pamphlet.pdf>

**From:** [Debi Hauer](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** No more tax  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 5:04:38 PM

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I work in salem and we already pay so much tax it's hard to support our families. Please vote no on the proposed payroll tax.

Debi hauer  
541-220-8035

Sent from my iPhpppp

**From:** [Darin Jacobsen](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Employee Paid Tax for anyone who works in Salem  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 9:03:42 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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First of all this has to be presented to voters. Also, I live in Keizer and would not get the opportunity to vote on this and it affects me drastically. This is wrong and I believe it is taxation without representation therefor it is ILLEGAL! Stop this crap City of Salem. If City of Salem needs more money, this should come from their City of Salem property taxes from the people that live in Salem. Quit trying to rob other people that don't even live in your city!

**DARIN J JACOBSEN**

Meter / Apparatus Lead I



633 7<sup>th</sup> St NW  
Salem, OR 97304  
Office: 503-316-2481  
Fax: 503-361-2570  
Mobile: 503-932-7061

[Jacobsen@SalemElectric.com](mailto:Jacobsen@SalemElectric.com)

[www.salemelectric.com](http://www.salemelectric.com)



**From:** [Deborah McMillan](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 11:09:14 AM

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This is unconstitutional and unconscionable. Passing a tax on business whether Salem residents or WITHOUT a vote of the people. STOP!  
Learn to function within your means! People are leaving Portland in droves. You will turn Salem into the same

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** [saliturodebbie@yahoo.com](mailto:saliturodebbie@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 10:46:52 AM

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Please add this statement to the public record:

I am a very small business owner in Salem and oppose this proposed tax. The City of Salem needs to learn how to budget like the rest of us! For the government of any size, city, or federal to just consistently add to the tax burden is ridiculous.

Debbie Salituro

**From:** [Dean and Darlene Warrick](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 1:26:48 PM

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Please add this statement to the public record: I do not want an additional payroll tax levied on workers in Salem. Darlene warrick

**From:** [Erin Baker](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed PayRoll Tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 7:57:52 AM

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Salem City Council,

This email is in regard to the proposed payroll tax that is being considered.

First, if I understand the initial reasoning behind this it was because the City of Salem would not have enough money in its budget to run the City starting in 2024. If that is part of the case then the City needs to look at where it can cut corners and tighten its budget to better make ends meet.

However, if the reasoning behind this is to increase emergency service that is a bit different.

In either case a payroll tax IS NOT the answer.

The amount of resources that companies and businesses will have to put into determining who and when an employee's pay is taxed would be excessive.

Additionally, not everyone would be taxed equally. For example, an employee who lives outside of city limits but works in city limits is taxed. Their college who works outside of city limits but lives within the city limits is not taxed. To add to this, people who come into the city to do business, visit or take part in what this city has to offer and who would benefit from the city's emergency services are not taxed. Placing the tax burden on cernent people but not on all who would benefit.

There are far too many moving parts to this tax and to be honest Salem City Council will continue to raise the payroll tax each year as they have continued to raise utilities, property taxes and garbage services rates over the last 7 plus years.

The need for more police, fire and overall emergency service is great for the City of Salem. So, may I suggest that the Salem City Council members consider a sales tax instead.

Now before you shoot this down consider the following.....

A sales tax would bring in revenue from most residents but not place the burden of funding the City of Salem solely on the resident. People who live outside of Salem and who enjoy the benefit of this city would also be contributing and supporting those services. It would be far easier with less needed resources for business to calculate the tax revenue.

A 1 percent/dollar sales tax would most likely provide as much if not more revenue for the city than a payroll tax.

Salem City Council, everytime you increase a utility or service rate or tax you are placing an increased financial stress/burden on your residents. You may not think that \$5.00 here and \$2.50 there is not a lot but it is. It has an accumulative effect that hits many households hard especially when their income is not increasing at the same rate as the cost of living. Keep in mind we pay for these increases twice! Our own cost and then the increased costs at stores



and business because they have to adjust their prices to cover their increase in utilities, services and taxes. If the City Council is not careful the homeless rate in this city will grow to a level far greater than it is now because, residents like me (signal income), my neighbors (fixed income) and friends (low to middle income but little to now cost of living increase) can't afford to live in our homes. Any tax or increase in rates becomes a hardship.

No to a payroll tax.

Respectfully,  
Erin Baker

**From:** [Elliot Groeneveld](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Salem Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 10:23:15 AM

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For the record I am against the Salem Payroll tax.....the city needs to live within its budget and stop adding programs and positions. There is NO need for this tax on working people who happen to work or live in Salem. Get back to the basics.....

Also for tax prep purposes this will be another new tax nightmare..... the major software programs CPA firms and tax prep office use are already struggling with the new state taxes, new Portland taxes and new business taxes.

Cheers,

Elliot

Elliot P Groeneveld, CPA/Principal  
503-378-1120 office  
503-378-7644 fax  
[elliott@wrgncpas.com](mailto:elliott@wrgncpas.com)

WRGN, LLC  
Marion Development Co., LLC  
PO Box 126, Salem, OR 97308  
805 Liberty ST NE, Suite 1, Salem, OR 97301 (CPA Office)

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**From:** [Francisco Garcia](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** payroll tax ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 11:17:02 AM

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Pleas don't turn out City of Salem into another California City with all kinds of ridiculous taxes that make no sence, we already pay income tax and property tax so there is no need for additional tax just to put more hardship on us, we we need is our public employees to do what we send them to do and manage the budget property, I noticed one of the listed Items is the "Unsheltered" meaning homeless, more handouts will not fix this issue and is proven, you will not find a USA City that fixed the homeless problem by providing more handouts and shelter they don't want themselves they want to be left alone so they can continue with their addictions, if you want to solve the problem come up with a proposal to force them into rehabilitation, this is the roots of the problem, once we help them with this they'll know what to do

We send you into office to do a job and putting more taxes into our hard earned income is not one of them, we're totally against this specially without our vote. this is not Cuba, Venezuela or North Corea, we do have a voice and needs to be heard

Francisco Garcia  
Principal Broker  
Coldwell Banker Mountain West Real Estate  
235 Union ST NE Salem, OR 97301  
Cell 971-218-7397  
[email fgreo777@yahoo.com](mailto:fgreo777@yahoo.com)

[Check our FREE Lifetime handyman service/Buyer Service Warrantee](#)

2016-2022 International and presidential Diamond Society Award

2017 International President's circle Award and Top 20 Residential Sales Associate Award

2017 top 10% Coldwell Banker Worldwide

[Coldwell Banker property search](#)

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[Zillow home search](#)



**From:** [Gavin Arce](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 7:10:24 AM

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You are [REDACTED] idiots

**From:** [gj99](#)  
**To:** [Amy Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 12:53:39 PM

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Gary Jones

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

----- Original Message -----

On Friday, July 7th, 2023 at 12:49 PM, Amy Johnson <[AJohnson@cityofsalem.net](mailto:AJohnson@cityofsalem.net)> wrote:

Hello,

If you would like your comments to be included in the record for Monday's public hearing on this matter, please provide your first and last name.

Sincerely,

Amy Johnson

*Deputy City Recorder*

City of Salem

555 Liberty Street SE, Rm. 225

Salem, OR 97301

[ajohnson@cityofsalem.net](mailto:ajohnson@cityofsalem.net) | 503-588-6091

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**From:** gj99 <[gj99@protonmail.com](mailto:gj99@protonmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 7, 2023 12:38 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder <[CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net](mailto:CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net)>  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax

Salem residents are taxed enough and too much! As public servants, you need to do a much better job of managing the monies that you're already collecting instead of finding new ways to extract money from hardworking taxpayers. Another \$500 in taxes per year? Enough is enough! Vote no!!

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

**From:** [Heidi Hand](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** No Employee Paid Payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 9:46:46 AM

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The City of Salem should be trying to attract businesses and improve the city so that people want to work in Salem, not provide another reason to not work in Salem. Many people enjoy living outside the city and commuting in for employment. Instead, this proposed payroll tax would be a real incentive not to work in Salem. With high fuel costs you would be encouraging people not to drive to Salem for employment and rather find a job elsewhere, in many cases in a town closer to their home.

The proposed tax will also harm retention in an already tough job market. Why would a prospective employee accept a job in Salem when they can have higher take-home pay in a nearby city?

It is evident that the City of Salem accepted grants without plans for sustained funding. Please ask the Salem citizens if they even want to continue these grants and special projects before asking for the money to pay for them. We would like the city to get back to basics and cut the excessive over funding of special interests. Most residents are cutting back on their own spending due to high inflation. The City of Salem needs to make some cuts themselves before asking its citizens for another 18 million dollars.

I am angry that you are considering taking \$65 a month from my paycheck without a vote. I am not a resident of Salem but commute here to work. I contribute to the city through my employer's taxes and through supporting local businesses that pay taxes. The City needs to support Salem businesses and become a place where people want to visit by cleaning up the city. You did more harm to the city by allowing homeless tents and allowing crime. It's time to spend a few years improving the city, enforcing ordinances and laws, improving safety, and building back the trust of residents. Please do not vote for this employee-paid payroll tax.

Sincerely,  
Heidi Hand



**From:** [Holly IvyWyllie](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Payroll tax  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 12:58:21 PM

---

Hello

I am opposed to this new tax and certainly believe this should go out to the voters for a determination. I am self-employed and this is yet another potential burden to me and my industry.

Thank you in advance!

Holly Ivy-Wyllie  
503-851-5940  
Oregon Broker  
Knipe Realty ERA Powered

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung  
Galaxy smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [Julie Curtis](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Payroll-Tax-Testimony for July 10 Hearing  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023 3:44:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [Payroll-Tax-Testimony.pdf](#)

---

Greetings - please accept the attached testimony for the City Council's July 10 hearing on a proposed payroll tax.

Thank you.

Julie Curtis

Sent from my iPhone

July 5, 2023

TO: Salem City Council

FROM: Julie Curtis, Ward 7

RE: Proposed Payroll Tax  
July 10, 2023 Hearing

Dear Council Members:

First let me say that I very much enjoyed and learned from being a member of the city budget committee this spring. I was impressed with how respectful, thoughtful and congenial the budget discussions and entire process were. I was proud of my city!

While I was a “yes” vote on recommending a payroll tax to help address the city’s significant budget shortfall, it came as a surprise to learn that the proposed tax rate is now 0.814. This rate was never discussed, and if it would have been, I most certainly would have voiced my concerns. It is simply too high.

To ask working people - many of whom can barely afford rent, school supplies, groceries, gas and utilities - to pay an average of more than \$40 per month is not right.

I urge the council to adopt the lowest or mid-range rate originally proposed (0.49 or 0.56). Just as families have to look hard at their budgets, factoring in increasing costs and determining where to cut back, so should the city. I believe there are several areas, and surely others, where we might find enough savings to make a lower tax rate feasible:

1. Reduce the Community Policing budget by half, to \$1 million
2. Fund just one, not two, new park rangers
3. Reduce the FTE to implement the payroll tax by at least two; five FTE seems excessive, though I realize there will be intensive oversight required at the beginning
4. Reconsider adding 25 new police (13 community policing) and fire (12) FTE; these two departments are struggling to fill existing positions, so why should the city be funding new FTE? Can any of the currently unfilled positions be redirected to other critical areas such as homelessness programs?

I urge the council to direct city staff to dig in further to find enough savings to make a lower payroll tax rate adequate. This would go a long way towards communicating to Salem businesses, organizations, employees and residents that the city is tightening its belt too. I realize the city has been limping along with inadequate revenue, and that projections are dire, but these are tough economic times for everyone, and we must respect that.

Finally, I’d like to advocate for retaining all current homelessness-related services supported by one-time pandemic funding. I believe that successful law enforcement and emergency response, clean public spaces, and overall safety in Salem are intertwined with providing adequate housing, mental health services and related homelessness resources. Funding the city’s to-date very successful efforts in this area is not a non-essential service nor “extra.” In fact Salem residents have expressed that reducing homelessness is their top priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion, and I wish you all the best on tackling the very difficult revenue situation our city is in. Your jobs are not easy. Salem is a wonderful place, and I believe we all support good decision-making to help our community thrive.



**From:** [Jacob Knudsen](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on the Salem City Council Proposal for Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 10:43:28 AM

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Dear Member of Salem City Council et. al,

As someone who lives and works in the City of Salem, I am writing to express my personal opinion of the proposed payroll tax. This tax is punitive to the employees in Salem. It also appears to lack support from residents, non-residents, and businesses.

As a manager for Salem Electric, I am responsible for retention and staffing in my department. I have staff that commute from areas such as Vancouver, Woodburn, and Stayton. On top of record high fuel prices in the recent past, this provides another reason for my highly skilled staff to seek employment elsewhere. In my industry, the fight for skilled employees is already very intense amidst nationwide staffing shortages.

Voters need to be a part of the solution in deciding how they want to see the City Council address its budget gaps. In addition, the fact that this proposed payroll tax will affect unrepresented employees across the city is very troubling. Non-citizens of Salem have no representation or recourse to the implementation of this tax.

I think I echo the majority of Salem residents in saying, City Council needs to prioritize its budget to better reflect the needs of Salem residents, specifically placing funding priority on public safety and infrastructure. It is improper to implement a tax increase without an assessment of the effectiveness of current program spending. Simply put, the City of Salem must identify necessary funding, show accountability for any increase in spending, and then put the funding request to the voters.

I would prefer to see the Council send the employee-paid payroll tax proposal to a vote of the Salem electorate at the November 2023 General Election.

Regards,

Jacob Knudsen

3085 Elderberry Dr S

Salem, OR 97302

**From:** [jordanpowell7715](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 7:17:56 AM

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This new payroll tax it bull. You are going to lose business and works on this tax. Learn to balance your budget. We adults have to balance our budgets at home so you kids working for the state need to not over spend and not give away all your money. Let alone then force your people to pay for you stupid mistake.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** [John VanSchepen](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 10:52:11 AM

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To whom it may concern

Please add this statement to the public record:

Dear City Recorder

I am writing to you to voice my opposition to the proposed tax. This will be an added tax of approximately \$500.00 for each Salem worker. Our State tax is already burdensome as it is among the highest in the country. Furthermore, like most government programs, once it is initiated it will be easy to increase. Finally, as there is no public vote on the matter it is essentially a form of taxation without representation which our nation rejected long ago. I urge you to vote against this proposed 1% tax.

Thank you

Sincerely

John Van Schepen

**From:** [Karen](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** employee payroll tax DISAGREE  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 10:31:17 AM

---

Hello,

I am opposed to the employee payroll tax in the Salem area. It should not just get applied by council vote. It needs to go to the public ballot vote to be decided. Give the folks paying for it the right to decide. Please hear our voice.

--

*Karen Peters*

***Sundance Realty , LLC***

*Licensed Realtor in Oregon*

*503-559-1880*

**[KpRealtor2009@gmail.com](mailto:KpRealtor2009@gmail.com)**

**WEBSITE: [KpRealtorhomes.com](http://KpRealtorhomes.com)**

**OR Lic # 200905059**



**From:** [Kayleen Warner](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Payroll Tax Should Go to Voters  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 5:51:49 AM

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Hi,

I live and work in Salem and understand how funds are needed to keep services going however this is not the way to add funds. The amount of the proposed payroll tax in addition to the recent increase on utility bills is a burden to me. While I make over minimum wage each month a significant amount of my check goes to taxes, and fees already in place.

I was opposed to the funding of the airport expansion and do not feel I have a voice in local spending and now this increase is another mandate in which I have no choice.

Please reconsider and let the voters decide.

Kayleen Warner

**From:** [Lorie Burton](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 10:41:01 AM

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Please add this statement to the public record:

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** [Lisa Lang](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** I oppose the Salem Proposed Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 2:15:03 PM

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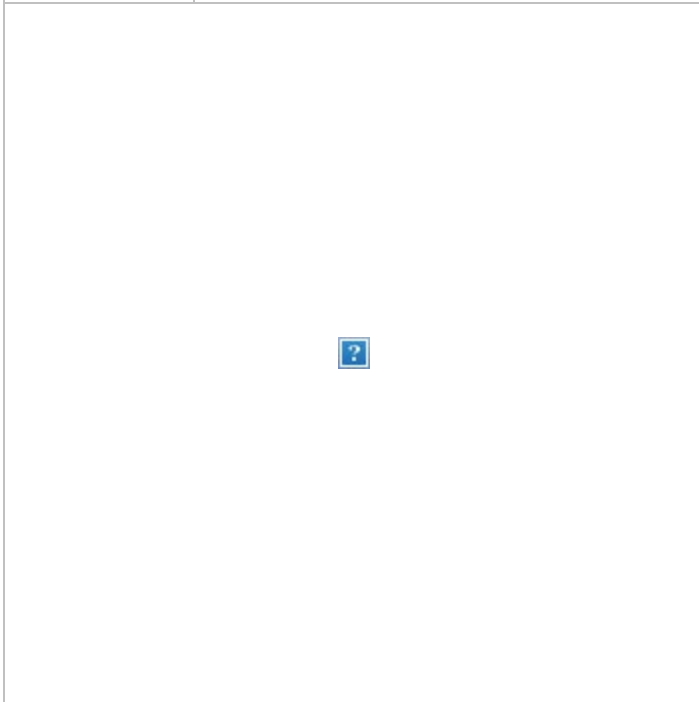
I am a real estate agent and work in several areas in Oregon. This will just create more problems of separating out business in Salem for myself and others who are self employed. This may also detour contractors to not want to do business in the city of Salem or will cause fees to go up to the public to cover the taxes. This proposal should at least be something that voters have a right to vote on.

--

**Lisa Lang** | Principal Broker



- [541-570-9121](tel:541-570-9121)
- [resalisalang@gmail.com](mailto:resalisalang@gmail.com)
- [superhero.professionalrealtyservices.com](http://superhero.professionalrealtyservices.com)



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**From:** [Glenn Million](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 10:01:17 AM

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Please add this statement to the public record:

As an employee and payroll practioner I do not support a payroll tax. In addition to the personal financial burden the increased workload for professional payroll administrators is heading into an unsustainable level. With the shift to remote work, the tracking and reporting of time worked in city limits across all of Oregon is not easily accomplished. Coming on the heels of PLO you will see a flight from the profession as our group is overworked and cannot keep up with constantly changing landscape.

Lara Million  
97301

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Larry](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on the payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 10:25:28 AM

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Please add this statement to the public record:

I work with approximately 40 fellow employees at a Salem business. I brought the new proposal for a city of Salem payroll tax up at our monthly All Staff meeting. It was unanimous that all attendees were adamantly opposed to this additional tax. It was considered sheer lunacy that the City of Salem would consider doing this to the hard working VOTERS of Salem.

We all cry foul and no to this taxation!!!

Lawrence Smith

**From:** [Michele Adkins](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Send Proposed Payroll Tax to Voters  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 4:06:40 PM

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Salem City Council,

**The proposed payroll tax needs to be sent to the voters in the November 2023 General Election.** To create a tax without representation, especially as significant as this one is, is unjust. Salem voters should be trusted to do the right thing and support the necessary services. Millions have been spent on social services to serve a small number of people. I encourage the Salem City Council to analyze their spending and not punish the hard-working Salem citizens by imposing a substantial tax to fund unproven programs.

Michele Adkins

**From:** [Marcello De Cicco](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** I oppose the Salem Payroll Tax Increase that will be voted on this Monday, July 10, 2023  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 10:14:43 AM

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Please add my statement to the public record.

Signed by a very concerned voter,  
Marcello De Cicco  
430 Larry Ave N,  
Keizer, Oregon 97303  
408-314-7477  
[marcello3333@yahoo.com](mailto:marcello3333@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Melinda Marinko](#)  
**To:** [Trevor Phillips](#); [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** The Salem Safe Tax plan - an objection  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 2:27:29 PM

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I am writing to object to the proposed additional fee taken from my income. The table below shows my income and what housing costs me. And nothing else. As you can see, I barely get by, if you can call it getting by. You figure out where you can justify taking that additional money from in my budget? This is why there is a homeless problem. Mental health issues? You live outside with nothing for a week and you would be talking to yourself, the buildings, the sky too. I am always one paycheck or emergency away from being homeless. You tell me how much I am supposed to allocate out of my \$13.64 per day I have left for groceries, gas, insurance – savings? This idea is wrong, thoughtless and will only cause more problems. How dare you take more from us?

<b>\$45,690.00</b>	<b>Gross Income</b>
-\$6,700.00	Taxes paid
<b>\$38,990.00</b>	Balance
\$25,680.00	Housing
<b>\$13,310.00</b>	Balance
\$8,400.00	Utilities
<b>\$4,910.00</b>	Balance
<b>\$409.17</b>	Per month
<b>\$13.64</b>	Per day
Groceries	?
Gas	?
Insurance	?
Hygiene	?
Clothing	?
Household incidentals	?
Savings?	?

The Oregon Lottery profited 909 million dollars last year. Find a way to allocate it that way. You have those poker machines EVERYWHERE and there are always people on them and dumping money in them. You also tax the winnings without a way to show how much was spent or lost as a deduction. Just take it from the lottery. That is why Oregon sold the idea of gambling over a quarter of a century



ago – to help pay for public needs, like schools, etc.

– The Oregon Lottery announced a return of nearly **\$909 million dollars to the state** for the 2022 fiscal year – a return to pre-pandemic levels **and 81% year over year growth**. The funding directly benefits state parks and natural habitats, public schools, veteran services, outdoor school, and economic development.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [paulafordham@icloud.com](mailto:paulafordham@icloud.com)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Safe Salem Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 2:12:40 PM

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I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed payroll tax being considered without seeking consent of voters. As a concerned small business owner and taxpayer, I strongly oppose any decision that circumvents the democratic process and denies the fundamental right of the public to voice their opinions on matters that directly affect their lives; In these economic times many families will find this additional tax a huge burden.

In addition, I oppose any venture that unconditionally provides services to the unhoused population without requiring some form of personal responsibility or contribution on their part. While I acknowledge the importance of supporting individuals experiencing homelessness, it is crucial we strike a balance between compassion and fostering self-sufficiency. Allowing persons who break the law, openly deal and do drugs on our streets to receive benefits with no responsibility on their part is not a long-term solution and will only continue to foster the problems we are all facing.

I have questions after reading the "How will the Safe Salem funds be used?" section on the City of Salem web-site

1) The Navigation Center has been open for at least a month and now you're asking for funding of that Center??? How did that project get approval in the first place if there was no funding available?

2) The 3 existing micro-shelters have also been open for a while. How did those get approval without funding in place??

This feels like a case of closing the barn door after the horse has bolted. Taxing the hardworking residents of Salem to pay for services that cover the very people who steal, damage and traumatize it's residents, without the input of said residents in question does not seem like a very smart approach.

Paula Fordham,  
Salem Resident, Homeowner & Business Owner of almost 20 years.

**From:** [Ray Beaty](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed payroll tax  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 3:46:21 PM

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No.  
Please let common sense prevail and do NOT enact this.

Thank you!

Ray Beaty

Paramount Real Estate Services

Licensed Broker in the State of Oregon

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[www.raybeaty.com](http://www.raybeaty.com)

[Oregon Real Estate Pamphlet](#)

[Oregon Buyer Advisory](#)

[Oregon Seller Advisory](#)

**From:** [Rob Thorn](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Newly proposed payroll tax.  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 9:09:03 AM

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To whom it shall concern,

I would like to express my displeasure with the newly proposed employee paid tax. The idea that a tax can be applied to workers without a vote by the people is quite frankly, "Un-American". Seems to me that it is bordering on taxation without representation. If hardworking Salemites are going to pick up the bill for the city's lack of leadership, we should at very least get to vote on it.

Regards,  
Robert Thorn

**From:** [Scott Schaefer](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [Trevor Phillips](#)  
**Subject:** opposed to payroll tax  
**Date:** Friday, July 7, 2023 9:40:30 AM

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Good morning,

I am opposed to the proposed city payroll tax. I am concerned that this city is becoming more and more expensive to live in, while our quality-of-life declines. It's pretty shocking to me how much our city has declined in the last decade.

I would like the city council to focus on efficiency (enabling the trimming of staff) and reducing governmental scope creep (limiting government to more essential services like police, fire, utility, and parks). Get back to the basics, and do it well.

This approach would require complete buy-in from city management. It might also require a reduction in certain types of services that people have become accustomed to, but that are not essential for city governments to provide.

Scott

**From:** [Suzi White-Thorud](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Taxation without representation??  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 12:03:59 PM

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It is illegal to tax citizens without a proper vote. It is against our constitution. If you implement this tax, I and others will file a lawsuit to challenge the authority of the city to implement a tax without a vote.

I am a small business owner who conducts business in the city. I will not pay a tax that is not legal in any way shape or form. Do not impose this tax on our city!

Sincerely,

--

*Suzi White-Thorud*

**From:** [Tarah Fair](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Salem Proposed Payroll Tax  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 12:46:40 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I wanted to submit an email to you to formally let you know that as a Salem citizen and self-employed person, I do not support the proposed payroll tax. I do not believe it is necessary nor should it be passed without being sent to the voters of the community for approval or rejection.

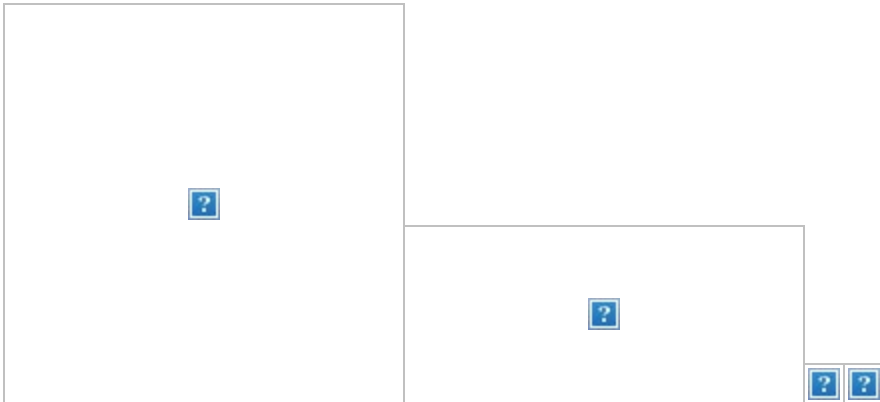
Thank you for your time.

--

Tarah Fair  
Licensed Oregon Broker  
Fair Real Estate Group  
Keller Williams Capital City

503.580.6746

[TarahSellsOregon@gmail.com](mailto:TarahSellsOregon@gmail.com)



[Click here to view the Oregon Real Estate Agency Disclosure Pamphlet](#)

**From:** [Zach Dillingham](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** New tax  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 10:15:40 AM

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This is a ridiculous idea. Just because you people clearly can't budget your money doesn't mean the rest of us that work in Salem should have to pay more!! We already pay way to much in taxes! Figure it out!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)