

**From:** [AnneMarie DuFault](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#)  
**Subject:** No New Revenue Measures  
**Date:** Friday, August 16, 2024 3:43:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [anthea\(1\)\\_d8505059-28ed-462e-9868-30b6a1ae43a0.png](#)  
[bluewhiteminimalistmodernfinancialadvisorlinkedinbanner\(7\)\\_e613a42e-ac15-4a7a-bb20-f00a6f9d6471.png](#)  
[socialmediabanner\\_5dc4c30a-ff9e-43bb-8ca5-b2514d67070b.png](#)

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Dear Salem City Council,

I am writing on behalf of myself and my company, Anthem Strategists (Formaly DPW) , urging you to oppose any new revenue measures that will adversely affect our business community, particularly small and local businesses that are already facing hardships amid record inflation and increased state and federal regulations. In our profession we see the impact of increased taxes at the state, local and federal levels. The continued stresses on our small to medium size business clients must stop!

Adding more taxes for businesses, such as a business license fee, will only result in higher prices for consumers at a time when families are already struggling to afford basic necessities. Similarly, franchise fee increases would be passed along to consumers and a personal income tax will make it more difficult for businesses to attract and retain quality employees.

Thriving businesses are key to a healthy city, and our leaders should be doing everything they can to incentivize economic growth and development rather than making it harder to do business and invest in Salem. While I acknowledge the city is facing a budget shortfall, more should be done to scrutinize spending and seek opportunities for generating revenue that avoids placing the burden on our businesses — such as pushing for Payment in Lieu of Taxes for State Government facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

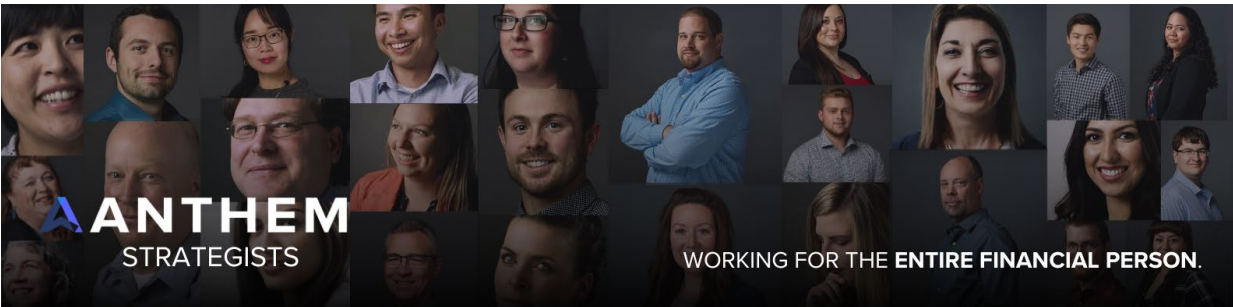
AnneMarie Caldarazzo-DuFault



**AnneMarie DuFault**  
**Principal**

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16037 SW Upper Boones Ferry Rd, Suite 135, Portland, OR 97224

[www.AnthemStrategists.com](http://www.AnthemStrategists.com)  
[UPLOAD DOCUMENTS HERE](#)



**From:** [A.L](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony For August 19th Council Session  
**Date:** Saturday, August 17, 2024 11:23:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [Local Option Tax Levy.rtf](#)

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Hello,

My name is Ariel Loveall and I have a paper to present to you all about the way local option tax levies have been used adequately in the state of Oregon. I have presented a list of how they work, what didn't work in certain cities, and how the tax was implemented/succeeded in other communities here in Oregon. Thank you all so much for you time and thank you for taking the time to read through this.

I appreciate you all and please consider the importance of a levy, or a decision similar, to helping fund our city and libraries properly. Thank you all so much once again and have a wonderful evening.

- Ariel Loveall

# Local Option Tax Levies

This paper is to present a list of cities that have benefited, voted against, and have not implemented the tax in the states of Oregon. I have included several pros, cons, concerns and suggestions how cities can or have been impacted by this tax. I fully stand behind a local option levy to increase the services in our city, the most important one being the Salem Public Library.

All sources are cited and words are not my own unless stated. Thank you for the opportunity to present this paper and please consider the importance of this levy.

These are all of the libraries in Oregon that are currently supported by a local option tax levy.

Aloha Community Library

Baker County Library District

Banks Public Library

Beaverton City Library

Cedar Mill Library

Cornelius Public Library

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

Eugene Public Library

Fern Ridge Library District

Forest Grove City Library

Garden Home Community Library

Hillsboro Public Library

Lincoln County Library District

North Plains Public Library

Sherwood Public Library

**Stayton Public Library**

**Sweet Home Public Library**

**Tigard Public Library**

**Tillamook County Library**

**Tualatin Public Library**

**Union Carnegie Public Library**

**Warrenton Community Library**

**West Slope Community Library**

“A local option tax levy is a special levy subject to many conditions. It is often referred to as a “gap” levy because it can fill the gap between the Measure 50 tax limit and the Measure 5 tax limit.”

[https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lro/Documents/rr4\\_4school\\_propertytax.pdf](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lro/Documents/rr4_4school_propertytax.pdf)

“A local option levy is a voter approved additional property tax assessment. A local option levy can be levied for a maximum of five years for operational expenses, or ten years for capital expenses. If Salem voters approved a local option levy, the revenue could be used only for the identified needs. Once the levy expires, voters would then need to be asked to approve a new levy to continue collecting local option taxes for an additional five years.”

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/safe-and-secure-community-1671#:~:text=A%20local%20option%20levy%20is,only%20for%20the%20identified%20needs.>

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**Corvallis - (HAS ALREADY IMPLEMENTED LEVY)**

**Population : 60,956**

“Voters in Corvallis approved a renewal of the five-year local operating levy that funds livability services from the Parks and Recreation Department and the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, along with annual social services grants.

Measure 2-141 received a strong endorsement from voters after ballots were tabulated on November 7, 2023. Preliminary reports indicate the levy renewal passed by a margin of more than 66% approval. The levy is a renewal of an existing five-year levy that had funded similar services and was set to expire on June 30, 2024. The new levy starts on July 1, 2024 and will generate between \$6.5 million and \$7.3 million annually for five years.

The outcome of the ballot measure preserves important services, including current operating hours and program offerings at the Corvallis Library, and provides funding for beloved institutions such as the Osborn Aquatic Center, Corvallis Community Center (C3), and the Majestic Theatre. The new levy also provides \$480,000 in annual social services grants to support local providers in Corvallis that provide shelter and support services, food security, intervention services, childcare, mental and physical health services, and family support.

The local option levy is an important part of the “three-legged stool” that represents the current funding approach for City services. The City Council implemented the first leg of the stool in 2018 by creating new public safety fees to fund services at the Corvallis Police Department and Corvallis Fire Department. The second leg was the levy itself, which consolidated voter support for Library and Parks and Recreation services around a predictable renewal cycle every five years. The third leg of the stool is the 911 service district in Benton County, which was implemented in 2019 to create a more sustainable funding model for 911 emergency dispatch services in the community.”

<https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/cm/page/levy-library-parks-and-recreation-services-wins-voter-approval-0>

“On November 7, 2023, the City Livability Services Local Option Levy passed with 66.5% support.

On July 21, 2023, the City of Corvallis filed a Notice of Measure Election (SEL 802) with the Benton County Elections Division, and the City Livability Services Local Option Levy was assigned measure number #2-141.

On May 15, 2023, the Corvallis City Council passed Resolution 2023-17 approving the local option tax levy explanatory statement for the November 7, 2023 election. The notice of explanatory statement was published to the City website on May 16, 2023.

On April 17, 2023, the Corvallis City Council passed Resolution 2023-13 referring a local option tax levy of \$1.07 per \$1,000 of assessed value to the voters for the November 7, 2023 election. The notice of receipt of ballot title was published to the City website on April 18, 2023 and appeared in the next available edition of the Corvallis Gazette-Times newspaper (Saturday, April 22, 2023).

For information about services proposed to be funded by Measure 2-141, visit this resource page on the City website. “

<https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/cm/page/november-2023-city-livability-services-local-option-levy>

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### **Eugene - (HAS ALREADY IMPLEMENTED LEVY)**

**Population: 178, 056**

November 3, 2020, the City of Eugene voters approved Measure 20-309 to fund expanded Eugene Public Library services for five years beginning July 2021. The expanded services promised in the levy were in three categories:

More hours and access

2. More programs for all ages

3. More materials and technology

Accountability and transparency were built into the levy measure through an annual review by the citizen Library Advisory Board.

“Covering the time period of July 1 2022 to June 3rd 2023, EPL staff have continued to bring back offerings that were suspended. This timeframe is also the second year of the five year operating levy passed by Eugene voters by an overwhelming 76 percent.

The levy promise was to maintain the existing level of library services funded by the 2015 levy. We promised to preserve 47 open hours a week across the Downtown Library and Bethel and Sheldon branches. We did that in year one of the 2020 levy renewal and we continued to provide the same level of hours in FY23, giving increased opportunities for cardholders to borrow materials and use resources.

We saw an increase in visitors this past year to 826, 982 across our three facilities. For comparison, in FY22 we had 505,270 people pass through our doors.

For perspective, before the pandemic we had more than 1.1 million visits. We are continuing to make great strides in bringing more people back through our doors. Every facility saw modest to significant increases in traffic. The Downtown Library continued to rush toward pre-COVID numbers, jumping by 79.1 percent in annual visits. Bethel Branch also saw a robust increase at 20.9 percent over FY22, while Sheldon had an increase of 5.4 percent.”

“The levy promise for this second five years was to maintain the 1/3 increase in programming we sustained in the first levy. We promised to maintain the Maker equipment and sustain the increased offsite delivery of programs and the Library Van.

We still have not reached pre-pandemic program numbers, but we again made significant progress with an increase from 580 events in FY22 to 798 in FY23.

Attendance also increased from one year to the next, from 17,228 to 30,312.

In FY22 we phased back programming, beginning with baby storytimes. In the past year we increased programming across the system. The largest leaps came in adult, young adult and elementary programming.

We also started programs that were more inclusive to all age ranges in FY22, and we doubled the number of offerings for all-age programs from 19 to 42.”

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/4557/2020-Library-Levy>

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Hillsboro - (HAS IMPLEMENTED THE LEVY TWICE)

Population : 107,976

Update: Election Results as of 6/13/2022

Approval of Measure 34-311: Hillsboro Local Option Levy

Yes	16,715	82.41 %
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No	3,568	17.59 %
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<https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/Home/Components/News/News/13689/1718?arch=1&selcat=2&npage=5>

“In Hillsboro, our Local Option Levy is a five-year property tax that provides essential support for a specific use: our Police, Fire & Rescue, and Parks Maintenance programs, services, and staffing. Approved by 82% of Hillsboro voters in May 2022, the rate has remained consistent for the past 17 years.”

<https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/Home/Components/News/News/14671/>

<https://www.washingtoncountyor.gov/support-services/documents/fy08-09-184-9710-cooperative-library/download?inline>

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Independence - (SEEKING LEVY FOR 2025/2026)



**Population: 10, 335**

“The city of Independence is seeking a five-year local option tax of \$1.82 per \$1,000 of assessed value, beginning fiscal year 2025-26, to support operations and maintenance of the City’s museum, library, and parks. The levy is necessary to continue to operate and maintain the Heritage Museum, public library, and city parks for the next five years.

The Library, Museum, and Parks are funded through June 30, 2025. If the levy does not pass, city staff will evaluate options and make recommendations to the Council, which may include:

Reduced Services: This could involve shorter service hours at the Library and Museum, potentially leading to staff reductions at one or both facilities.

Facility Closures: The Museum and/or Library may close, which would result in staff reductions at one or both locations.

Maintenance Cuts and/or Closures: Reduced maintenance across all parks with possible closure of less frequently used parks.

The City’s operation and maintenance of the museum, library, and city parks are funded from the City’s General Fund, primarily from property taxes and state shared revenues. Historically, the costs of operating and maintaining the museum, library, and parks have increased at a faster rate than the revenues available to support them. Over the last 10 years, general use property taxes have increased an average of 5% per year, versus costs to operate and maintain the City’s museum, library, and parks have grown an average of 9% per year. The estimated total combined cost to operate and maintain the museum, library, and parks for the 2024-25 fiscal year is \$1,060,000.

The levy tax rate of \$1.82 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value is estimated to cost the average homeowner the equivalent of approximately \$382 in the first year of the levy, and would collect approximately \$1.12 million in the first year, with an estimated total of \$5.96 million over five years.

5 year option

9%

Increase to operate

\$382

First year cost

1.12 Million

Collected first year

5.96 Million

Collected – 5 years

1 M+

To maintain

—

If approved, the levy would fund and support numerous services and programs, which include but are not limited to:

Youth Coding League and STEM programming for community teens.

Preschool and bilingual Storytime programming.

Warming and cooling shelters for the community.

Local access to traveling exhibitions from the Smithsonian and other national societies.

Continuation of the annual Ghost Walk event.

Exhibits and programs supporting school groups interested in local history

Continued maintenance and upkeep of City parks grounds and equipment.

Continued seasonal watering of City parks.”

<https://www.ci.independence.or.us/local-option-levy-for-arts-and-culture/>

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**Salem - (DOES NOT HAVE LEVY IMPLEMENTED)**

**Population : 177,928**

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**Veneta Oregon, Fern Ridge - (HAS FAILED AT IMPLEMENTING LEVY)**

**Population: 5,170**

“About the failure of 20-258...

It seems there is some confusion about the library and our budget in the wake of the failure of our local-option levy. To clear up any misinformation out there, here are a few facts:

1. Fern Ridge Library District is a special taxing district. We do not receive any funds from the city of Veneta nor from the state of Oregon. We are not a branch of the Eugene Public Library.
2. We have a permanent tax rate of 39 cents per \$1000 of assessed property value. That amount will never disappear as long as we are a district.
3. Because 39 cents/\$1000 is not enough to operate the library within the standards set by the Oregon Library Association, we place additional local-option levies before the voting population of our district.
4. We are currently in year 4 of a 5 year levy. This levy adds 25 cents/\$1000 to your property taxes.

5. We anticipate that there will be no need to further reduce hours or material budgets in this year or in the fifth and final year of the levy.

6. Our current levy provides funds through June 30, 2018.

Information about Ballot Measure 20-258

Unofficial Results:

20-258 Fern Ridge Library Levy

No	4,080	64.20%
Yes	2,275	35.80%

As the results show, this levy asking for 50 cents per \$1000 did not pass. Therefore, our current 25 cents per \$1000 levy is still in effect, and will remain in place until June 30, 2018. If a new levy passes in 2017, it will take the place of our existing levy.”

<http://www.fernridgelibrary.org/budget--levy-information.html>

Current levy is now on the ballot for Fern Ridge and is set to be passed.

<http://www.fernridgelibrary.org/budget--levy-information.html>

**From:** [Avery Lutthans](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Livability Levy  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 10:56:40 PM

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Dear City Council for Salem:

I am reaching out in support of adding the Livability levy to our ballot in May 2025.

I understand the budget is finite, but funding our communities is the goal. I relocated to Salem in 2022 because of the strong community presence here.

Supporting programs like libraries, park activities, and senior centers keep this community strong. We desperately need third spaces where people can exist without the demand to spend money. As a child in poverty, the library was critical to my survival during summers when school was out. I do not want to see Salem's youth suffer without a library.

When I am older, I will likely utilize 50+ senior activities as well. Ending these programs disconnects vulnerable adults from the community, which can be a lifeline to survival in old age. That is not an acceptable sacrifice to me.

Sharing park space and doing recreational activities was also something I participated in as a kid and as a parent taking my own kids when we were not financially stable enough to afford family outings. I have benefitted from park programs in the past and I know Salem families continue to do so.

Let this community choose to fund these activities. Please consider allowing us to vote on this important issue.

Avery Lutthans  
Salem Resident

**From:** [Barbara](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** a people's livability levy  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 10:08:21 PM

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Dear Salem City Council:

I'm writing to ask you support a people's vote in the May 2025 election for a "Livability Levy" as recommended by the Revenue Task Force. Our library, parks and Center 50+ are in serious jeopardy of suffering further cutbacks without new revenue in FY 2026. This is unacceptable, Salem citizens deserve better and we want our taxes to support the library, parks and Center 50+.

Salem already has the worst funded major library in the state. Our two libraries are open only half the hours that they were open 20 years ago. Because it is closed on Sundays and evenings, many working people in Salem cannot use the library.

We will not have splash pads for children or programs in Riverfront park in FY 2026 without new revenue. Center 50+ has had to close two Saturdays and month and raise fees because of budget cutbacks and it will suffer more cutbacks without new revenue. We certainly will not reflect the standards of a capitol city or our status as a city leader if we cannot provide those services!

For a very modest increase in property taxes we could restore our libraries, parks and Center 50+ to full service operations once again. Please let Salemites s vote on this s. I believe a Livability Levy election in May 2025 can be successful, and we can once again have the livability services in Salem that we deserve.

Thank you for your service,

Barbara Fuller  
4745 Nina Ave. SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302

**From:** [Bonnie Heitsch](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Livability Levy  
**Date:** Sunday, August 18, 2024 2:23:20 PM

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The recommended Livability Levy appears to be a reasonable way to fund our essential city services. By essential I mean the Library, Parks and the 50 Plus Center. These services build community and connections among citizens. In recent years our shabby and neglected neighborhood park was updated and revitalized through volunteer and city support. Today, it is used every single day by 50-100 children and their families. New trees have been planted to create shade and cooling temperatures. These will continue to be cared for by our amazing city arborist. Let's not lose our momentum in creating a vibrant and livable community. Please support the Livability Levy.

Thank you for your continued service.

Bonnie Heitsch  
594 Rural Ave. South

**From:** [Chad Neal](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** 2024 Revenue Task Force Recommendations  
**Date:** Monday, August 19, 2024 11:33:21 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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Dear City Council Members,

As a resident of Salem and a loyal customer of locally owned businesses, I am deeply concerned about any proposed revenue measures that could hurt our small business community. Our neighborhood shops and restaurants are already struggling due to high inflation and new regulations.

Raising business taxes, such as adding a business license fee, will lead to higher prices for consumers like me. Additionally, increased franchise fees or a personal income tax could drive up the cost of living and make it harder for local businesses to hire skilled employees. Our city thrives when local businesses succeed. I urge you to find alternative solutions to address the budget shortfall, such as better management of city expenditures or negotiating payments from state-run facilities.

Thank you for considering the impact on our community.

Best regards,



**Chad Neal**

**Direct** [\(503\) 344-1076](tel:(503)344-1076)

**Main** [\(503\) 472-2165](tel:(503)472-2165)



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**HOME AUTO MEDICARE BUSINESS EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

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**From:** [Tom Hoffert](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#)  
**Cc:** [Keith Stahley](#); [Kristin Retherford](#); [Scott Archer](#); [Trevor Womack](#); [Mike Herron \(mike.h@vipsinc.net\)](#); [Mike Erdmann \(mike@homebuildersassociation.org\)](#); [Rich Duncan \(rich@richduncanconstruction.com\)](#); [Ted Ferry \(ted.ferry.rhdj@statefarm.com\)](#); [Krishna Namburi](#); [Courtney Knox Busch](#)  
**Subject:** Joint Statement - Salem Chamber & Home Builders  
**Date:** Friday, August 16, 2024 4:25:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [SACC & HBAMPC Statement on City of Salem Alternative Revenue TF AUG24.docx](#)

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Hello Mayor Hoy & Salem City Council Members-

Thank you for the opportunity to share the perspectives of the members within the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce and Home Builders of Marion & Polk Counties.

The attached report is informational and has segments of advice/strategy. The Boards of Directors for both organizations remain committed to assisting the City of Salem in creating a thriving and healthy community for all of our residents and businesses.

We stand collectively ready to engage in next stages of the City budget discussions.

Our best,

-Tom Hoffert & Mike Erdmann

**Tom Hoffert, IOM**

Chief Executive Officer

Salem Area Chamber of Commerce | 1110 Commercial St NE

503-581-1466 ext.311

[tom@salemchamber.org](mailto:tom@salemchamber.org) | [www.salemchamber.org](http://www.salemchamber.org)

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## WHITE PAPER

SALEM AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
&  
HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION of MARION & POLK COUNTIES

### **RAISING CITY REVENUE & IMPACTS ON THE SALEM BUSINESS COMMUNITY**

August 16, 2024



**Salem Chamber**  
Convener | Catalyst | Champion



# Introduction

The Salem Area Chamber of Commerce and Home Builders appreciate the ability to share our perspectives with Mayor Hoy and City Council members. We recognize the City of Salem has faced challenges across all departments due to rising costs for materials, labor, and service delivery demands from Salem residents. The City of Salem and Council suffered a self-inflicted wound with the manner in which the payroll tax was brought forward to our community. Business leaders, owners, employees, and community members were disenfranchised when not given the opportunity to vote on such a significant tax proposal targeting earned wages. Passing a payroll tax without a vote of the people proved galvanizing for many in the community, as neighbors and employees alike rallied against the City to ultimately refer the tax to the voters where it was soundly defeated. We believe it will take a concerted effort from both City elected leaders and City staff to overcome this wedge with its residents across Salem. The Salem Chamber and Home Builders are committed to assisting in bringing the community back together to support a healthy Salem, as we all have a collective vested interest in serving our residents and having a thriving economy.

In January 2024, the City of Salem convened a 28-member citizen task force to explore new sources of revenue to sustain services. Voters had previously rejected a proposed payroll tax in November 2023, with more than 81% opposed to the measure. Data provided by the city identified the need to raise revenue following the 2008 financial crisis and Great Recession. Between 2008 and 2016, the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) general fund employees declined from 757.2 to 675.1, resulting in cutbacks including the elimination of municipal pools, the closure of two fire stations, and the elimination of the former Community Services Department.

While the total number of FTEs in 2024 has rebounded to 776.2, Salem's population has grown by about 30,000. Therefore, the number of FTEs per 1,000 residents has actually declined from 5.14 in 2008 to 4.29 in 2024. According to the city, if it was to maintain 2008 staffing ratios, it would require an additional 121 FTEs, or about a 15% increase.

To accomplish this, the Salem Revenue Task Force met seven times between January and June, discussing and evaluating potential options for generating additional general fund revenue. Crucially, the task force was limited to exploring revenue – members were not allowed to make recommendations on other aspects of the city budget, such as further cuts. On July 15, the task force presented its final recommendations to the Salem City Council at a council work session. It included eight proposals for consideration, sorted by near-term, medium-term, and long-term options. Those options included:

## **Near-term:**

- Business License Fees
- Franchise Fee Increase
- Urban Renewal – Increase Frozen Base

## **Medium-term:**

- Local Option Property Tax Levy
- Personal Income Tax

**Long-term:**

- Payment in Lieu of Taxes (County, State, or Federal Government)
- Intergovernmental Agreements & Entities
- Tax Reform/Restructuring

The Salem Area Chamber of Commerce & the Home Builders Association of Marion & Polk Counties hired Pac/West Lobby Group to engage their members and assess which proposals might have the least negative impact on businesses while continuing to fund essential city services. Pac/West conducted one-on-one interviews, focus groups, and a strategic survey, providing insights into a variety of diverse opinions from the business community. This white paper summarizes our key findings, which the city should use as officials consider implementing revenue options in the future to account for economic growth in Salem.

# Survey Results

Following a series of one-on-one interviews with Salem business leaders, Pac/West developed a 10-question survey to gather input about the Revenue Task Force recommendation and city budget shortfall. The survey garnered **119 submissions** from Salem Area Chamber of Commerce contacts and **67 submissions** from Home Builders Association of Marion & Polk Counties contacts, though not every person who took the survey answered every question.

Key results are detailed below.

- When asked if Salem has been a good steward of tax dollars:
  - **114 out of 185 responses (61.6%) disagreed with that statement**
  - **45 (24.3%) somewhat disagreed**
  - **4 (2.2%) agreed**
  - **7 (3.8%) somewhat agreed**
  - **15 (8.1%) were unsure/neutral**
  
- When asked if Salem has been transparent and honest about its budget needs:
  - **94 out of 185 responses (51%) disagreed with that statement**
  - **54 (29.2%) somewhat disagreed**
  - **7 (3.7%) agreed**
  - **11 (5.9%) somewhat agreed**
  - **19 (10.2%) were unsure/neutral**
  
- When asked whether Salem has thoroughly scrutinized its budget, examined efficiencies, and verified any projected revenue shortfall:
  - **123 out of 185 respondents (66.5%) disagreed with that statement**
  - **31 (16.8%) somewhat disagreed**
  - **5 (2.7%) agreed**
  - **12 (6.5%) somewhat agreed**
  - **14 (7.5%) were unsure/neutral**
  
- Respondents were asked which of the eight options recommended by the Revenue Task Force they might be willing to support.
  - **86 out of 184 respondents (46%) selected Payment in Lieu of Taxes for State Government, including a majority of Chamber contacts (70 out of 117, or 59%)**
  - **60 (32%) stated they would not support any of the options.**
  - **58 (31.5%) selected Intergovernmental Agreements & Entities and Tax Reform/Restructuring**

- Respondents were then asked which of the eight revenue options they would not support under any circumstances.
  - **162 out of 175 respondents (92.5%) selected Personal Income Tax, making it by far the least popular choice**
  - **132 (75.4%) selected Business License Fees**
  - **119 (68%) selected Local Option Property Tax**
  - **101 (57%) selected Franchise Fee Increases**
  
- When asked which of the eight options would have the greatest impact on their business:
  - **81 out of 163 respondents (~ 50%) selected Personal Income Tax**
  - **41 (25.1%) selected Business License Fees**
  - **18 (11%) selected Local Option Property Tax**
  
- Chamber and Homebuilders members were asked what the organizations' role should be advocating on behalf of the Salem Revenue issue.
  - **108 out of 183 respondents (59%) felt the organizations should advocate for ways to fund vital city services, while also looking for budget efficiencies**
  - **54 (29.5%) stated they should oppose any new general fund revenue**
  - **14 (7.7%) stated they should advocate for raising revenue to fund services while keeping up with inflation**
  - **7 (3.8%) answered "other"**

## Statements In Support

“There was a little bit of support from the business community that if we’re going to go after revenue, let’s at least put together a task force that’s going to come up with different alternatives. The issue, I think, was that the business community was sort of resistant to the whole process because we didn’t feel like there has been enough done on the cost side.”

— **Mike Herron, Corporate Counsel, VIPS Industries Inc.**

“Most businesses are more concerned that we are not auditing and scrutinizing the budget and instead we are looking to just go and find more money ... As advised to the incoming Mayor Julie Hoy, we need to create a City of Salem Business Advisory Commission to start taking the right steps in making the City of Salem a more business-friendly city.”

— **Jonathan Castro Monroy, Managing Partner, Castro Monroy Group LLC**

“I do think that, broadly speaking, the City of Salem has run pretty lean, given the growth that we've seen, and I think that we should acknowledge that we do need to do something to bridge a gap that does exist ... I think that everything needs to be on table.”

— **Connor Reiten, Vice President of Public Affairs, PNGC Power**

“A good number of businesses are trying to succeed in spite of what's being thrown at them. I think we live in a very anti-growth environment and climate here in Salem. I think we're seeing that it's very difficult to get projects started, let alone completed ... Why are we not discussing growth opportunities within the business community? You know, it's just, from what I'm hearing, that's not happening. So, I think most of our businesses out there, it's can we survive in the current state? Yes, with less profitability, which means less jobs.”

— **Brandon Blair, Managing Partner, Summit Wealth Management**

“I have not heard anybody bring up the Budget Task Force or reviewing the budget or the stewardship part of it. I haven't heard any of that. I've heard that there is somebody looking at it, but they've made a big deal out of the Salem Revenue Task Force, not the Salem Stewardship Task Force ... They should be very transparent on what the budget is and not just try to say, okay, we just need more revenue. Trust us. Yeah. Earn the trust.”

— **Ted Ferry, Agent, State Farm Insurance**

“It's going to trickle down to you, but in what way? Are the prices going up? Is something not going to be offered? Is the business going to close? There's going to be a trickle-down effect, and so what people are going to have to start just really understanding is, is it worth it? ...We can't keep operating this way. Something has to change. And so, I just don't feel like the city is willing to make those hard decisions.”

— **Angela Williams, Development Director, Huggins Insurance Agency**

## Conclusion

Based on feedback from members of the Chamber and Home Builders, we offer the following insights for Salem City Council to consider as it discusses revenue options going forward:

- While a considerable percentage of those surveyed feel the two organizations should oppose raising any new general fund revenue for the city, the majority favor working toward solutions that strike a balance, funding essential services (our members particularly emphasized public safety and infrastructure) while underscoring fiscal responsibility.
- To that effect, the only option that garnered majority support among Chamber/Home Builders respondents was a Payment in Lieu of Taxes for State Government facilities. The Chamber/Homebuilders offers their full support and advocacy for pursuing legislation in the 2025 session. This includes lobbying, coalition-building, and public education efforts to drive bipartisan solutions. If successful, revenue generated by PILT could negate the need for other options that might adversely affect businesses.
- The Chamber & Home Builders acknowledge the city faces a budget and revenue deficit, and commit to being part of the solution. However, the majority of our members do not feel the city has been a good steward of tax dollars and has not done its due diligence scrutinizing spending. There should be equitable effort and expense put toward this process, as has been done for revenue. We encourage Mayor Hoy and incoming Mayor Hoy to convene a similar task force dedicated to finding budget efficiencies.
- Our organizations oppose all other options proposed by the Revenue Task Force. In particular, personal income tax, business license fees, property tax levy, and franchise fee increases would result in significant harm for our members, causing them to raise prices, implement hiring freezes, shelf expansion plans, and consider relocation opportunities.
- We believe it's crucial that city leadership fully grasps the unified message from our members: the imposition of a business license fee will raise prices, exponentially increasing inflationary pressures our residents are already experiencing. In addition, the unknown administrative costs it will take to collect such a fee raises concern.

The Salem Area Chamber of Commerce and Home Builders Association of Marion & Polk Counties stand ready to work alongside city leadership for long-lasting, equitable, and durable budget solutions. Please do not hesitate to contact us or our executive team members for more information.

Tom Hoffert, CEO  
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce  
(503) 581-1466  
[tom@salemchamber.org](mailto:tom@salemchamber.org)

Mike Erdmann, CEO  
Home Builders Association of Marion & Polk Counties  
(503) 399-1500  
[mike@homebuildersassociation.org](mailto:mike@homebuildersassociation.org)



**From:** [Gary Fisketjon](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Livability Levy  
**Date:** Saturday, August 17, 2024 8:10:36 AM

---

Dear Salem City Council:

This is a plea to enable us to

vote in the May 2025 election on the Livability Levy recommended by the Revenue Task Force.

When the public library opened, I was eighteen years old and soon leaving for college in San Francisco, but it nonetheless sent a surge of civic pride through my youthful self and in my visits home over the decades since I've made it a point to wander through it yet again. When I moved home in 2020, upon retirement, due to the Covid nightmare its major (and extremely costly) renovation was locked down. So when the pandemic faded away and the fully renovated library reopened, I was delighted have my first membership card membership since 1972. Yet its restricted hours of service was an immediate annoyance for a retired fellow — and unmanageable for many working Salemites who in effect were denied access, along with their young families. This seems to me unconscionable, especially in the state's capitol, or with any other public library. In studying these harsh funding cuts, I discovered that our parks and other quality-of-life services were similarly diminished.

On a happier front, I learned about this Livability Levy and support it fervently, since without a solution to these budget problems Salem becomes for too many citizens a less rewarding place to live. I believe the results of this election in May will reflect the city's determination to correct these threats and brighten our city's future.

Thanks for your consideration, and for your generous work on Salem's behalf.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Fisketjon  
4158 Homestead Road South  
Salem, Oregon 97302



**From:** [Greg McManus](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [vstapleton@cityofsem.net](mailto:vstapleton@cityofsem.net)  
**Subject:** 2024 Revenue Task Force Considerations  
**Date:** Monday, August 19, 2024 9:11:58 AM

---

Dear Salem City Council,

As one of the owners of a local restaurant, Bentleys Grill, I am concerned about proposed revenue measures that could adversely affect our business. The restaurant industry is already struggling due to high inflation and increased regulations, and adding more taxes would be detrimental.

New fees, such as business license fees and the sort, will force us to increase prices for our patrons, many of whom are already facing financial difficulties. Additionally, a personal income tax could make it harder to recruit and retain talented staff.

I urge the council to consider the impact on local businesses and find alternative solutions to manage the city's budget.

Thank you for your understanding.

Greg V McManus  
VP VIP's Industries, Inc.

**From:** [Jim Scheppke](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for the August 19th Work Session  
**Date:** Thursday, August 15, 2024 3:34:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [Screenshot 2024-08-15 at 3.26.49PM.png](#)  
[Screenshot 2024-08-15 at 3.27.02PM.png](#)

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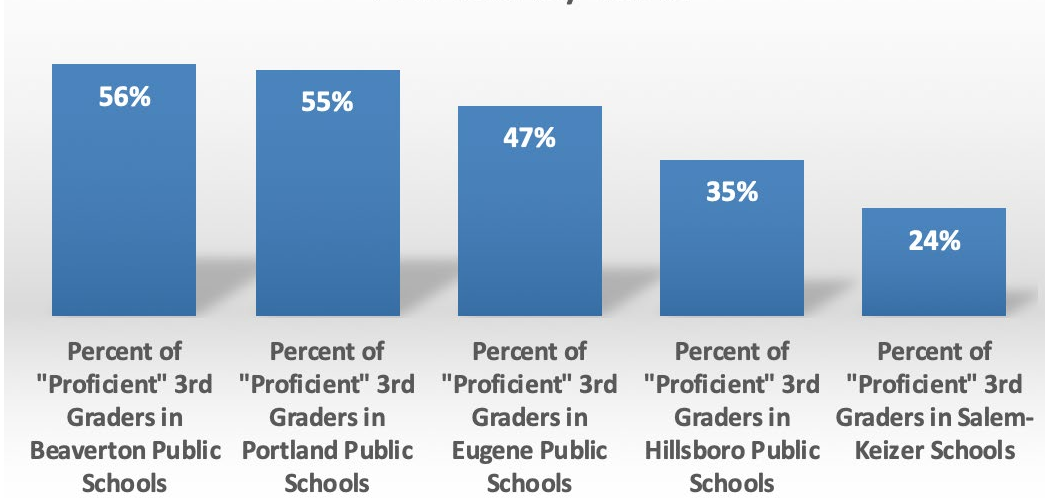
Dear Mayor and City Council:

One of the primary missions of a public library is to do everything possible to put every preschool child on a path to becoming a proficient reader. A well-funded public library has reading programs of various kinds available to parents and caregivers many times during the week. Here, for example, are the 29 reading programs for preschoolers that Hillsboro Public Library is offering in just the next four weeks ...

Bilingual Inclusive Storytime/Cuentos Bilingue Inclusivos (2 times)  
Book Babies/Libros Para Babes (3 times)  
International Storytime — Arabic (2 times)  
Fun for Ones/Anito de Diversion Para Los Ninos de un Ano (3 times)  
Toddler Time (4 times)  
Ukrainian Storytime  
First Steps, First Stories/Primero Paso, Primeros Cents (4 times)  
Preschool Storytime (3 times)  
Inclusive Storytime (2 times)  
Vietnamese Storytime/Gio Ke Chuyen Tieng Viet (2 times)  
Pajama Storytime  
International Storytime/Romanian/French

Does this make a difference? To answer that question I would like you to consider these two charts. The first is the most recent data on 3rd grade reading proficiency scores from the Oregon Department of Education:

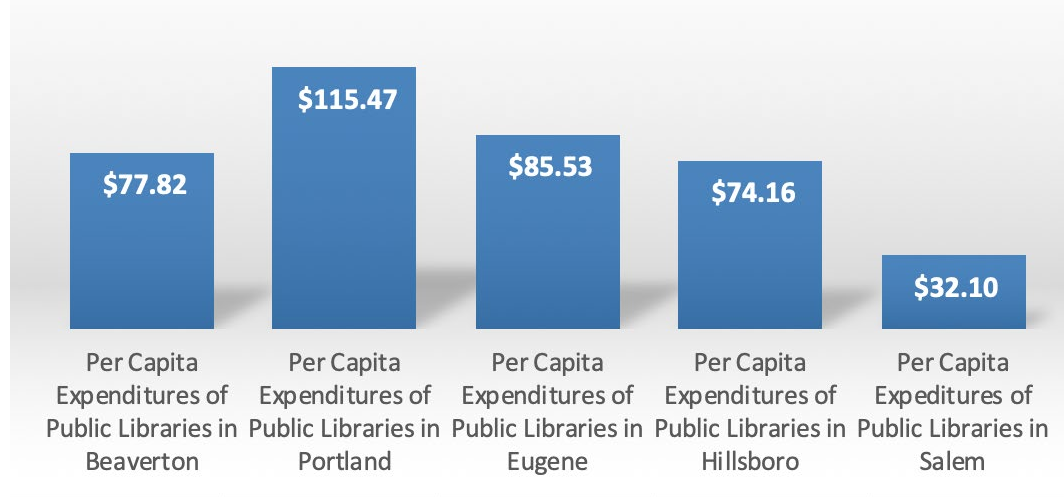
## Results from the FY23 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency Tests



And here is what those peer cities spent on their public libraries per capita in FY23 (data from

the State Library):

### Per Capita Expenditures on Public Library Services in FY23



A coincidence? I don't think so. Fewer than one in four 3rd graders in Salem-Keizer tested proficient in reading. I'd call that a literacy crisis! Addressing it is not just the job of Salem-Keizer Schools. It is our job to better fund our Salem Public Library to be doing much more for preschool children.

Jim

Jim Scheppke, Ward 2  
jscheppke@comcast.net

**From:** [Jim Scheppke](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for the August 19th Work Session  
**Date:** Saturday, August 17, 2024 2:03:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [FOL Bumper Sticker.png](#)  
[Let Us Vote 2.pdf](#)

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Dear Mayor and City Council:

Here are 158 more Salem citizens of all ages who are asking you to “Let Us VOTE on a Full Service Library.”

We will settle for nothing less than seven day a week service at the main library with evening hours and 5-6 day a week service with evening hours at the West Salem Branch like we had two decades ago. As you know we have by far the worst funded major library in Oregon — an embarrassment for the State Capital! Our library is the most underfunded and understaffed department in the City of Salem.

**Our library needs to be first in line to ask the voters if they want to change this and have a full service library we can be proud of.**

The attached names make a total of **432 citizens** of all ages who have asked, in just the past four weeks, that you allow us to VOTE to have a better library. Please listen to them!

Thank you for your service.

Jim Scheppke, Ward 2  
[jscheppke@comcast.net](mailto:jscheppke@comcast.net)



Dear Salem City Council:

# Let Us VOTE on a Full Service Library!

For as little as a \$5 per month increase in our property taxes we could have:

- A main library open seven days a week and three evenings a week.
- A West Salem Branch open 5-6 days a week with evening hours.
- Reading programs for children every day at main or West Salem.
- More downloadable audiobooks and ebooks.
- And more!

Please add your name if you agree!

Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
KAELIN O			
Freya Ruehr	Yes	fsruehr@gmail.com	Yes
Cynthia B Jones	Yes	cbj49@yahoo.com	Yes
Nancy McDaniel	Yes	nanmcdann@yahoo.com	Yes
Claire Roth	Yes	clairebelleroth@gmail.com	Yes
Timothy Dady	Yes	TMDady@gmail.com	Yes
Mindy Kelly	Yes	mindyjkelly@gmail.com	Yes
WINDY S			
Kathryn (Beth) Fox	Yes	bethfox77@hotmail.com	Yes
Jennifer Morgan	Yes	annebonney60@gmail.com	
TERESA BARNES	Yes	Tarnann21@gmail.com	
Leslie Clemmer	Yes	leslieclemmer32@gmail.com	
Jeremiah Campbell	Yes	willowz1@yahoo.com	Yes
Anna Campbell	Yes	anna-24sanchez@yahoo.com	Yes
SEANNA MARCUS	Yes	seannammarcus@gmail.com	
Sandra Warren	Yes	msaundasparker@SalemCityCouncil.net	NO
TED WARREN	Yes	"	"
Kai Carnoy	Yes	goldensunflowercosplay@gmail.com	Yes
DARIL CARLSON	Yes		No
Helen H. Beum	Yes	helenb87@gmail.com	Yes
<del>Scott</del>			NO
GWEN STARK	Yes		
Jessica Bugni	Yes	jessbugni4@gmail.com	NO
EVERYK 7			



Dear Salem City Council:

# Let Us VOTE on a Full Service Library!

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- Reading programs for children every day at main or West Salem.
- More downloadable audiobooks and ebooks.
- And more!

Please add your name if you agree!

Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
Cheryl Falk	yes	cherylrfalk@me.com	
TESSA Patterson	yes	tessajpatterson@outlook.com	✓
Lauren Terry	yes	lauren.kilgore@gmail.com	✓
Jessi Ballaine	YES	JessiBallaine030@gmail.com	
Kaitlyn Kuebel	yes	kaitlyncal18@gmail.com	
Amanda Rauhauser	yes	avknopt@gmail.com	yes
Rachel Trickett	yes	RachelDTrickett@gmail	yes
Alex Myhre	yes	alexandraustino@gmail	yes
Josh Myhre	yes	josh.myhre@gmail	no <sup>s</sup>
DAPHNE Webb	yes	daphneelizabethwebb@gmail	no
Tim Ritter	yes	timritter19@yahoo.com	no
Aubrey Hathaway	yes		no
NIKKI SANDERS	yes	nik.red.t@gmail.com	yes
Roxanne Geoghegan	yes	roxanne.crossley@yahoo.com	no
Christine Reaves	yes	creaves30@gmail.com	yes
Bradley Steele	yes	bsteele63@outlook.com	no
Karen Cop	yes	Kayceemomof4@gmail.com	yes
Scotty Little	yes	ScottyLittle1972@gmail	yes
apac Shakuramaru	yes	4685 NE Idaho St	yes:
Annikka (18)	yes		no
Sarah Stone	yes		no
Brian Knehaus	yes	knehausb@aol.com	no
Rw TAYLOR	YES	revndoc@comcast.net	no
Rebecca Knight-Alvarez	yes	rebecca.knight6@gmail.com	✓





Dear Salem City Council:

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- Reading programs for children every day at main or West Salem.
- More downloadable audiobooks and ebooks.
- And more!

Please add your name if you agree!

Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
Matt Hunsinger-McConnell	YES	hunsingm@gmail.com	YES
Robin Burstrom	NO	rdanulyse50@gmail.com	NO
Carol Goldfarb	yes	cgoldfarb@comcast.net	yes.
Greg Tichner	Yes		
ROBERT CONAHER	NO	ROB-JAMGOSI@OUTLOOK.COM	YES
Anna McHugh	yes	annaroyce@gmail.com	N
EMILY STUART	Yes	emilystuartsweet@gmail.com	Yes
Sarah Crowson	Yes	swarowson7@gmail.com	yes
Coraline Roth (age 11)	yes		
Madison Roth (age 9)	yeah		
Mary Dady	yes	marybdady@gmail.com	yes
Cecily Deady 5	yes		
HAIYU FAGUNDES	yes	fagundes.haiyu@gmail.com	yes
Jebra Freels	yes	dkFreels@comcast.net	no
Linda Schaffer	yes	lazzcoal@hotmail.com	no
Sherri Moter	Yes	-	No
KYCKE ALBERT	YES	kyckie.silvae@gmail.com	YES
Paul Ortiz-Shepherd	YES	Paul_Shepherd@gmail.com	Yes
Heidi Miller	Yes		
Kay Miller	yes		
Austen Dunn	yes	austenbunn@gmail.com	no
Cardalynn Palmer	yes	Cardalynn1@gmail.com	no
Mary Roach	Y	maryroach1@yahoo.com	X
Richard Swales	Y	wilhoamusaanyway@gmail.com	N



Dear Salem City Council:

# Let Us VOTE on a Full Service Library!

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- More downloadable audiobooks and ebooks.
- And more!

Please add your name if you agree!

Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
Margie Taylor	yes		
Kay Siew	yes	-	-
Joel Rosenblit	yes		
AMITH banin	yes	-	-
Tim Wallace	yes	b1stj@comcast.net	-
Finn MacQuarrie	Yes		_____
John Ellis	Yes	jkeells@hotmail.com	_____
Hilard R. Randall	Yes		
Magdalena Hernandez	yes	magdahernandez@gmail.com	
Martin Garcia	yes	mf_garcia1993@yahoo.com	
Karen Hill	yes		
David Hill	yes		
Christine Chute	YES	Cachute@gmail.com	✓
Robert Veska	yes	r.veska@me.com	✓
Lillian Lloyd II	YES		
Litster Martin	yes	SalemPCHelp@gmail.com	Yes
Carlie Lanehart	Yes	carlielanehart@gmail.com	Yes
Caril Tope	Yes	C-MiddleCorp@yahoo.com	no
Weth Ramirez	Yes	iveth47@yahoo.com	Yes
Nicole Hironaka	Yes	Nc.Hironaka@gmail.com	yes
Jordanne Slavenski	Yes	Jordy340@hotmail.com	Yes
Krystal Conroy	yes	stlts1993@gmail.com	yes
Heather Perez	Yes	hshaw13@hotmail.com	Yes
Basimira Perez	yes	parfaitperez@gmail.com	yes
Spencer N Wharton	yes	southwest23@gmail.com	no thanks



Dear Salem City Council:

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Please add your name if you agree!

Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
FRANK Virag	Yes	YAHOO.COM	NO
<del>STEPHEN P.</del>			
John Goetz	Yes	jeg.goetz@gmail	No
Erika Goetz	Yes	jeggi.goetz@gmail	
INA VANDEVERT	yes	inackaine@att.net	yes
Amber Namik	yes		
Jessica Valder	Yes		no
Marcia Poehler	yes	poehlerm@hotmail.com	no
Cady Rogers	yes	Eagle 214e Protonmail.com	yes
Jen Rogers age 6	yes	N/A	
Stephanie Hull	yes		
Clark Hull age 2	yes		
Heather Ortiz-Shepherd	yes	Hmo.shepherd@gmail.com	yes
Chien-chun Lin	yes	chienlin@msu.edu	yes.
<del>Sukant Datt</del>			
BERNIE Hoagland	yes		
Kay miller	yes		
Katie Garcia	Yes	insidiousgenius@gmail.com	yes
Marcia Christenson	yes	christmlb@msn.com	yes.
Det Schumaker	y	Jayuschw@gmail	No
Jay Thompson	Yes	Jayakotathompson@gmail	yes
Jesse Thompson	" "	" "	
Finch Thompson	" "	" "	
Elizabeth Polay	Yes	epday@gmail.com	NO



Dear Salem City Council:

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- And more!

Please add your name if you agree!

Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
Pamela Bilderbeck	yes	missmiaux@gmail.com	Yes
Ferri Hanson	yes	t.hanson03@att.net	No
ROBERT ATCHISON	YES	cgda410@icloud.com	YES
BQ @ Geoghegan (7)	yes	N/A	NO
Anna Geoghegan (6)	yes	N/A	NO
Megan Stevens	YES	megand_78@yahoo.com	YES
Antonio Maldonado	yes	emblymaldonado@gmail.com	NO
Dana Hedspeth	yes	dana.hedspeth@gmail.com	NO
Teresa Maldonado	yes	teresamaldonado420@gmail.com	no
Madelaine Lowen	Yes	madelaine.lowen@gmail.com	YES
Rysha Behan	Yes	Rysha3@gmail.com	No
Lawrence Sibanda	Yes	Lawrencesibanda97@yahoo.com	No.
BRITANNY WRIGHT	YES	maybrittanywright@gmail.com	YES
Kay Mitchell	yes		
Aubrey II			
Misty Berry	Yes	juberry2000@gmail.com	Yes
LISA ARAGON	yes	Lath1326@yahoo.com	Yes
Walter Perry	yes	walterperry3@gmail.com	Yes
MARK Kirby	yes		No
Olive Lloyd 9	yes		
SHERYL A. ECKERSLEY	YES	4365 San Francisco Dr. NE	NO
Teresa McCarthy	YES	trcc628@gmail.com	YES
Brandy Ramirez	yes	brandyramirez347@gmail.com	yes
Sidney Combs	yes	Scombs17@gmail.com	no



Dear Salem City Council:

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- And more!

Please add your name if you agree!

Print Your Name	Live in Salem?	Email address	Want to be on our mailing list?
LANI KIRBY	Y	Lanikirby17@gmail.com	NO
Blie Lloyd	X		NO
Dana Lloyd	Y		
Steve Tingor	Y		
Donna Hirt	Y	donnahirt.org	no
<del>Jo AERNE</del>	<del>Y</del>		✓
CHAR Doby	Y		
Louise Whitehead	Y	whiteheadlouise@gmail.com	NO
Pamela Purn	Y	plperuicser@aol.com	NO
ERNEST KIRCHNER	Y	erniekirchner@hotmail.com	YES
Donelle Chomiak	Y	donelle@aol.com	Yes
Jovie S			
Tramya			
Lorette Montgomery	Y		
Nick Conroy	✓		
MARGO T O			
Barbara Deffenbaugh	Y	bkdeffenbaugh@gmail.com	no

**From:** [Lois Stark](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Cc:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Livability Levy on the May 2025 ballot  
**Date:** Saturday, August 17, 2024 1:49:12 PM

---

Hello City Councilors,

I'm writing today to encourage you to put a "Livability Levy" on the ballot in May 2025. This was one of the recommendations of the Revenue Task Force. I think it's a good, sound suggestion. Our public library has been suffering for the last years. The days and hours that the library is open are dwindling. Not a good scenario for the Capitol City!

The library provides a source of education, comfort, books, videos, e-books, reference materials, concerts, art work, English language classes, children's story times, and much more. Of course, you already know this. You heard our testimony when there were more library positions being cut. As you know, the cuts were averted but the library is still in trouble for the 2026 year.

With a "Livability Levy" we could raise money for the 2 libraries, the parks department, and Center 50+. (We can't forget our dear seniors.) With a small increase in property taxes we could raise \$8 million a year and spend it on the above along with what is allocated in the general fund. This would be a 5 year levy. People in Salem love their library! We could pass this levy!!

I have been a library supporter since I was a child. I continue to support the library with donations, time, and effort.

Thank you for ALL the unpaid work that you do for our community. I am so glad that we have people who run and serve on the City Council. I know many times it is a thankless job. I appreciate your time and effort.

Sincerely,  
Lois Stark  
440 21st ST SE  
Ward 2

**From:** [Mike Herron](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [Vanessa Nordyke](#)  
**Subject:** Support Salem Business  
**Date:** Friday, August 16, 2024 3:18:12 PM

---

Dear Members of the Salem City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any new revenue measures that would single out or harm Salem's business community. Small businesses are already under significant stress due to persistent economic challenges and mounting regulatory pressures. Any new or increase of fees and taxes will only exacerbate these difficulties, lead to higher prices for consumers, reduce our ability to hire and retain quality staff, and jeopardize many of the locally owned and operated businesses that contribute so much of the character and shared experiences that we call "community." It's crucial that we focus on supporting, and growing our local economy/community and tax base rather than imposing additional burdens.

I encourage the council to explore alternative solutions for addressing the budget shortfall, such as an independent audit of City finances and operations with an eye to improving fiscal efficiency, and negotiating with state facilities for revenue contributions in lieu of the taxes they do not contribute for services provided in and by the City of Salem.

Thank you,

Mike Herron  
Ward 7

**From:** [Kirk Leonard](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Please support the "Livability Levy"  
**Date:** Friday, August 16, 2024 2:40:25 PM

---

I am writing in support of the Revenue Task Force recommendation to create a "Livability Levy" to fund, in part, the Library, Parks and Center 50+. All of these things are essential to the civility of any city, in my opinion, and Salem is no exception. It is distressing and a disappointment that these essential services are facing funding cuts this year and in future years, especially when a modest property tax increase can solve the problem. We need to be fully funding them.

Please support a tax levy to sustain and grow these services.

Kirk Leonard, Ward 3



**From:** [Rich Duncan](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** city council work session 8/19/24  
**Date:** Monday, August 19, 2024 7:03:27 AM  
**Attachments:** [image005.png](#)  
[city council Letter opposition.docx](#)

---

Dear Members of the Salem City Council,  
I am writing to express my strong opposition to any new revenue measures that could harm our business community. Small businesses are already under significant stress due to economic challenges and regulatory pressures. Introducing new taxes or increasing existing ones will only exacerbate these difficulties, leading to higher prices for consumers and potentially reducing our ability to hire and retain quality staff. It's crucial that we focus on supporting our local economy rather than imposing additional burdens. I encourage the council to explore alternative solutions for addressing the budget shortfall, such as improving fiscal efficiency and negotiating with state facilities for revenue contributions.

Sincerely,  
Richard E Duncan, President  
Rich Duncan Construction Inc

*Richard E. Duncan, AIC, President*  
Rich Duncan Construction, Inc.  
2295 Rural Ave SE, Salem OR 97302  
Office 503-390-4999 Fax 503-390-3633 Cell 503-851-9804  
[www.richduncanconstruction.com](http://www.richduncanconstruction.com)

**Have you done business with us? Please leave us an honest review of our services at the link below:**

<http://richduncanconstruction.whirllocal.com>



Please consider the environment before **printing** this e-mail message.



---

Dear Members of the Salem City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any new revenue measures that could harm our business community. Small businesses are already under significant stress due to economic challenges and regulatory pressures.

Introducing new taxes or increasing existing ones will only exacerbate these difficulties, leading to higher prices for consumers and potentially reducing our ability to hire and retain quality staff. It's crucial that we focus on supporting our local economy rather than imposing additional burdens.

I encourage the council to explore alternative solutions for addressing the budget shortfall, such as improving fiscal efficiency and negotiating with state facilities for revenue contributions.

Sincerely,  
Richard E Duncan, President

Rich Duncan Construction Inc

**From:** [Rory McManus](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Bob Smith](#)  
**Subject:** 2024 Revenue Taskforce Recommendation  
**Date:** Monday, August 19, 2024 9:46:27 AM

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Dear Vanessa and Salem City Council,

I am writing on behalf of myself, Bob Smith, VIP's and Charter Properties, urging you to oppose any new revenue measures that will adversely affect our business community, particularly small and local businesses that are already facing hardships amid record inflation and increased state and federal regulations.

Adding more taxes for businesses, such as a business license fee, will only result in higher prices for consumers at a time when families are already struggling to afford basic necessities. Similarly, franchise fee increases would be passed along to consumers and a personal income tax will make it more difficult for businesses to attract and retain quality employees.

Thriving businesses are key to a healthy city, and our leaders should be doing everything they can to incentivize economic growth and development rather than making it harder to do business and invest in Salem. While I acknowledge the city is facing a budget shortfall, more should be done to scrutinize spending and seek opportunities for generating revenue that avoids placing the burden on our businesses — such as pushing for Payment in Lieu of Taxes for State Government facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rory McManus  
Executive Assistant and Asset Manager  
VIP's Industries, Inc.  
Charter Properties  
Hayesvilles Business Center  
I.C.D., Inc.

**From:** [Raquel Moore-Green](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [Trevor Phillips](#)  
**Subject:** Consideration of Revenue Task Force Recommendations, Work Session, Monday August 19, 2024  
**Date:** Sunday, August 18, 2024 2:56:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [08.18.24 Ltr Salem City Council Revenue Task Force.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon City Recorder - attached please find a letter to the Mayor and City Councilors pertaining to tomorrow evening's work session. Thank you.

all my best, rmg

--

Raquel C. Moore-Green  
503.362.5021  
ad maiorem dei gloriam

## From the Desk of Raquel Moore-Green

August 28, 2024

City of Salem  
City Recorder  
Attn: Mayor and City Council Members  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Via email: [cityrecorder@cityofsalem.net](mailto:cityrecorder@cityofsalem.net)

Subject: Consideration of Revenue Task Force Recommendations, Work Session, Monday August 19, 2024

Mayor Hoy and Councilors –

First and foremost, thank you for the opportunity to have served on the Revenue Task Force earlier this year. It was a lengthy process with a well-balanced group of Salem citizens. As you approach your second work session for further exploration and discussion of the recommendations I want to reiterate my comments once again from the last meeting, as well as my comments from the 2018 Revenue Committee of which I also participated.

While the additional revenue to meet *all the needs and desires of all facets of our community* is real to those advocating - any revenue raising, aka new taxes, should be by a vote of the citizens of Salem.

From the vantage point that I see things, not only is the city in thinking of raising taxes, but the state is also looking to raise revenue. For transportation infrastructure and maintenance, via a gas tax which I have heard could be \$1 per gallon, to a tax on alcohol for health care services. These are just two of a variety of taxing options the state is contemplating. This coupled with the news of two of the states largest private employers drastically cutting their workforces, along with the inflation that has plagued all of us these last few years, now is not the time to raise / impose / enact new taxes on Salemites without their ability, via the ballot box, to weigh in. Thank you for your leadership and I look forward to seeing you tomorrow evening.

All my best,



Raquel Moore-Green

cc: Councilor Trevor Phillips, Ward 3, [tphillips@cityofsalem.net](mailto:tphillips@cityofsalem.net)

/rmg

Raquel C. Moore-Green | 1557 Webster Dr SE | Salem, Oregon 97302 | cell: 503.362.5021 | email: mooregreenrc@gmail.com

**From:** [T.J. Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** thoughtful approach to the budget shortfall  
**Date:** Friday, August 16, 2024 4:44:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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Dear Mayor and Councilors,

I hope you have had a fruitful week. I know you are inundated with e-mails on the budget. During my time on the council, we attempted to address budget issues by reducing costs and adding or increasing fees. Amusing side note, I was a proponent of adding motorcycle cops because they generally pay for themselves, and we added a pile of motorcycle cops on the first day of newly minted officers on job I received two tickets on my way into work ( I was **very** committed to personally helping with the budget shortfall) . The more we dug into the budget the more we learned. I knew way too much about sewer lateral funds AND overtime for firefighters, but it was useful knowledge that I shared at every Neighborhood Association meeting. Hire an outside auditor to do a full financial audit and have them present in a work session and then to the business community as well as the press, As a city we are dependent on property taxes, and it makes sense to look at how to increase the amount of property that is producing property taxes. Don't target business with a separate fee. Businesses are called on to fund a lot in Oregon, without any real appreciation. The more business and industry we can recruit to Salem, the better off Salem will be financially. Transparency and the sharing of information is critical. What role can you play in bringing citizens to your side of the rope, so more people are pulling in the same direction?

Respectfully,



**T.J. Sullivan**

Agent

**Direct** (503) 344-1077

**Main** (503) 472-2165



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