

Amy Johnson

From: Eric Lassahn <elassahn@willamette.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 4:07 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: In support of the Payroll Tax - please vote yes on June 12!

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing in support of the Payroll Tax that will help fund critical city services and partnerships built to address houselessness.

Without the implementation of a payroll tax, many of the recently added services, like the micro shelter sites and homeless navigation center, would lose their funding. *The majority of people using those services are moving from homelessness into permanent, transitional, or supportive housing.* We are finally seeing progress in addressing this very human issue facing ourselves and our neighbors and we should do everything we can to maintain this momentum!

Thank you for including my comments for consideration.

Eric

D. Eric Lassahn, Ph.D. | he/him
Senior Associate Director of Alumni & Parent Engagement | University Relations
Office: 503-370-6807 | Cell: 570-765-8030



From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of jmrhofer@q.com
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Contact City Council
Date: Thursday, June 1, 2023 10:28:40 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	John Hofer
Your Email	jmrhofer@q.com
Your Phone	5035851262
Street	1460 Marshall Dr. SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	<p>Dear City Council Members: I have learned that there is a serious budget shortage facing the City of Salem, a shortage that risks the loss of services to our citizens most in need -- most noteworthy, the Navigation Center and the Micro-Shelter Villages. The moral character of a community is judged with greatest clarity by how it treats its least well off members. The challenge of the City's budget shortage is not merely a fiscal challenge, it is a moral challenge as well, one which will determine the true moral character of our community for decades to come. To fail to fund programs serving our least well off members would be a profound failure to ourselves. It would mean that we are not the people we wish to be or think ourselves to be. Once moral deception to ourselves sets in, the door is opened to all possible wretched actions. I urge you with all my heart to pass a budget taxing all of us who can pay more to ensure these vital services continue uninterrupted, providing amelioration of incessant suffering to those most in need. Justice demands that in times of sacrifice, the most well off are the first to be asked to make sacrifice. Justice also demands that in times of abundance, the least well off are the first to be given the fruits of that abundance. We cannot treat our suffering members of the community with wicked indifference. Recent history has shown us where that leads: To viewing such suffering and needy members as "life unworthy of life," eventually leading to a universal nihilism that ultimately rots the heart out of the entire community. The important moral challenges of our lives arrive in the most mundane of circumstances. What we face is not a mere fiscal issue. It is rather a fundament question of what we morally intend to be as a community. Choose wisely, please, for you choose for all of us. With respect, John Hofer</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 6/1/2023.

From: [Don Taylor](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Upcoming payroll tax vote to fund needed programs
Date: Thursday, June 1, 2023 1:22:54 PM

I'm writing to encourage you to vote on the proposed payroll tax which will fund services to those who are most in need of them. To consider suspending the new Navigation Center when we have worked so hard to have one makes no sense to me. That Center and other increased services for the homeless are crucial for them, as well as the health of our city from a business and community stand point. Please take action on this matter so it can quickly be addressed and continue to move forward to assist our community members without homes to find the services they need for their stability as well as the stability of our city.

I'm just sorry the plan does not seem to address a way to tax me – retired and no longer receiving a payroll check to tax. You would have my blessing to work on adding something like that.

Thanks for all you do in the midst of making our city better.

Jan Taylor
jantaylorsd@comcast.net
971-239-8231

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of mgest@msn.com
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 2:48 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Submission
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Mari Anne Gest
Your Email	mgest@msn.com
Your Phone	5038518845
Street	865 Valleywood Dr. SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	A suggestion regarding a new employee tax that is being considered: Apply the tax on anyone making more than \$30 an hour rather than taxing those making minimum wage or \$20 to \$30 an hour. Those making low wages are barely surviving and don't need the added stress. I'm not sure what the additional revenue would be, but the idea is better than kicking more people into poverty. If this becomes a ballot measure question it will have a better chance of passing with this provision. Thank you for your consideration.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 6/5/2023.

From: [Tim Buckley](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: City Council consideration of city operations fee and employee payroll tax
Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 4:23:11 PM

Dear Mayor Hoy and City Council members,
I strongly support the passage of a city operations fee and employee payroll tax to eliminate the projected city budget shortfall next year. The Council will consider these things next Monday, June 12th.

As the city has grown, the need for services from police, fire and social service agencies has increased faster than finances to pay for them...thanks to the laws that restrict the growth of government spending below inflationary trends.

I volunteer for two nonprofits, each aimed at reducing homelessness and chronic poverty. While some may say that services to blunt and perhaps reverse the growth in poverty is a fool's errand, I disagree. The majority of those in need wish to live a life with more comfort and dignity, and to contribute back to a community that helped support their recovery. Current work is having that effect, with large investments in navigational services, coordinated care, and micro shelter communities.

Time and again it has been demonstrated that it is both fiscally and morally sound to embrace the social ills we face rather than kick them down the road. The savings to taxpayers, in the end, is substantial. While managed care is expensive, the cost to society is far greater if chronic poverty, homelessness, drug dependency and mental health issues are ignored.

Please pass these measures, and then spend some money explaining the rationale to the public, via the media. Education about our issues must include the value of rehabilitative efforts, because as they say, "A rising tide floats everyone's boat."

Tim Buckley
1570 Aerial Way SE
Salem, OR
503.371.9092