

**From:** [Bill Dixon](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** December 11 City Council Agenda Item 6d: Reduction in Library Operational Hours  
**Date:** Saturday, December 9, 2023 11:47:29 AM

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Dear Mayor Hoy and Members of the City Council,  
I urge that the Council direct the administration to pause its proposed reduction in library hours. The pause should remain in effect until the administration provides more context for a decision that would reduce community access at a time of increasing demand for a vital city service. Specifically, administrators should be given an opportunity to explain:

- The extent to which the current service difficulties at the library result from the administration's directive to leave newly open staff positions unfilled.
- What other city departments/programs are under don't-fill directives for staff positions and how the operations of those departments have been affected.
- Why action on the library is necessary at this time when the Council will be considering spending reductions across the entire 2024 budget in a few weeks.

Thank you for considering this request and for your service to the city.

*Bill Dixon, 608 Salem Heights Ave. S, Salem*

**From:** [Blaise](#)  
**To:** [Amy Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Library hours  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2023 9:57:51 AM

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Hi Amy,

My name is Blaise Epstein

On Dec 11, 2023, at 9:20 AM, Amy Johnson <[AJohnson@cityofsalem.net](mailto:AJohnson@cityofsalem.net)> wrote:

Hello,

If you would like your comments included in the record, 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:** Blaise <[blaisehayes123@gmail.com](mailto:blaisehayes123@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 10, 2023 10:10 PM  
**To:** citycouncil <[citycouncil@cityofsalem.net](mailto:citycouncil@cityofsalem.net)>  
**Subject:** Library hours

Please keep the library open later on the weekdays, and on both weekend days. Many working families in this city - the families who pay taxes to fund these libraries - can only visit after work or school, or on the weekends.

If the issue is about cutting working hours to help staff retention, maybe reduce morning hours, opening at noon, and closing on another weekday. I, for one, would love a workplace where I had time to fully wake up before rolling into work - I think library staff might also be amenable to having more daylight hours to live their lives as well. This would also allow the people who frequent the library to be able to continue to do so.

It's vitally important to keep libraries fully accessible to the community. Please reconsider your decision.

**From:** [Christine Pratt](#)  
**To:** [Amy Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Keep the Library  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2023 2:09:11 PM

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Christine Manning

On Mon, Dec 11, 2023, 2:08 PM Amy Johnson <[AJohnson@cityofsalem.net](mailto:AJohnson@cityofsalem.net)> wrote:

Hello,

If you would like your comments to be included in the record, 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:** christinepratt95 <[christinepratt95@gmail.com](mailto:christinepratt95@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023 2:06 PM  
**To:** citycouncil <[citycouncil@cityofsalem.net](mailto:citycouncil@cityofsalem.net)>  
**Subject:** Keep the Library

The library is very important to this community. Why reduce hours only a few years after it was updated? Please keep it open!



**From:** [Denae Cedar](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Library hours for the disabled  
**Date:** Friday, December 8, 2023 11:48:59 AM

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Greetings

It is more than tragic that Salem Library needs to decrease its hours so drastically due to budget issues. I could state all the ways in which is is a tragedy but I think most of them will be addressed by other people. I am writing to speak up for my small community of the disabled immune-suppressed people who rely on safe Sunday pick-ups for our library services.

We pick up our books on Sunday mornings in the auditorium, safely, before the library opens. Most of us do not have the finances to purchase every book that we want to read. What are we going to do? Are we going to lose our access to library services? My physicians (several licensed MDs and one licensed DO) have told me that I cannot go inside anywhere, even masked, without great risk due to my immune suppression and serious lung disease. I would like to keep breathing. So I have been very grateful for the safe curbside pickup on Sunday mornings.

Am I, and other disabled/immune-suppressed people like me, now going to lose ALL access to library services? I live alone so there is no one I can ask to go inside the library during these drastically reduced hours to pick up books for me. And it is a genuine hardship for me to purchase books when I have literally hundreds of dollars of out-of-pocket medical expenses every month and must live on a fixed income.

As someone who grew up literally in a family of librarians, I am sad beyond words at the loss of the right to read new books. I beg the City of Salem to find a way to preserve library access for people who have health conditions/immune suppression which prevent us from going inside the library on these VERY reduced hours.

Please consider our needs too, even though we are a small community who only receives a 10-minute opening (each person) on Sundays to pick up books. We are being shut out of all library services.

Thank you,

Denise Cedar

*How we treat one another is the only thing that matters. ~ Samite Mulondo*

**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [danielleferrera@ymail.com](mailto:danielleferrera@ymail.com)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Contact City Council  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2023 1:47:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

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Your Name	Danielle Ferrera
Your Email	danielleferrera@ymail.com
Your Phone	7607173746
Street	5130 2nd Ave SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	I would like to say closing the Library on a Sunday is unacceptable. Find better budgeting options instead of closing down such a valuable resource on a day that families are available to visit. Salem already has so little to offer the youth add residents, closing a public service for a full weekend day seems counterproductive to improving our community and lives. The city council becomes more out of touch with what the taxpaying community wants with each new day.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 12/11/2023.

**From:** [Emily Donnellan](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Library Closure & Budget  
**Date:** Friday, December 8, 2023 8:22:15 AM

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Dear Council,

As a working parent weekends are one of the only times I'm able to go to the library with my family. We enjoy the space, very cool kids area and all of the wonderful services the library and librarians offer.

I'm dismayed to learn you plan on cutting library hours and budget. Our Salem library system already lags behind that of many similar sized cities and now it is to be further reduced. I moved from Boise a few years ago and they were full of branch libraries with a strong central library. We don't even have very many branch locations and now we're losing Sunday access. I'm incredibly disappointed and implore you to reconsider your decision and balance the budget in a way that allows an important public institution to function at its best.

Warm regards,  
Emily Donnellan



**From:** [Haley Lehman](#)  
**To:** [Amy Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Submission  
**Date:** Friday, December 8, 2023 9:33:02 AM

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Thank you for your email. Last name is Lehman.

Haley Lehman

On Fri, Dec 8, 2023 at 8:53 AM Amy Johnson <[AJohnson@cityofsalem.net](mailto:AJohnson@cityofsalem.net)> wrote:

Hello,

If you would like your comments included in the record, please provide your 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:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) <[noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net)> **On Behalf Of**  
[hnproctor@gmail.com](mailto:hnproctor@gmail.com)  
**Sent:** Friday, December 8, 2023 8:48 AM  
**To:** CityRecorder <[CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net](mailto:CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net)>  
**Subject:** Submission

Your Name	Haley
Your Email	<a href="mailto:hnproctor@gmail.com">hnproctor@gmail.com</a>
Message	<p>Dear Salem's City Council, Seriously, what's going on with the library funding? You do a huge remodel during the pandemic. Then we pass a bond that, supposedly, was going to get us increased library services and (finally!) a library in East Salem. I was so excited about that. Then, the city says they're out of money, the surprise tax to fix it went to ballots in November and wasn't approved, and you can't fund library services, and you cut library hours. What will happen to that money from the bond we already are paying for that was supposed to be used to build a new library? Promises of a library in East Salem were a large part of why I voted to pass the bond last year. I'm so disappointed that library services are seemingly bouncing from expanding to cut so quickly.</p> <p>Thank you, Haley</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 12/8/2023.

**From:** [Jason Hastings](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Cc:** [Hastings, Sara](#)  
**Subject:** Library Closures  
**Date:** Saturday, December 9, 2023 9:55:34 AM

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Dear Council - I would like to voice my displeasure with your reduced hours at the Main Library effective January 2024. Why on Earth would you close the library on a Sunday - one of the highest traffic days of use by families of the Salem Community? You could have selected any week night and service interruption would have been minimized, substantially.

Your continued wrongheaded decision making is astounding to those of us who selected you to serve as our representatives and begs the question - how many days until we can elect someone new to replace each and every one of you.

Sincerely,  
Jason Hastings  
Resident - South Salem.

**From:** [Jim Scheppke](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Additional Public Comment on Agenda Item 6d at 12/11 Meeting  
**Date:** Saturday, December 9, 2023 5:30:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [Screenshot 2023-12-09 at 2.17.46 PM.png](#)

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Dear Mayor and City Council:

Councilor Nishioka asked me about how other libraries were funded in Oregon and I sent her this information. I wanted all of you to have it!

Here is the story on where the funding comes from for our peer libraries ...

Multnomah County Library: County-wide library taxing district since 2011.

Corvallis-Benton County Library: Combination of county-wide library taxing district since the 1990s, City General Fund, and city local option levy since 2011.

Eugene Public Library: City General Fund and city local option levy since 2015.

Hillsboro Public Library: City General Fund and county-wide local option levy since the 1990s.

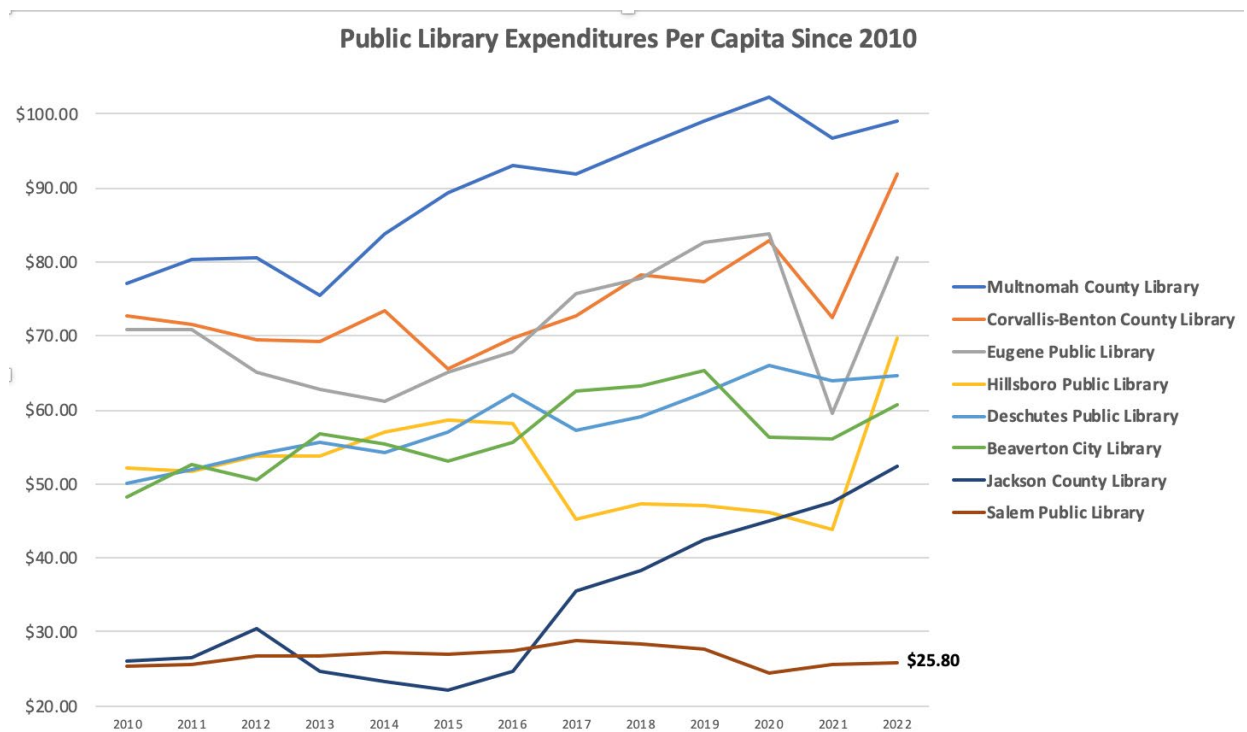
Deschutes Public Library: County-wide library taxing district since the 1990s.

Beaverton City Library: City General Fund and county-wide local option levy since the 1990s.

Jackson County Library: County-wide library taxing district since 2015.

As you can see all of these peer libraries have been successful in not having to rely solely on General Funds for their funding. We tried to form a taxing district here in 2014 but were unsuccessful because we had little or no support from the Salem City Council and opposition from the Marion County Commissioners.

And here you can see what happens when a library tries to rely on the General Fund for decent funding. Multnomah and Corvallis have about four times the funding as our library. Eugene has about three times as much. The rest about twice as much. We are such an outlier when it comes to library funding! And this is all *before* the cuts to the FY 23 and FY 24 budgets.



Jim Scheppke, Ward 2  
jscheppke@comcast.net

**From:** [Jim Scheppke](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Agenda Item 6d. at 12/11 Meeting  
**Date:** Friday, December 8, 2023 11:05:09 AM  
**Attachments:** [Screenshot 2023-12-07 at 12.50.30 PM.png](#)  
[Screenshot 2023-12-07 at 12.56.40 PM.png](#)

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Dear Mayor and City Council:

It is important, I think, to put the severe reduction to library hours in a statewide perspective.

Here is how our new schedule will compare with our peer cities in the state:

	Days of Service at Main Library	Hours of Service at Main Library
Deschutes Public Library	7 days	71
Eugene Public Library	7 days	64
Corvallis-Benton Co. Library	7 days	62
Hillsboro Public Library	7 days	56
Beaverton City Library	7 days	56
Jackson Co. Library (Medford)	7 days	54
Salem Public Library	5 days	38

And to further put this in context, here is a list of Oregon cities serving populations ***under 20,000*** whose libraries will be open more hours than Salem's main library next year (the data from the State Library is about a year old, but nearly all probably will have the same operating hours next year).

City	Population	Open Hours in 2022
Cornelius	15,865	62
Baker City	16,860	59
Florence	19,921	56
Estacada	19,475	55
Gold Beach	5,221	55
North Plains	5,106	52
Seaside	7,157	51.5
La Grande	18,657	51
Scappoose	12,542	51
Veneta	14,132	50
Brookings	14,566	48
Umatilla	10,364	48
Toledo	6,557	48
Sheridan	6,377	48
St. Helens	14,560	47
Warrenton	6,352	47
Cottage Grove	10,792	46
Monmouth	11,142	45
Creswell	10,095	45
Banks	6,474	45
Myrtle Point	5,555	45
Coquille	4,710	45
Milton-Freewater	9,847	44
Burns	7,537	44
Clatskanie	6,214	44
North Bend	14,549	43
Dufur	2,027	43
Lebanon	19,122	42
Dallas	17,320	41
Astoria	10,197	40
Lakeview	8,177	40
Stanfield	3,033	40
Maupin	2,612	40
Vernonia	2,403	40
Enterprise	2,080	40
Echo	905	40
Independence	10,081	39

So if you live in Echo or Dufur you will have better access to library services than if you live in the state capital.

Oregon happens to have some of the best public libraries in the U.S. Our state is consistently at the top of the list of states for circulating the most books per capita in the country. It is embarrassing for me to be living in a city that is an outlier in this.

Keeping the West Salem Branch open two days a week with no services for children (as is the case now) is next to worthless. I predict the library will get very little use except maybe to return books.

The schedule at Main is terrible for working people and students. Their one shot at using the library will be on Saturday when many people work or have other things to do. Use at Main will go way down, I predict.

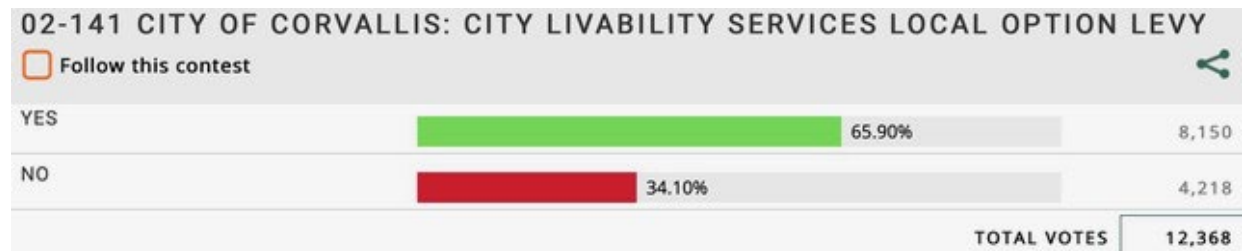
Use of the Loucks Auditorium will go way down as it has already. How can you have an evening

program that ends at 6 pm? It wasn't that many years ago (before the closure for the renovation) that the library closed three nights a week at 9 pm which enabled use of the auditorium those nights. What a loss for the community.

I can only hope that these cuts will wake people up to the fact that we need to step up and support our library like we used to in the past. We mustn't try to put a happy face on this. It is offensive to me to read in the staff report that "our goal remains to continue serving our community with excellence ...". Salem has not had "excellent" library service by Oregon standards for decades now. That's just a fact. We'll never turn things around if we're not willing to tell the truth about what has happened to our library.

It does give me hope that just a few years ago, in 2017, when I ran the library renovation bond measure campaign, 63% of Salem/Marion residents voted 'yes' on the measure (54% in Polk Co.). That was one point more than voted for the new police station. I believe Salem residents still want good library service, not the substandard library service we are getting, and I hope they will be given the opportunity to provide better support sometime in the future.

You may have noticed that in Corvallis they just passed a local option levy for parks and their library with an overwhelming 'yes' vote. Maybe we could do the same before too long.



Thank you for your service. I really appreciate all that you do.

Jim Scheppke, Ward 2  
jscheppke@comcast.net



**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [sjogrenkaren2@gmail.com](mailto:sjogrenkaren2@gmail.com)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Contact City Council  
**Date:** Thursday, December 7, 2023 5:10:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

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Your Name	Karen Jeanne Sjogren
Your Email	<a href="mailto:sjogrenkaren2@gmail.com">sjogrenkaren2@gmail.com</a>
Your Phone	6194900593
Street	521 taybin Rd nw
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	Reducing the hours of operation at the west salem branch library is shameful. There was I'm sure a better way of doing this.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 12/7/2023.

**From:** [Linda Snyder](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Library closed on Sunday  
**Date:** Sunday, December 10, 2023 3:49:13 PM

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Working families need access to the library on Sundays. Cut a day during the week, one with low attendance, and restore Sundays. Quit punishing us for voting against your employee tax.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions about my post.

Linda Snyder  
[unichild3@yahoo.com](mailto:unichild3@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Lois Stark](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Cc:** [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Micki Varney](#)  
**Subject:** Reduction of Salem Library Hours  
**Date:** Friday, December 8, 2023 5:52:45 PM

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To the City Council,

Libraries across the United States have been shown to be one of most trusted public spaces that we have.

Our Salem Public library is one of these trusted public spaces.

Many, many citizens use our library every day that it is open. Now those days and hours of use will be reduced.

This is a huge disservice to our community.

The library will not be open for students to study after 5pm on Friday and Saturday, after 6pm Tuesday through Thursday, and not open at all on Sunday and Monday.

Teens will have no (free) safe place to be on Sundays and after 6pm Tuesday through Saturday. People who cannot afford computers or internet access will lose accessibility.

Many concerts, gatherings, book clubs, study sessions, children's programs, and more will not be able to use the study rooms or the Louck's auditorium.

Is this the kind of city we want? Yes, I know there are money issues. Yes, I know that the payroll tax failed.

Here are two ideas for raising some revenue:

- Create "Cahoots" style crisis units in Salem instead of always sending the police, I believe it has been shown that saves a lot of money.
- Charge Keizer residents to use our library. They voted down establishing their own library and yet they can check out up to 10 books from our library without paying a fee. That would bring in some money.


Thank you for all the work that you do for our community. It is a lot of work for no pay to be on the City Council. I appreciate you.

I also really appreciate ALL of our library staff.

Lois Stark  
Ward 2  
440 21st ST SE  
Salem, Oregon

**From:** [5035517708@vzwpx.com](mailto:5035517708@vzwpx.com)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Salem to cut library hours due to the city's budget deficit  
**Date:** Friday, December 8, 2023 7:36:01 AM  
**Attachments:** [text 0.txt](#)

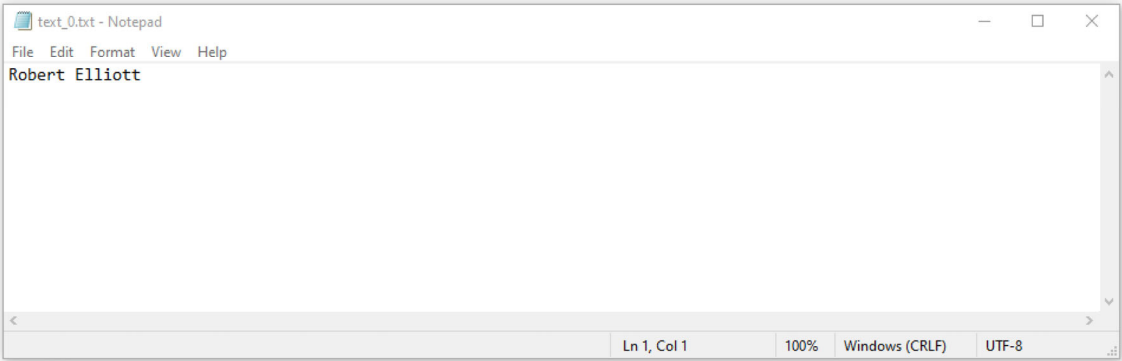
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Glad to see your not waiting to make cuts. Good job. Try to get ahead of our issue is better. Thus also will wake up voters to the impacts coming. Please offer a menu of options like a vote for "Public Safety" Police This will pass. Thank you for working on this hard subject. Bob Elliott West Salem Advocate



**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [readingsgr8tfun@yahoo.com](mailto:readingsgr8tfun@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [citycouncil](mailto:citycouncil)  
**Subject:** Contact City Council  
**Date:** Saturday, December 9, 2023 8:20:37 AM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

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Your Name	Ruth Jarmusz
Your Email	readingsgr8tfun@yahoo.com
Your Phone	9095540584
Street	1437 Marion St. NE
City	SALEM
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	I have just become aware of the new Library hours effective January 2nd. Seems to me that if you were to open later on one or two days you could keep the library open until 8 for those working individuals and some events like adult game night could continue. Please take this into consideration.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 12/9/2023.

**From:** [Hastings, Sara](#)  
**To:** [Vanessa Nordyke](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Reduction of main library hours  
**Date:** Saturday, December 9, 2023 11:08:08 AM

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Councilor Nordyke,

I am emailing today as a resident of the Sunnyslope area in South Salem. I thought it important to share my concerns about the reduction of the main library hours and, more specifically, the Sunday closure.

As a community, we are striving to support youth literacy, community building, and making Salem an awesome place to live/work. Eliminating library Sunday hours does little to promote these values. As having two children who rely heavily on the library, this is incredibly impactful to my family on a weekly basis. I will also add that the decision feels punitive in nature because of the recent vote against the payroll tax. That tax was slated heavily for emergency and homeless services and now, we are learning of drastic main library cuts in its wake.

I am incredibly disappointed in this outcome. I understand a reduction of hours but combining that with a weekend closure is, in my mind, unacceptable. As my representative, I hope that you can advocate for our youth and families in Ward 7 to lessen the effects of this decision. I look forward to hearing your stance on this issue.

Best regards,  
Sara Hastings  
Ward 7 resident