

# ADDITIONS A G E N D A



Joint Meeting of the City of Salem Budget Committee and  
the Salem Urban Renewal Agency Budget Committee

DATE: November 13, 2024  
TIME: 6:00 PM  
CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Irvin Brown

STAFF LIAISON:  
Josh Eggleston, Chief Financial Officer  
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Written comments on agenda items may be submitted at [budgetoffice@cityofsalem.net](mailto:budgetoffice@cityofsalem.net). Public comment may also be provided in person or via ZOOM. If using ZOOM, please pre-register between 8:00AM and 2:00PM on the day of the meeting at the following link: [Comment and Participate in a City Council Meeting | Salem, Oregon \(cityofsalem.net\)](#)

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## \*\*\*ADDITIONS AGENDA\*\*\*

### 2. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

- o. Correspondence from Dorothy Kimball regarding the Salem Public Library
- p. Correspondence from Francis Starling regarding the Salem Public Library
- q. Correspondence from Victoria Timm regarding the Salem Public Library
- r. Correspondence from Tabitha Van Anda regarding the Salem Public Library
- s. Correspondence from SueZeev Ranseen regarding the Salem Public Library
- t. Correspondence from Jake Miller regarding the Salem Public Library
- u. Correspondence from Lisa Miller regarding the Salem Public Library
- v. Correspondence from Kris Bifulco regarding the Salem Public Library
- w. Correspondence from Jasper Winters regarding the Salem Public Library
- x. Correspondence from Dandy Corner regarding the Salem Public Library
- y. Correspondence from Buzz Carson regarding the Salem Public Library
- z. Correspondence from Linda Swanson regarding the Salem Public Library
- aa Correspondence from Len Kovalev regarding the Salem Public Library
- ab Correspondence from Lani O' Callaghan regarding the Salem Public Library
- ac Correspondence from Ruth Hudgens regarding the Salem Public Library
- ad Correspondence from Ty Harris regarding the Salem Public Library
- ae Correspondence from Mo C regarding the Salem Public Library
- af Correspondence from Juniper Bastian regarding the Salem Public Library
- ag Correspondence from Kathryn Fox regarding the Salem Public Library
- ah Correspondence from Mary Ginnane regarding the Salem Public Library
- ai Correspondence from Janice DeVito regarding the Salem Public Library
- aj Correspondence from Brian Geerling regarding the Salem Public Library
- ak Correspondence from Carol Mitchell regarding the Salem Public Library
- al Correspondence from Morgan Grey regarding the Salem Public Library
- am Correspondence Susan & Robert Tribotti regarding the Salem Public Library
- an Correspondence from Dawson Hughes regarding the Salem Public Library
- ao Correspondence from Jerry Quigg regarding the Salem Public Library
- ap Correspondence from Lois Stark regarding the Salem Public Library
- aq Correspondence from GW regarding the Salem Public Library
- ar Correspondence from Andrea Duran regarding the Salem Public Library

as Correspondence from Ripu Briar regarding the Salem Public Library  
at Correspondence from Raquel White regarding the Salem Public Library  
au Correspondence from Mary Noland regarding the Salem Public Library  
av Correspondence from Karen Rice regarding the Salem Public Library  
aw Correspondence from Talia Turner regarding the Salem Public Library  
ax Correspondence from Jo Hockenhull regarding the Salem Public Library  
ay Correspondence from Katherine Daniels regarding Salem Public Library  
az Correspondence from Lisa Taylor regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaa Correspondence from B Skog regarding the Salem Public Library  
aab Correspondence from Chandra Timm regarding the Salem Public Library  
aac Correspondence from Claudia Carmichael regarding the Salem Public Library  
aad Correspondence from Karen Sjogren regarding the Salem Public Library  
aae Correspondence from Elizabeth Clark regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaf Correspondence from Sandy Whittington regarding the Salem Public Library  
aag Correspondence from Robin Flynn regarding the Salem Public Library  
aah Correspondence from Marie Mueller regarding the Salem Public Library  
aai Correspondence from Fodderx regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaj Correspondence from Harper Dean regarding the Salem Public Library  
aak Correspondence from Cheryl Randall regarding the Salem Public Library  
aal Correspondence from Denae Cedar regarding the Salem Public Library  
aam Correspondence from Debra and Tony Vassallo regarding the Salem Public Library  
aan Correspondence from Crystal Qian Hu regarding the Salem Public Library  
aao Correspondence from Ruth and Dan Johnson regarding the Salem Public Library  
aap Correspondence from Sadie Verville regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaq Correspondence from Sherrie Barker regarding the Salem Public Library  
aar Correspondence from Deborah and Joseph Alexander regarding Utility rates, City Manager compensation and the Salem Public Library  
aas Correspondence from Deborah Alexander regarding the Salem Public Library  
aat Correspondence from Ai Lan Whitson regarding the Salem Public Library  
aau Correspondence from Joseph and Sherri Campbell regarding the Salem Public Library  
aav Correspondence from Owen Dell regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaw Correspondence from Sunday Smith regarding the Salem Public Library  
aax Correspondence from Stephanie Lee regarding the Salem Public Library  
aay Correspondence from Alex Brown regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaz Correspondence from Chyenne Wray regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaa Correspondence from Leah Pepin regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaab Correspondence from Cindy Condon regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaac Correspondence from Karen Williams regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaad Correspondence from Sarah Currin regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaae Correspondence from LJ Anderson regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaf Correspondence from Laura Sauter regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaag Correspondence from Ariele Miller regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaah Correspondence from Snarfy Knutson regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaai Correspondence from Greta Horn regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaj Correspondence from Gretchen Jensen regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaak Correspondence from Carol Papinchak regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaal Correspondence from Elizabeth Jensen regarding the Salem Public Library

aaam Correspondence from Richard and Susan Francois regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaan Correspondence from Kathy Lincoln regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaao Correspondence from Ariel Loveall regarding the City Manager compensation  
aaap Correspondence from Corey Adkins regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaq Correspondence from Sarah Adams regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaar Correspondence from Alan Rhodes regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaas Correspondence from Megan Ouellette regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaat Correspondence from Jo and Jim regarding reading  
aaau Correspondence from Corinne Sherton and Dennis Martin regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaav Correspondence from Kathleen Gamble regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaw Correspondence from Chris McKinney regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaax Correspondence from Joyce Zook regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaay Correspondence from Norm Baxter regarding tax abatements and URA  
aaaz Correspondence from Keegan Gormally regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaaa Correspondence from Alyssa Cokinis regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaaab Correspondence from Austin Lockwood regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaaac Correspondence from Diana Upton regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaaad Correspondence from Richard Mclaughlin regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaaae Correspondence from Judith Davis regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaaaf Correspondence from Travis Root regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaaag Correspondence from Kai Garnsey regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaaah Correspondence from Becky Gleason regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaaai Correspondence from Alice Hyde regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaaaj Correspondence from Glen Kaye regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaaak Correspondence from Cheyenne Wray regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaaal Correspondence from Sally Hollemon regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaam Correspondence from Darbie Versoza regarding the Salem Public Library  
aaaan Correspondence from Michael Versoza regarding the Salem Public Library

**From:** [Dorothy Kimball](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Prioritize Our Library  
**Date:** Friday, November 8, 2024 12:33:42 PM

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How can we consider our State Capital without a library? Libraries are a critical part of a liveable city and the public education system of the community.

Libraries provide education and information opportunities to all residents regardless of socioeconomic status. Young people rely on them for assistance with school projects and as a gathering place with other children or friends. They help young start up businesses with limited resources. Cultural experiences are often provided. The list is by no means exhausted.

Why spend so much on renovation and earthquake building compliance for the building and institution and then close it to the community that pays taxes for its services? I would support a tax increase to help save our library.

The first thing I did when I settled in Salem was obtain a library card and my Oregon driver's license. I've tutored second language learners in the study rooms available and visit the library at least once a week. Please think carefully before depriving our community of this important resource.

Respectfully,  
Dorothy Kimball  
4124 Duane Dr. S.  
Salem, OR 97302

**From:** [Francis Starling](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Library funding  
**Date:** Friday, November 8, 2024 12:37:56 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my support for library funding, and ask that you please make this a priority in upcoming budget discussions.

Our libraries are massively important to the people of our city, both as individuals and as a community. The library is a place for people to learn, to access resources, and to gather together. It is one of the few safe, dry and warm places for children and teenagers to spend time without being expected to spend money just to be there. This is a huge factor in keeping kids safe, out of trouble and off the streets, when they are not in school or at home.

The library is also an important resource for our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness, a safe place to spend the daytime hours, with resources they can use to learn, to connect with others, and to search for employment or housing. If we remove this, it will just drive more people out onto the streets and into the elements, worsening health outcomes and increasing crime rates, drug use, and suffering for all members of our community.

What is a city without our libraries? These times are hard enough for everyone without removing such an integral pillar of the community. Money is tight, not only for the city budget but also for everyday citizens, and public services like the library are more important than ever. I love our city, but I cannot imagine continuing to live and raise children here if the libraries are closed. We must focus on making this community safe and welcoming for everyone, or it will become completely unliveable for all but the wealthy and privileged.

Thank you for your time,

Francis Starling  
Salem, OR 97301

**From:** [Victoria Timm](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 11/13 Budget Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Friday, November 8, 2024 1:07:19 PM

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Dear City Council,

I am BEGGING you to prioritize funding the public library. There's so much at stake here. If we were to lose the library it would do such damage to Salem, damage that we may not recover from for decades. Our school systems are struggling and are underfunded, the test scores of students are the lowest they've ever been, and our libraries have already reduced their hours. Without the public library, how can we expect to improve things? The library functions as a safe, free place for the entire city to study, expand their imaginations, and a community space. And to be honest, I cannot see any reason to live in Salem if the library closes down.

Fund the library. Please.

-Victoria Timm

**From:** [Tabs](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Email Testimony for Nov 13th meeting.  
**Date:** Friday, November 8, 2024 4:10:26 PM

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Hello, I am sending in this email to you as a resident of Salem who's lived here my entire life (25 years). I am urging you to please prioritize and save our library.

As a child who grew up around the poverty line, the library was very important to me and my family. My mom would take me and my brother to the library so we could get free books as well for the various kid friendly events and other programs. I know this is the case for so many other families. The library also offers a safe space for houseless people, people in abusive situations and other people who may not be able to access the internet and other resources.

The library is so incredibly important to this city for so many reasons and to get rid of it/cut funding it would be a huge detriment to our community. Please prioritize the library and please keep it open!

Thank you for your time,

Tabitha Van Anda

**From:** [SueZeev Ranseen](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Salem library  
**Date:** Friday, November 8, 2024 4:25:21 PM

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Salem library is an important and essential part of Salem. It is far more than just books and is the heart of making Salem a livable place for myself and many others. I rely on the library for knowledge and resources as an educator. Those who work at the library are always willing to help and share. I have found my favorite recipes because of books that have been recommended to me. It is a place i and other make and share community.

So many extra events from game nights to toy drives take place at the library. Expanding its resources out. During the pandemic the library was a bay station of sanity for me.

No matter your age the library is a invaluable resource from early learning for children which will help them through out their lives to a place for people to look for work to safety from time to time for people in unsecure life situations.

Multiple studies show that places with libraries have higher rates of learning more economic security and better social security. A librarian does more for keeping a community safe then the penal system ever will.

You want to bankrupt the heart of this city remove the library. Make the short term choice that will cause harm and drive people away. You will do more to hurt the economy of Salem by closing its library than what you will save by doing so.

Salem will stand out as the only state capital to fail its citizens by lossing its library.

This city not a few years ago came together and voted to improve the library. The people spoke than to hold their library to a better standard and this council should fallow suit.

Do what is good and what is right. Listen and save our library.

Sincerly  
SueZeev Ranseen



**From:** [Jake Miller](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Prioritize the library  
**Date:** Friday, November 8, 2024 6:09:17 PM

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After this election, it's clear that we have to protect our enclaves of information. In this day and age where education is harder and harder to access, where the government is seeking to dismantle educational systems left and right, it's more important than ever to prioritize these places or we are just as complicit in the worsened education of both the public and the children who use these libraries too. Education keeps people aware of the world around them and fostering a community who can access information in a safe place leads to those people becoming more active in both advocacy and their own investment in the world around them.

As a kid I'd go there every other weekend. My parents and I would bring a massive tote and every time, I would FILL it with books and every other weekend, I'd return those books after reading every single one. It was rare for me to return a book without reading it and I remember that it was one of the best days of the month because I was being introduced to so many worlds and points of view I'd never considered.

To this day, that affects everything about me. I love to write and I'm curious about the world around me and without the library, I don't think I would be anywhere near as invested in activism or education as a whole.

It is VITAL to allow people the avenue to ask questions and then find answers because it encourages engagement with the world. Without that, people will become less and less interested until it reaches the point that the hunger to learn is just a murmur instead of a roar.

Please prioritize the library. Shutting it down is what the new regime would want. Keeping it alive is a strong form of resistance amidst the turmoil.

**From:** [L. A. Miller](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Salem Public Library  
**Date:** Saturday, November 9, 2024 11:07:40 AM

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Dear City Council,

Please prioritize the library.

The library is and will be extremely important in our community. It is important for the education, health, wellbeing, and safety of our city.

Our library not only stores books and reference materials, but it is our only true internet "cafe" for people who need quick access to a computer. It is a safe haven for all kids and a vital resource for young children to learn to read. It is also our resource and archive for local history, a main center for music and the arts, a gathering place for community leaders, a way to access media at home and much more. Most of all, it is a community center for all ages.

There are ways to pay for the library. We can find funds to keep it open, whether it be a bond measure, raising property tax by .5% as there has been a low arbitrary cap for too long, or lobbying The State of Oregon to pay their property taxes. There may be other ways too, but we can find a way to prioritize the library.

Thank you for your time.

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Lisa Miller  
Salem resident for 30+ years  
503-877-0592  
[liseanne27@gmail.com](mailto:liseanne27@gmail.com)

**From:** [Kris Bifulco](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** prioritize library funding  
**Date:** Saturday, November 9, 2024 11:33:43 AM

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Good morning,

As a resident of Ward 1 of the City of Salem, I want to voice strong support for our library system and the need for city funding to prioritize our library services. The library is an incredible resource for all of us, providing safe space for community connection, education, entertainment, job opportunities, cultural exchange, and more. There are few other resources we have that provide so much. Without a robust and accessible library and library system, we will struggle to maintain and improve our community.

I know that many of you are concerned with public safety as well- as a public health practitioner and prevention specialist, I can tell you that funding things like the library helps to preserve and improve public safety. It has been proven time and time again that it is more effective to invest in increasing protective factors rather than reducing risk factors. Traditional public safety funding to things like police invests in a reactionary system, one that works best when bad things have already happened. We save money, time, and resources when we prevent bad things from happening.

The library is one of our last free and safe places for people of all ages and demographics to go to and it is filled with knowledge, kindness, and support for all. I grew up as the child of a librarian and have spent countless hours learning, engaging with my community, building relationships, and understanding how the world works because the library gave me access to those things. It opens new worlds up for us, allows us to chase our passions, and connects us to each other in ways we don't otherwise have.

Investing into the library is an incredible protective factor for our community. If we lose access to that, we will see more people struggling, less social cohesion, less civic engagement, less trust in our systems, and potentially more violence. I am gravely concerned of the consequences of a poorly funded library and library system.

We need you to prioritize library funding. Any cuts are unacceptable.

Kris Bifulco

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

**From:** [Jasper Winters](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Library  
**Date:** Saturday, November 9, 2024 11:41:00 AM

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Hello,

I am writing to you today to express my concern about the impending recommendation to close the Salem library. The library is a vital community resource, not just for education but as a safe and welcoming community space not just for working and studying, but for hosting book clubs, extracurricular and social activities, and cultural events. The internet is a wonderful resource, but not everyone can afford the service or the gear to use it in their homes. Now, more than ever, having free and reliable access to information is critical and the library provides the opportunity for students to access books that are (or might soon be) banned or restricted in schools as well as opportunities for continuing education for people of all ages and all socioeconomic statuses.

I grew up in a tiny town in NE Washington, less than 5,000 people, and the local library was my lifeline. I admit- I took the library for granted. Having a local library was a fact of life, not something that could be lost. Everywhere I've lived since then I've had a library card and though I don't read as much these days as I once did, I cannot imagine living in a town without a library. I cannot fathom how a *city* could simply not have a public library. I understand the budget is tight. I understand that funds are limited and not every program can have all the funding it wants. I understand that. But in a country that prides itself on the freedom of the press, the freedom of information, and the idea that anyone, from anywhere, can pull themselves up by the bootstraps to make a better life for themselves, how can we allow the greatest public repository of print media and the best (and often only) access point for free internet be closed?

I may be but one voice, but I know I speak for many when I urge you to prioritize funding for the Salem public library. It is a critical resource that we cannot afford to lose.

With best regards (and no small concern),  
Jasper Winters  
3837 12th St. SE, Salem 97302

**From:** [Dandy Corner](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Please protect the library - Dandy  
**Date:** Saturday, November 9, 2024 12:09:54 PM

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Hello! I have lived in Salem my whole life, I don't have much to say besides the library has been a lifeline to me and many friends throughout our whole lives. We didn't have anywhere to go, and so we went there. We learned a lot through reading the books, going to events and having somewhere to go that wasn't a back alley, using the computers when we didn't have one, using the printers to get jobs, and checking out most things we wanted to try out at the library of things. Please protect the library, prioritize it, please.

Me and my friends drafted this and each of us will be sending one.

Thank you  
Dandy

**From:** [Buzz Carson](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Save the library  
**Date:** Saturday, November 9, 2024 12:11:17 PM

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Hello! I have lived in Salem my whole life, I don't have much to say besides the library has been a lifeline to me and many friends throughout our whole lives. We didn't have anywhere to go, and so we went there. We learned a lot through reading the books, going to events and having somewhere to go that wasn't a back alley, using the computers when we didn't have one, using the printers to get jobs, and checking out most things we wanted to try out at the library of things. Please protect the library, prioritize it, please.

Me and my friends drafted this and each of us will be sending one.

SOS,  
Buzz

**From:** [Linda Swanson](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#); [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Re: City of Salem Library Funding  
**Date:** Saturday, November 9, 2024 1:19:07 PM

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To: Salem Budget Committee  
Salem City Council Members

My husband and I just moved to Salem from Maryland and we recently heard that the leadership of Salem is considering closing the Salem Library in July, 2025. As a retired couple we frequently use our local library and find it to be an invaluable resource. Having grown up in Salem the Salem library was always an important part of my life. After my father retired, he was a volunteer for years and treasured his time working there.

It is our hope that the city can find funding to keep the library functioning. Having lived in a metropolitan area with many resources available to us, including libraries, we do not think a decision to close is prudent.

There will be many downstream negative impacts. Let's do whatever we can to attract new residents to the city and grow the economy, not turn them away. Funding the library is an important step in continuing to grow the city. Without a library, I can tell you that, retirees will think twice about moving here. Families with young children won't want to live here. And, Salem will have a reputation as a city that doesn't care about reading, children's literacy or access to information to all. We would like see the Salem City Center grow and develop not, close down such a vital resource. Our community needs the library to:

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Provide information and educational opportunities for all
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Help create and strengthen reading habits for our children
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Preserve local history
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Provide access to the arts
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Provide a safe gathering place for teens
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Provide a welcoming after school venue for students to do their homework

I know that the city facing difficult funding decisions, but hopefully the leadership of the Oregon State Capital can find an alternative to closing such a important resource for us all.

Thank you for consideration,

Linda Swanson

443.794.1955

[lmswanso@aol.com](mailto:lmswanso@aol.com)



**From:** [Len Kovalev](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** PRIORIZE THE LIBRARY  
**Date:** Saturday, November 9, 2024 1:57:14 PM

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Hello,

I feel that the library should be a priority. Salem losing its only library would be devastating to the residents of Salem, potentially leading to people moving away and fewer people coming here. Also, libraries champion, promote, and reflect important democratic values through activities like Banned Books Week and other ways libraries encourage engagement with issues like freedom, justice and democracy. That is more important than ever right now!

Thank you,

Len Kovalev  
Salem, OR 97303

**From:** [Lani O'Callaghan](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Our popular, precious Salem Library  
**Date:** Saturday, November 9, 2024 6:56:22 PM

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To: The Budget Office, City of Salem

Your task of keeping the City of Salem's budget balanced in an unenviable job. And such a shortfall is truly daunting.

**But please ~ do not cut out the heart of our civic body by closing the Salem Public Library.** It serves our Community in countless practical ways. Always Salem has managed through relocation of the whole catalogue while the current wonderful site was being constructed, while the building was being retrofitted to sustain an earthquake, and other massive interruptions ~ always Salem's citizens could access books.

Such a strong, historic record of serving all manner of persons in our area ~ please, please find a way to keep our wonderful Salem Public Library open.

Sincerely,

Lani O'Callaghan  
212 Kimeron Street SE  
Salem, OR 97306

**From:** [hudgie45 Hudgens](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** FUND OUR LIBRARY NO MATTER WHAT  
**Date:** Sunday, November 10, 2024 1:56:24 PM

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Hello,

You are getting hundreds of letters, I hope, about keeping some decent library service in Salem. It is embarrassing to think we'd not have a library at all. How dare that even be considered!

Yet how perfect for the Powers That Be for controlling the masses through ignorance.

1. Libraries help create and strengthen reading habits in children from birth to adulthood.
2. Libraries provide information and educational opportunities free for all people, regardless of their socioeconomic status.
3. Library reading programs for children and teens, like the Summer Reading Club, help bridge the economic divide that impacts student's academic performance.
4. Libraries promote civil discourse through programs like Salem Reads, modeling and upholding the principles of free inquiry and expression for all.
5. Libraries champion, promote, and reflect important democratic values through activities like Banned Books Week and other ways libraries encourage engagement with issues like freedom, justice and democracy.
6. Libraries are "third places" that create community — friendly, safe, welcoming places that you share with your neighbors.
7. Libraries preserve and promote local history — like our library's Hugh Morrow Collection —and family history — like our library's partnership with the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society.
8. Libraries can make a city a highly desirable place to relocate or retire (and conversely an undesirable place where library services are lacking).
9. Libraries can provide information resources to local businesses, especially small local and start-up businesses.
10. Libraries can ensure that non-English speakers see themselves as represented in their communities with appropriate collections, programs and services.
11. Libraries provide needed information, resources, and support for

- LGBTIQ patrons, especially young people in need of support.
12. Libraries provide access to the arts for all, such as art exhibits and music programs and films and speakers at Loucks Auditorium, not just for those that can afford them.
  13. Libraries serve as the “people’s university” where anyone can use free library collections and information resources to become well-educated on any topic imaginable.
  14. Libraries help to close the “digital divide” by providing internet access and free wi-fi to anyone who can’t afford access otherwise.
  15. Libraries provide a safe and welcoming shelter for citizens experiencing homelessness.
  16. Libraries are a gathering place for teens, such as at our Teen Scene, and provide leadership opportunities, such as with our Teen Advisory Board.
  17. Libraries provide books and information in all formats to suit all reader preferences — paper books, ebooks, audiobooks, and online databases.
  18. Libraries are welcoming to immigrants and their families and strive to provide them with information about, and opportunities to connect with, their new communities.
  19. Libraries contribute to a circular economy by lending books, information – even a “library of things.”
  20. Libraries provide a welcoming afterschool venue for students to do their homework and socialize with their peers.

Please do the right thing,

Ruth Hudgens

NEN neighbor

503-428-0899

**From:** [Ty Harris](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Funding the library  
**Date:** Sunday, November 10, 2024 2:42:10 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I have recently heard that the Salem library is at risk of being cut entirely, among difficulties with allocating taxes. I implore you to prioritize keeping the library open. Whether you're a reader or not, the library is an essential part of our city. It doesn't only provide ample education opportunities through books, though that's extremely important in and of itself. The library hosts programs for teens, which keeps them in safe places instead of running around the city in an increasingly unpredictable environment. It gives several communities a nice, neutral space to gather. They let people enter the social world of the city without the expectation of buying something or any pressure like that. People who don't speak English as their first language can learn, thus allowing them to find work, find schooling, find friends and connections.

On top of what for communities and individuals, they offer resources to local business owners, especially start-ups and small, family businesses. That's important. As is the fact that they hold and preserve our city's history, as well as our own family histories. Their work with the genealogical society comes to mind.

Not everyone can afford to have an audible subscription or buy a \$30 book every time their kid has a new interest that will drop in a week, nor invest in equipment for a hobby they don't end up liking. Taking the library away won't change the fact that people can't afford these things outside of the library. It just deprives us of opportunities and space for meeting our neighbors. Libraries encourage exploration, so people have new experiences and try new things -- which probably leads to them stimulating the economy. I know that I'm a lot more likely to be willing to drop \$1000 on a new instrument having rented it from the library and tried it out -- otherwise I will not try it so I will not buy it. Being able to borrow "things" in addition to books is an essential part of the wide sweeping services that only the library can and will provide.

Please, prioritize the library. They help and serve everyone. Everyone. We need its resources and its common ground, especially as our society grows more and more divided. As a tax payer, there is little that I would want my taxes to fund more than the library.

Thank you.

**From:** [Mo](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Budget Committee Meeting - Please Fund the Library  
**Date:** Sunday, November 10, 2024 3:04:55 PM

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Greetings,

I've been living in Oregon for seven years now. I frequently am asked by lifetime Oregonians, "Aren't you glad you live in Oregon now?" The people of Oregon are very proud to live in a beautiful place that welcomes and values all people. This, too, is what I love about Oregon. I cherish how this is a place that supports both the individual and their community.

I work in Salem but I do not live in Salem. I live in Independence where, this election, I voted to keep our Independence Library funded. Sadly, the levy did not pass. Now our library is facing potential reductions in service hours and staff, or even closure, according to the Independence website.

I mention this because I wanted to ask you to please prioritize the Salem Library in whatever way you can. Not only does the Salem Library help the entire Salem community, but reducing it further or closing it would be modeling a grim option for all Oregon cities to consider. If we no longer consider our library to be our own responsibility, and tell our community members to just "go to the next town over," then what stops the next town over from doing the same? Will the Oregon I love be a state where access to libraries becomes a commuters-only privilege, or nonexistent?

Libraries are a public good. They provide access to learning resources and promote literacy for people of all walks of life--from everyday schoolchildren to our poorest community members wanting to better their situations. Libraries promote media literacy, in a day and age where it is of utmost importance. Libraries are one of our few remaining "third spaces," spaces outside of home and work where communities can still gather without paying admission. Libraries host classes and events and archive a city's history.

Libraries have often served as warming and cooling centers, places where vulnerable citizens can spend time during dangerously hot and cold weather. As someone whose otherwise healthy sister ended up in the hospital for heat exhaustion during the heatwave of 2021 during 117F temperatures, I feel this is an essential service. We should be promoting how our libraries can serve the community, not dismantling them.

Please, as representatives of our capital city, lead Oregon by example and continue to fund your city library.

Mo C.

**From:** [Juniper Bastian](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Prioritize the library!  
**Date:** Sunday, November 10, 2024 6:02:40 PM

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Salem resident and proud library card holder. Please prioritize the library! There are so few good things left in salem that doesn't bleed your money from you. This is a good thing and creates a wonderful community.

Nobody morally good ever purposely closed off access to libraries and books. Gods will is to care for those less fortunate than ourselves. I pray you'll make the right call for the people of this city. Save the library. Invest in our community. Invest in your people. That is what is right and good.

**From:** [Kathryn Fox](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Funding the Salem Library  
**Date:** Sunday, November 10, 2024 6:55:56 PM

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Learning about the possible closure of the superb Salem Public Library is shocking considering that it is one of the few cultural gems in Salem! A place where the poorest can still read a book w/o charge, with educational and interesting activities for the general public to enjoy for free. Where I went originally to learn how to use email as there are various classes for people to learn new things. Where there are stage shows and concerts. Our library defines Salem as an exemplary city and not just getting bigger but not better. I love our library as do so many others. It would be a tremendous loss for our citizens at a time when other nations are outdoing us in education. Please save our library!

Kathryn N. Fox



**From:** [Mary Ginnane](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 11/13 Budget Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Sunday, November 10, 2024 8:37:37 PM

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To members of the City of Salem Budget Committee:

From the Salem Strategic Plan, updated 2021, as available on the city portal:

OUR VISION IS ...

A safe, livable, and sustainable capital city, with a thriving economy and a vibrant community that is welcoming to all.

Such a city must have a public library. Libraries contribute much to achieving that vision:

- through children and youth services that lay a groundwork of pre-literacy skills, sustain interest in reading with school age children, and invite teens to solidify their commitment to lifelong learning;
- through information resources and services (digital and in-person) that answer citizen questions and provide paths toward individual pursuits;
- through maintaining a space, the library facility, that builds community as it is used in library-led and self-directed ways.

Those are just three examples of how the public library supports the City of Salem vision. Many more can be articulated. I respectfully ask you to place a high priority on continuing to fund the Salem Public Library as you proceed with the challenging work of constructing the 2025-26 budget. Thank you for all you do for the city.

Mary Ginnane, Ward 7 resident/homeowner  
5141 Zosel Ave. S.  
Salem

**From:** [Janice DeVito](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** FUND THE LIBRARIES!  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 10:54:41 AM

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I'm a retiree, but in my work background I was administrative support and project manager for City of Lincoln City as well as 4 state of Oregon natural resource departments. I've attended lots and lots of budget meetings.

I've been a resident of Salem's capitol city since 1994.

So, I have considerable knowledge of governmental budgeting.

I BEG YOU, reduce some other department budgets in order to KEEP SALEM LIBRARIES OPEN!

Have you ever done a library walk-through on a Saturday? I was there last Saturday, and there were a VERY LARGE NUMBER of residents of all ages using the essential resource.

I use the downtown library quite often, not just for books, but for a variety of activities and resources. When I lived in West Salem, I had the great benefit of that library - the location was an essential for citizens in the surrounding area (rather than needing to drive "the bridge" traffic).

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE - do some trimming from other budget sources for needed library funding! For heaven's sake, we're Oregon's Capitol City, and must keep this essential resource intact!!! AND it's a recently remodeled building!!!

Yes, I'm emotional about this. I'm a Native Oregonian.

Most sincerely, Janice DeVito 503-391-6808

P.S. Perhaps one of Oregon's billionaires or a millionaire could contribute the needed funds. Worth asking.

**From:** [Brian Geerlings](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Library poll and budget concerns  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 11:50:48 AM

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Hello!

I am writing because of a recent survey that went out regarding what to prioritize for the city of Salem budget and wanted to add to my response.

As a resident of Salem for most of my life, the library has been a constant companion. I went there as a child for research for school projects or to take books out I wanted to read but couldn't afford to buy. As an adult I still go there regularly to check books out to read. It gives me the opportunity to try new authors and read books I might otherwise never read. It has been invaluable to me.

I understand the budget is tight. I majored in Economics in college and completely understand the implications of such a budget shortfall. That said, I find it appalling that services that make living in a town worthwhile - the library, parks and more - are on the chopping block.

There is so much concern over crime but I've lived many places - from the tiny town of Eagle, ID to Los Angeles. I've almost never felt unsafe, and the few times I did, police either created that feeling or contributed to it. There are many good cops - don't get me wrong. I just mean to say that they have not made me feel more safe, not have I felt the need for them to protect me.

Moreover, If you want to really prevent crime, the way to do it is by educating people and creating a sense of pride in the community and in the city itself. Stripping the city of services is not a path to that goal.

Thank you,  
Brian Geerlings

**From:** [carol mitchell](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 11/13 Budget Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 1:04:30 PM

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Dear budget committee and city councilors,  
Please prioritize the city library for preservation. You face a difficult task in light of the city's revenue situation...but many constituents also face budget tightening and count on this vital community service.

So many people of all ages use and benefit from the library. Even if additional cuts--closing the West Salem branch, etc--are required, please maintain at least a minimum level of service.

The leadership principle espoused by the council--do it well or not at all--doesn't apply here. It's not all or nothing. It may not be possible at this time to deliver services at the levels desired but they are still needed. Comparing it to feeding the hungry, you can't offer steak but you can still provide a sandwich! Please don't leave us with nothing.

Thank you,  
Carol Mitchell, Ward 2

**From:** [Morgan Grey](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Prioritize the library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 1:16:37 PM

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To the Salem Budget Committee

I strongly encourage you to prioritize the Salem Public Libraries in next year's budget.

Public libraries are equal-opportunity places for learning, and have been a cornerstone of the public good since the founding of the United States.

Many prominent people have educated themselves through their public libraries. Abraham Lincoln, Jack London, Ray Bradbury, Andrew Carnegie, and Edith Wharton are just a few people who have had positive influences on the progress on the United States. Without access to public libraries, how might their accomplishments and contributions been limited or even lost?

Closing the Salem Public Libraries will threaten the accomplishments and successes of future generation of Salemites.

The Salem Public Libraries are essential to the future of this city and its citizens. Prioritize the libraries in the budget.

Sincerely,

Morgan Grey

Support for Libraries from other far more accomplished than myself:

“We have an obligation to support libraries. To use libraries, to encourage others to use libraries, to protest the closure of libraries. If you do not value libraries then you do not value information or culture or wisdom. You are silencing the voices of the past and you are damaging the future.” – Neil Gaiman in *The Guardian*

*“When you are growing up, there are two institutional places that affect you most powerfully: the church, which belongs to God, and the public library, which belongs to you.”* – Keith Richards

"When we were children, you'd never imagine that you'd get into a right/left argument about the purpose and use of a library. It seems extraordinary to me," she said on the BBC. "I really don't find it a political argument," she added. "It's about equality of opportunity." – Zadie Smith in *The Guardian*

**From:** [Susan Tribotti](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 11/13 Budget Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 1:29:40 PM

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Please prioritize the Salem Library in your Budget meeting! A city the size of Salem that would cut funding for a Library is pathetic. We both volunteered at the Library for years. Now we are older, we go to the Library every week or so and get new books. Any suggestions on where we would go if you take the Library away?

We live by Morningside Park. Do we really need to have it done over with the a pickle ball court? Or, do we need a massive park in Fairview (what about the cost of maintenance on that)? Are we letting this massive development of the big box buildings in the South get away with not paying or paying reduced taxes? And what about all the housing that is currently being built—don't they pay property taxes like we have for 19 years?

We feel that the city's priorities are misplaced. The Library is an essential part of the community for both children and adults.

Susan & Robert Tribotti  
1355 Tiburon Ct. SE  
Salem

**From:** [Dawson Hughes](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Save our library!  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 1:42:09 PM

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Hello,

I am a South Salem resident and local teacher. I am writing this email to ask that you do everything possible to keep our Salem library funded and operational. Make it your number one priority. It is an essential service that makes our city a community. Save our library!

Thank you,

Dawson

--

Dawson Hughes (he/him)  
[DawsonTheHughes@gmail.com](mailto:DawsonTheHughes@gmail.com)  
Silverton High School Social Studies Teacher

**From:** [JQ](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Cc:** [Linda Nishioka](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: Prioritize Salem Public Library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 1:51:08 PM

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November, 11, 2024

Dear Linda, City Councilors, and Budget Office

My name is Jerry Quigg and I'm a homeowner at 1060 Cedar Way SE in Salem. I am writing to support prioritizing funding for Salem Public Library.

In my opinion the council, mayor, budget committee, and city manager **must** find ways to keep the library open, and ideally to expand hours to what was once one of the finest public libraries in any state capital. Here is an excerpt from the city of Salem Mission Statement:

*Vision*

*A safe, livable, and sustainable capital city with a thriving economy and a vibrant community*

*Community-focused*

*Provide high-quality, responsive, and equitable services that meet the needs of the community...*

Salem **needs** and deserves an excellent public library, and to this end I request the council and budget committee find additional dollars to keep our library open, then to craft and support a referendum to create a sustainable funding source that's dedicated to SPL.

Linda, I appreciate your prompt and pragmatic reply to my previous message. I understand police and fire also need additional funding and the city council has 'difficult choices to make.'

However, a vibrant and robust public library has long been recognized as one of the pillars of democracy. It is an essential institution that serves young and old alike with services that are infused into many aspects of our lives.

Please make funding Salem Public Library a top priority!

Sincerely,  
Jerry Quigg  
1060 Cedar Way SE  
Salem, OR 97302



**From:** [Lois Stark](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [Linda Nishioka](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Keith Stahley](#)  
**Subject:** Prioritize the Library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 1:53:51 PM

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Hello budget people, city manager, and the Salem City Council,

I am very concerned and dismayed that the Salem Public Library is once again on the chopping block!

As you all know:

Libraries are a pillar of democracy.

They are a community resource.

The library educates children, teens, and adults.

The library exposes us to knowledge.

Our Salem Library teaches English language classes for those who want to learn.

The library has many cultural programs for ALL ages.

The library serves as an official “warming center” in times of extreme cold.

The library is a safe place for children, teens and adults who are unhoused.

The library is an ESSENTIAL part of our city.

I hope that you will find some funds to keep our library open and thriving.

You found 6 million dollars last month in the Emergency Services Fund to pay for the switch of ambulance providers. Where did that money come from?

We’ve been told there is a budget deficit.

Please “find” some money for another service that is vital, the Salem Public Library.

Thank you for your time and energy serving on the City Council. I know it is a very hard and sometimes thankless job.

Lois Stark  
440 21st ST SE  
Salem, OR 97301

**From:** [GW](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Fund our Library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 1:55:59 PM

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I know it is difficult to formulate the city budget and prioritize service, but I can't imagine that anyone would consider closing the city library in Oregon's capital city!!

The library is a community gathering spot of resources regardless of race, religion, socioeconomic status, disability, and gender preference: to learn, have meetings, to connect, to provide programs for all ages, to provide free wi-fi that are less fortunate. It can be an equalizer and provide opportunities for the betterment of ourselves which helps your community. The library also encompasses the surrounding communities. If you close the City of Salem library, you are also cutting off services and impacting other Oregon communities.

**Please prioritize and keep the main city library open!!** Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

**From:** [Andrea Duran](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Salem Library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 2:17:43 PM

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Good Afternoon,

I am a concerned resident of Salem who heard about the budget impacts to our library. The library is one of my favorite places in Salem. It is safe and welcoming and has so many amazing resources.

I check out a variety of different fairy tales every winter for some lessons I teach my class and it allows me to have a lot more options to give my students.

The library of things has been an invaluable resource as a new homeowner who has been tackling a few different projects.

The library also provides the community of Salem a place to be educated while remaining warm and dry. It's a valuable 3rd space that needs to have a budget allocated for.

Please do what you can to make sure that the library remains accessible to our community.

Thank you,  
Andrea Duran

**From:** [Rupinderjit Briar](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Prioritize Our Library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 2:19:55 PM

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Hello,

I am a South Salem resident from Ward 4. I am writing this email to ask that you do everything possible to keep our Salem library funded and operational. Make it your number one priority. It is an essential service that makes our city a community.

Save our library!

Thank you,  
Ripu Briar

**From:** [Raquel W.](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Salem Library Closure  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 2:45:30 PM

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Raquel White  
1635 Jefferson St NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
[rakelleigh@gmail.com](mailto:rakelleigh@gmail.com)

November 11th, 2024

Dear City of Salem, City Council,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposal to permanently close the Salem library. Our library has been an invaluable resource for residents of all ages, and its closure would have a profound impact on our community. I urge you to consider the consequences of such a decision and explore alternative solutions that allow our library to remain open.

Our library serves as more than just a place to borrow books; it is a safe and welcoming environment for children, students, seniors, and families. Many residents rely on the library for access to computers, job search resources, educational programs, and community events. It is a vital resource for those who may not otherwise have access to these services.

For our young citizens, the library is an essential part of their education, offering literacy help, a quiet place to study, various learning opportunities, and cultural education and understanding. For adults, it provides programs that foster lifelong learning and skill development. Additionally, many families rely on the library as a gathering place that enriches community connections. Closing it would deprive residents of these vital services, weakening our community.

Additionally, closing the library would lead to the loss of valuable jobs. Library staff members are dedicated professionals who provide essential services, guide community programs, and offer educational support to patrons. Losing these jobs would impact the employees and their families directly, and it would weaken our local economy by removing income and reducing spending in our community. Protecting these jobs should be a priority, especially when the economic effects of layoffs are felt by everyone.

I understand that budgetary constraints may be a factor in this decision, but I respectfully ask that you consider other options. Many communities have successfully obtained grants, partnered with local businesses, non-

profits, or community organizations to sustain their libraries, and I believe city council could explore similar options. I am willing to help with looking into grants should you choose to reach out.

Please keep our beautiful library open for the sake of our community's future. I am hopeful that, together, we can find a way to preserve this essential part of Salem.

Thank you for considering my request, and I am happy to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,  
Raquel White

**From:** [Mary Noland](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Salem Public Library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 3:13:12 PM

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To whom it will concern,

It has been brought to my attention that there is consideration for closing the Salem Public Library. The library should not be a low priority, for several reasons; it is a safe place for so many people in our community, and it is a place for learning, togetherness, and opportunity. So much work was put into updating the library in the past few years, so it truly makes no sense to consider shutting it down now.

When I was a child, my mom would bring me to the library at least once a week and her rule was that I could only check out as many books as I could carry. Every week, I would leave that library with my arms straight and use my chin to hold the pile of books in place, and I read one I checked out. The Salem Public Library is how I was exposed to the books that shaped who I am today- I was introduced to George MacDonald via “The Back of the North Wind,” to C.S. Lewis through “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe,” I read every Nancy Drew book because of the library, I discovered that Nathaniel Hawthorne’s writing style is not particularly my cup of tea.

My time spent at the library in my formative years (and adult years) is what helped me become who I am now- I am curious, and inquisitive, and I will never tire of learning. I greatly credit the library for giving me my career direction, I checked out every book I could on marine biology and I’m now applying to PhD programs around the world so I can continue to use what I learned due to the Salem Public Library. It breaks my heart that you would consider taking away this opportunity from so many of our community members- cutting the library in the current state of our world would be like removing hospitals during a pandemic. Please, reconsider making the library a priority.

“To ask why we need libraries at all, when there is so much information available elsewhere, is about as sensible as asking if roadmaps are necessary now that there are so very many roads.”

- Jon Bing (1944-2014. Norwegian writer and law professor at the Norwegian Research Center for Computers and Law)

Mary Noland

**From:** [Karen Rice](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 11/13 Budget Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 3:16:45 PM

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Gentlemen and Ladies:

Besides providing jobs, public libraries are a beacon of light and a haven of intelligent thought and hope for our future. Please, please, please!! Fund our library!!!!!!

Thank you,  
-Karen Rice  
2005 Westside Cir. NW  
Salem, OR 97304



For the Budget Committee Meeting of: November 13, 2024  
Additions Agenda Item No.: 2.aw

**From:** [Talia Turner](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 11/13 Budget Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 3:20:23 PM

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To whom it may concern,

The city of Salem has no grounds to put the library at risk at any time. The outrage I feel to learn of this possibility is compounded by the fact that the city build an exorbitant new police station only a year or two ago. The citizens of Salem value the public library greatly. Part of what keeps the youth out of trouble is giving them other options to do and our town is already sorely lacking. Now the city wants to take away one of the last places kids have to grow their minds? I suppose at least you'll have an army of pigs to deal with the little rebels.

There is not the faintest reason to even consider removing something that has an irrefutably positive impact on our community. Libraries are not a controversial topic. Police, on the other hand, are.

Severely angry,

Talia Turner

**From:** [Jo or Jim](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Thoughts to fund Salem Library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 3:39:38 PM

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Hello City of Salem Budget Committee:

I am not convinced that your “Team Principal: Do it well or don’t do it at all” is the best way to approach the Salem Public Library’s budget woes.

There are several options open to Salem for continued library service—which is a basic need in Salem. The list of 20 reasons to not reduce service or (*shockingly*) close the library, speaks to its value in this population.

I have lived in and near small Oregon towns which kept their libraries open during difficult financial times. Please remember that many Salem residents rely heavily on the library for themselves and their families....a place to think and learn and enjoy events.

We may need to ask Salemites who are more financially stable to join “a library support group”—much as NPR does. At least until further funding is available, this could observe the need yet not burden those citizens who cannot afford another out-of-pocket expense. I urge the Budget Committee to use some creative thinking.

Thank you all for your time and effort spent juggling figures and needs for us (citizens of Salem, OR).

Sincerely,

Jo Hockenull  
1705 Church St. SE

**From:** [Katherine Daniels](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: City Budget & Library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 4:12:20 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Katherine Daniels <khdaniels51@gmail.com>  
**Date:** November 11, 2024 at 10:34:27 AM PST  
**To:** CityCouncil@cityofsalem.net  
**Subject:** City Budget & Library

Dear members of the Budget Committee,

I am writing to urge you to prioritize our library in your budget deliberations. Our library is already significantly underfunded for a variety of reasons. I recognize that it would seem to be an easy soft cut in view of the importance of the funding of other necessary services, but our library's value is profoundly important to this community. No longer just a repository for books, film, historical works, information, etc., our library serves the function of being Salem's "town square" where all may gather and mix and explore the world around us. It is a place where children learn to love reading, a place that promotes literacy, a place that supports community members and organizations in a myriad of ways. Please keep our library open and well-funded! Thank you.

Katherine Daniels  
Ward 2

**From:** [Lisa Taylor](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Prioritize the library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 4:53:48 PM

---

Hello,

Please prioritize the Salem public library in budget decisions.

Thank you,

Lisa Taylor  
625 Church St SE, Salem, OR 97301

**From:** [B Skog](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Prioritize Library Funding  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 5:33:01 PM

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Dear City of Salem,

I am writing to ask that you please prioritize funding the Salem Public Library.

I understand that the past fiscal year has been difficult for the city, but the public library is one resource that we cannot afford to lose. Ensuring that the library stays open will ultimately benefit our local economy. The library enables job seekers to learn new skills, access computers and internet for business purposes, borrow the materials that they need to open and operate businesses (including tools and other items from the "library of things"), and meet with professionals who can guide them towards career opportunities. Without this vital service, I believe that our local economy will ultimately suffer in the long run.

Please consider the impact that a cut in funding for the library would have on the community. Such a move would deprive people of essential services, and it would ultimately hurt the city more than it would help. I know some people who have even threatened to leave Salem if the library were to close, which would hurt the economy even more.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
-B. Skog

**From:** [Chandra Timm](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Please prioritize the library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 5:58:15 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I know with the recent budget cuts, our local library is at risk. This is such a special place, a hub for community and learning. The hours have already been dwindled down over the recent decade... We need to preserve these safe spaces. Please prioritize the library when making the 2025 Salem budget proposal.

A concerned Salemite  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [claudia.carmichael](mailto:claudia.carmichael)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](mailto:budgetoffice)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](mailto:citycouncil)  
**Subject:** Possible Closure of Our Library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 6:39:49 PM

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To Keith Stahley and Members of the Budget Committee,

**SAY IT AIN'T SO!!** Salem without a Library is like the Eiffel Tower without her crown, pizza without cheese and the Oregon Coast without the ocean. We can't close the Salem Library! So many people in our community visit this sacred space on a monthly, weekly or even daily basis. It's the closest thing we have these days to an old-fashioned City Center. Kids, teens, Gen A, Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, Baby Boomers, the Silent Generation, the Greatest Generation, rich, poor and in-between, all races, all religions, all of us reading and learning and conversing in one of the few places that doesn't require a \$20 and up admission fee.

I know budgeting is serious business, but please take it into your heart to find a way the Library can continue. I, for one, would rather it was open some of the time than closed all of the time. Please listen to the people. We need our Library! Thank you for your consideration.

Claudia

*Claudia Carmichael  
350 College Dr. NW  
President, Salem Branch American Association of University Women  
928-499-5405*

**From:** [Karen Sjogren](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#); [Eric Sjogren](#); [Sandy Whittington](#); [Robin Flynn](#)  
**Subject:** Prioritize the library for funding  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 6:48:59 PM

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I am writing to ask the budget office to prioritize funding for both the main library and west Salem branch. Please see my previously submitted comments in October as well as the 20 reasons given by Jim Scheppke, which I incorporate by reference. I have supported and used the library since I moved here over 30 years ago, including efforts to create a special district by initiative petition. I gathered signatures for this initiative and others outside of the library at all hours and days of the week so I am aware of the broad cross section and volume of people who use this library. A library is an essential city service, not a luxury or an add on. I have lived in small towns as well as large cities and they all had libraries, open in the evening and on Saturdays. I grew up in a lower income blue collar town with a population of about 25,000 and it had a library. Still does. Salem should be no different. It has a new police station, new fire stations, fire trucks, so the library should be next in line. It is not only a place to borrow books but also to obtain WiFi access, movie and music rentals, art objects and various other items. It is the main venue for gatherings of various types in Salem--meetings, concerts at Loucks, story time for kids, etc. At a time when it is obvious that we are too isolated from one another, the city simply cannot shut down these facilities. Finally, a word on behalf of Salem seniors, who have often been paying taxes here for years and deserve a high quality, fully functioning library. For many of us, reading is a principal recreation which we finally have time for and greatly enjoy. It would be a great injustice to make this service unavailable by shutting down the libraries. Please find the money to keep them open.



**From:** [Elizabeth Clark](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Fund Salem Public Library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 6:50:31 PM

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Dear Council,

I am writing in regards to the Budget Committee Preliminary Forecast Meeting happening on November 13. I ask that you please prioritize funding sources for the Salem Public Library.

I recently moved to Salem to begin a position as an attorney at a local law firm. As a new resident looking for information and community in a new city, the library has been the best resource. One of the first things I did when I arrived was go to the library and get a library card. For any resident of a city, new or established, the library is the backbone of the community. Libraries supply endless entertainment for all members of a community, provide essential services for low-income residents, and give youths a safe place to spend time with family and friends.

Salem's library is one of its best features, and the city would be greatly diminished without it. I do not want to live in a city without a library. I want my tax dollars to be spent on things that will improve our city and make it a nicer and safer place to live. Continuing to fund the library will only benefit our city and it must be prioritized.

Frankly, it would be embarrassing for Oregon's capital to defund its library. A city incapable of funding its library is a city that has given up on its residents. It's a dying city, a failure. I don't think Salem is dying, and I'm optimistic that the Council has the city's best interests in mind and will prioritize funding the library.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Clark

**From:** [Sandy Whittington](#)  
**To:** [Karen Sjogren](#)  
**Cc:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#); [Eric Sjogren](#); [Robin Flynn](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Prioritize the library for funding  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 6:53:22 PM

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Very well said! Thank you for writing this appeal for many who feel the same.

On Mon, Nov 11, 2024, 6:48 PM Karen Sjogren <[sjogrenkaren2@gmail.com](mailto:sjogrenkaren2@gmail.com)> wrote:

I am writing to ask the budget office to prioritize funding for both the main library and west Salem branch. Please see my previously submitted comments in October as well as the 20 reasons given by Jim Scheppke, which I incorporate by reference. I have supported and used the library since I moved here over 30 years ago, including efforts to create a special district by initiative petition. I gathered signatures for this initiative and others outside of the library at all hours and days of the week so I am aware of the broad cross section and volume of people who use this library. A library is an essential city service, not a luxury or an add on. I have lived in small towns as well as large cities and they all had libraries, open in the evening and on Saturdays. I grew up in a lower income blue collar town with a population of about 25,000 and it had a library. Still does. Salem should be no different. It has a new police station, new fire stations, fire trucks, so the library should be next in line. It is not only a place to borrow books but also to obtain WiFi access, movie and music rentals, art objects and various other items. It is the main venue for gatherings of various types in Salem--meetings, concerts at Loucks, story time for kids, etc. At a time when it is obvious that we are too isolated from one another, the city simply cannot shut down these facilities. Finally, a word on behalf of Salem seniors, who have often been paying taxes here for years and deserve a high quality, fully functioning library. For many of us, reading is a principal recreation which we finally have time for and greatly enjoy. It would be a great injustice to make this service unavailable by shutting down the libraries. Please find the money to keep them open.

**From:** [Robin Flynn](#)  
**To:** [Karen Sjogren](#)  
**Cc:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#); [Eric Sjogren](#); [Sandy Whittington](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Prioritize the library for funding  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 7:07:00 PM

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Can you explain what the city is proposing? They are really suggesting closing the library?  
This is very well written Karen.

On Mon, Nov 11, 2024 at 6:48 PM Karen Sjogren <[sjogrenkaren2@gmail.com](mailto:sjogrenkaren2@gmail.com)> wrote:

I am writing to ask the budget office to prioritize funding for both the main library and west Salem branch. Please see my previously submitted comments in October as well as the 20 reasons given by Jim Scheppke, which I incorporate by reference. I have supported and used the library since I moved here over 30 years ago, including efforts to create a special district by initiative petition. I gathered signatures for this initiative and others outside of the library at all hours and days of the week so I am aware of the broad cross section and volume of people who use this library. A library is an essential city service, not a luxury or an add on. I have lived in small towns as well as large cities and they all had libraries, open in the evening and on Saturdays. I grew up in a lower income blue collar town with a population of about 25,000 and it had a library. Still does. Salem should be no different. It has a new police station, new fire stations, fire trucks, so the library should be next in line. It is not only a place to borrow books but also to obtain WiFi access, movie and music rentals, art objects and various other items. It is the main venue for gatherings of various types in Salem--meetings, concerts at Loucks, story time for kids, etc. At a time when it is obvious that we are too isolated from one another, the city simply cannot shut down these facilities. Finally, a word on behalf of Salem seniors, who have often been paying taxes here for years and deserve a high quality, fully functioning library. For many of us, reading is a principal recreation which we finally have time for and greatly enjoy. It would be a great injustice to make this service unavailable by shutting down the libraries. Please find the money to keep them open.

**From:** [Marie Mueller](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Keep the Salem Public Library OPEN, please!  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 7:18:48 PM

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Date: November 11, 2024  
To: Salem Budget Office  
Salem City Council  
From: Eleanor Mueller, Salem Library User  
Re: Potential Closure of Salem Library

**Don't do it!**      [Keep the Salem Public Library OPEN.](#)

Years back, I lived in Grants Pass, where a similar shortfall inspired similar thinking about solutions. They closed the public library. They cut services to those who most needed them:

- Students and residents doing research
- Students using computers to do homework
- Residents without computers—and there were many in that category!—seeking jobs, researching careers, answering job postings, doing family research, reading the news, using software to create, and so much more
- Families who could not afford books for their children
- Story hours, so important for children who didn't have an adult reader at home

They cut services to those without alternatives.

- Meeting rooms that were vital for community groups
- Public restrooms in the downtown area
- Assistance in finding information provided by trained library staff
- Discarded books and magazines free for the taking
- A safe place for teens to go
- A safe place for seniors to go
- Genealogy research material
- History, health, home repair, harvesting, household budgeting, tax prep, childcare, politics—books on everything

I remember telling people that I lived in a town with no library, and no one believed that could happen. Surely that cannot be happening again in the capital city of Oregon?!!

As a senior now with not-so-great vision, I regularly check out large-print books. The library is the only source I've found for that accommodation.

Please find a way to fund the library. I was just there last week, mid-day. Families with children were streaming in. Seniors had bags of books to return. People were sitting and reading. The computers were all in use. Librarians were helping clients find what they need and were

signing up new library members. It was busy, people were happy, and resources were used. Tax dollars were being well spent.

Eleanor Marie Mueller  
6156 Rolletti Dr. SE  
Salem, OR 97306-2890  
[Cwmueller33@gmail.com](mailto:Cwmueller33@gmail.com)  
503-990-7645

**From:** [Fodderx](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Salem Library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 7:54:08 PM

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Please prioritize funding the library, even if it's at reduced service levels. Some library is better than no library. I use it through the Chemeketa consortium and rely on it for e-books. I also often attend meetings and presentations there. It's an important cornerstone of the community and access to information. Thanks, Susie B.

**From:** [Harper Dean](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Statement RE: Salem Public Library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 8:15:32 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Harper, I am an average citizen of Salem. I have been a homeowner here since 2018 and intend to be here for a very long time. I am writing to express my opinion on the importance of the Salem Public Library.

Despite having a dual income household with both adults working full time, senior level jobs, finances have been very tight the past year. Tight to the point where we had pennies left over after bills. Being in that position, we had a 0\$ entertainment budget for streaming services or even thrifted books. It became habitual to browse the library's website for what to watch or read next. I got to feel normal, able to relax after a long day at work.

Our library has enabled me to read over 300 books, watch over 30 movies/tv shows, and utilize specialized equipment that I otherwise would not have had access to. It has given me social outlets to help maintain my status as an active member of the community. I couldn't afford to go out for lunch with my friends but I could go to fun themed events set up by the library.

Thanks to a new work opportunity, our situation has changed and we have more room to breathe but I still find myself in the library several days a week. It is a second home for me and hundreds of other citizens of Salem. Please don't take it away.

Sincerely,

Harper Curry

**From:** [Cheryl Randall](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Salem City Library  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 11:15:55 PM

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Dear Members of the Budget Office:

I am writing to ask you to revisit and reconsider the budget you are proposing. Priorities need to be changed so that funds will be provided to maintain our library.

The library is one of our most important and most valuable community resources for citizens of all ages, but especially for young and growing families.

Many of our families do not have the financial ability to buy the books they need to enrich their children's lives.

Those books, however, are available in the library for them to borrow free of charge. It would be unconscionable to close the library and deprive all Salem's citizens of these important resources.

In recent years large sums have been spent reconditioning the library to upgrade it and make it sturdy enough to withstand possible earthquakes. What a waste of these efforts and funds it would be if the library were to be closed.

Lastly, in this time of book banning in many parts of our country, the maintenance of a library, where all books are available to be read, is an important declaration of our basic freedom as citizens to read what we want and to seek accurate information.

For all the reasons I have stated and more that may come to mind for all of you, please re-prioritize and refund the library now and for the future. It is the right thing to do.

Best regards,  
Cheryl Randall  
460 Leslie Street SE  
Salem, OR. 97301  
503-851-0645  
Sent from iPhone



For the Budget Committee Meeting of: November 13, 2024  
Additions Agenda Item No.:2.aal

**From:** [Denae Cedar](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 11/13 Budget Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, November 11, 2024 11:45:33 PM

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Greetings

I am writing to strongly encourage the Budget Committee to re-balance the (clearly limited) City of Salem Budget in a way which allows the main branch of Salem Public Library to remain open. If it is necessary to continue to use some of the funds from the Cultural and Tourist budget, please do so. Salem will not remain a cultural community to be proud of or to share with others without the library.

Keizer residents can be asked to purchase a library card (I am speaking AS a Keizer resident), on a sliding scale in need be, in order to contribute to using the library. As the daughter, niece, and cousin of librarians, I simply cannot imagine the capitol city of my state without an open library!

As Cicero wisely noted: "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." Culturally, at least. Salem has beautiful parks/gardens. Let us keep the beautifully remodeled library open for all to enjoy, read, learn, and to build community.

I am sorry that I cannot attend the meeting in person due to illness, but I plead with you to keep the library open.

Respectfully,  
Denise Cedar

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

**From:** [Debra Vassallo](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Salem Public Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 5:17:02 AM

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What an embarrassment it would be to not have a public library in the capital city of Oregon. We would be the only state capital without public library services. There must be a way to keep our Salem Public Library open and available to the citizens of Salem.

Please find a way for the library to continue to serve the public, even if you must decrease the number of hours it is open.

Thank you for all the efforts you are making to make Salem a livable city.

Kind regards,  
Debra and Tony Vassallo

**From:** [Crystal Qian Hu](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** PRIORITIZE THE LIBRARY  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 7:03:57 AM

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Dear City Officials,

Libraries play a crucial role in our community by fostering reading habits in individuals of all ages, providing educational resources without regard to socioeconomic status, bridging economic disparities through programs like the Summer Reading Club, promoting civil discourse and democratic values, creating welcoming community spaces, preserving local and family history, attracting new residents and businesses, supporting non-English speakers, LGBTIQ individuals, and those experiencing homelessness, offering access to the arts and technology to all, serving as a hub for education and information, bridging the digital divide, offering sanctuary for the vulnerable, engaging teens and immigrants, contributing to a circular economy, and providing a safe environment for students. Crystal Qian Hu, a dedicated Real Estate Broker, Mental health Therapy Technician, and a Mom of three school age children, A legal immigrant supports the invaluable role libraries play in shaping a vibrant and inclusive community. I am asking your support on prioritize the library In 11/13 meeting!

Sincerely,  
Crystal Qian Hu  
971-388-0511

**From:** [ruth anne johnson](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Cc:** [ICE- Daniel N. Johnson](#); [Ruth Johnson](#)  
**Subject:** Keep Salem Library Open  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 7:43:05 AM

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To City Council and Budget Committee members,

We are very concerned that funding for the library could possibly be eliminated in the city's 2025-26 fiscal year. We use the library, taking our great grandkids and checking out books for them & ourselves. When we visit the library, we see parents & children, teens, adults, & seniors taking advantage of this wonderful resource for our community. Also Capital Manor residents can access books from the library through Capital Manor's library. Libraries are foundations for our democracy. Salem needs the library to be open. It would be a travesty for it to close.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ruth and Dan Johnson  
2017 Westside Circle, NW  
Salem 97304

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Sadie Verville](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 11/13/24 Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 8:07:21 AM

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Hello,

I am writing to give public comment for the 11/13/24 committee meeting. I want to express my support for further funding for the city library. Please prioritize this as you look at plans for the budget in the coming years. I believe the continued outpouring of support from the community demonstrates how much this library means to the people of Salem. My dad said he went there just last week on Tuesday morning and there was a crowd outside the door waiting for it to open, including a whole mix of people from kids to adults. This is an essential service and provides literacy and programs that support people from all walks of life. I urge you not to cut or close our beloved library.

Thank you,  
Sadie Verville

**From:** [NoReply](#) on behalf of [Sherrie49@hotmail.com](#)  
**To:** [SALEM Manager](#)  
**Subject:** Contact City Manager's Office  
**Date:** Sunday, November 10, 2024 9:02:12 AM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Sherrie Barker
Your Email	Sherrie49@hotmail.com
Your Phone	5035807091
Street	P O Box 905
City	Jefferson
State	OR
Zip	96352
Message	<p>When I moved to Salem in 1967 one of the first things I did was get a library card. Over the 57 years since, the library has been a constant. From the years my girls were little to the present, the library continues to be an important part of my life. We no longer live in the city, but as part of the CCRLS network (for which we are taxed), we count on the Salem library to provide services to our community. The Salem Public Library is an integral part of the community for all ages, incomes, genders, races, ages and abilities. To lose the library would be a travesty. We barely have it back after the renovation closure. The city spent millions to make it earthquake safe and built a new police department facility with more construction to come as city hall and an adjoining park are updated. Looking at the number of community members' use of the library compared to the park at city hall should be a compelling factor in funding the library. Please take the community's needs into consideration in your efforts to improve Salem's livability.</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 11/10/2024.

**From:** [NoReply](#) on behalf of [diggerdeb39@gmail.com](mailto:diggerdeb39@gmail.com)  
**To:** [SALEM Manager](#)  
**Subject:** Contact City Manager's Office  
**Date:** Sunday, November 10, 2024 4:32:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Deborah and Joseph Alexander
Your Email	diggerdeb39@gmail.com
Your Phone	5038517278
Street	932 SAHALEE CT SE
City	SALEM
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	How can this happen!? I read that there's a proposal to increase utility rates to pay for an \$18k raise for the City Manager!! But you can't keep the library funded!? And you can build a huge new police station but eliminate the library!? Closing the library would be a SHAMEFUL act!!

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 11/10/2024.

**From:** [NoReply](#) on behalf of [diggerdeb39@gmail.com](mailto:diggerdeb39@gmail.com)  
**To:** [SALEM Manager](#)  
**Subject:** Contact City Manager's Office  
**Date:** Sunday, November 10, 2024 4:19:57 AM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Deborah Alexander
Your Email	diggerdeb39@gmail.com
Your Phone	5038517278
Street	932 SAHALEE CT SE
City	SALEM
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	How can you even consider closing our library!!!! I've been a member since 1979 when I moved here. I took my son there often when he was young. He now is an avid reader. I also am an avid reader. I borrow ebooks and audiobooks from our library all the time. This is SHAMEFUL!!!

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 11/10/2024.



**From:** [NoReply](#) on behalf of [ailanwhitson@yahoo.com](mailto:ailanwhitson@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [SALEM Manager](#)  
**Subject:** Contact City Manager's Office  
**Date:** Saturday, November 9, 2024 7:43:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Ai Lan Whitson
Your Email	ailanwhitson@yahoo.com
Your Phone	5039101737
Street	8626 Royer Rd S
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	<p>Please keep our library open since our library is a safe and inclusive space for people of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds. My son was 13 months of age when we first moved here. He grew up with invaluable story times at this library. He still has some baby books that look brand new because he knew the importance of taking good care of books thanks to this library. He is now a smart, educated person with great critical thinking skills and graduated Summa Cum laude from UO because we started to go to the library at a very early age. Furthermore, this library has just been remodeled and I love this library. I spend some of my quiet time at this library to browse books, read books/magazines and/or just chill. Besides, we live in the capital city and what would a capital city be without a library? Thank you for your consideration!</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 11/9/2024.

For the Budget Committee Meeting of: November 13, 2024  
Additions Agenda Item No.: 2.aau

**From:** [NoReply](#) on behalf of [scamptat@yahoo.com](mailto:scamptat@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [SALEM Manager](#)  
**Subject:** Contact City Manager's Office  
**Date:** Saturday, November 9, 2024 3:42:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

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Your Name	Joseph/Sherri Campbell
Your Email	scamptat@yahoo.com
Your Phone	9712717664
City	Portland
State	OR
Zip	97209
Message	Joe was raised in Salem, I am a Bend girl. We cannot believe that the city of Salem, Oregon's Capitol, would close the library system. Please save your library. Thank you

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 11/9/2024.

**From:** [NoReply](#) on behalf of [owenedell@gmail.com](mailto:owenedell@gmail.com)  
**To:** [SALEM Manager](#)  
**Subject:** Contact City Manager's Office  
**Date:** Saturday, November 9, 2024 12:11:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Owen Dell
Your Email	owenedell@gmail.com
Your Phone	541-602-3575
Street	2866 SE Goodpark St.
City	Corvallis
State	OR
Zip	97333
Message	<p>Dear Mayor Elect Hoy, I live in Corvallis, so perhaps this is none of my business, but I am writing to speak out in favor of keeping the Salem Public Library open. It is amazing to me that this is even necessary in the richest nation in the world, but such is the tenor of the times. Closing a library is a frontal attack on civilization itself. It is something that no reasonable community would ever do. I understand that it may be challenging to find a way to prevent this catastrophe, and I encourage you to please burn the midnight oil to find it. If the City is simply too cheap to reorder its priorities in order to protect the sacrosanct institutions of the community then there is something seriously wrong with the way things are being managed and/or something twisted about the values of those who have been elected and hired to care for the common good. Thank you for your time and attention.</p> <p>Owen Dell Corvallis Owen E. Dell, RLA, ASLA Owen Dell &amp; Associates, LLC Landscape Architect • Educator • Author • Photographer Oregon Registered Landscape Architect No. LA798 541 602-3575 owen@owendell.com www.owendell.com QUOTE OF THE DAY "He who dares not offend cannot be honest." Thomas Paine philosopher and writer (1737-1809)</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 11/9/2024.

**From:** [Sunday Smith](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Keep our Library!  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 10:16:13 AM

---

Keep our Library - cut somewhere else.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [S.LH](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** We need the library!  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 10:19:52 AM

---

Dear City Officials,

Libraries play a crucial role in our community by fostering reading habits in individuals of all ages, providing educational resources without regard to socioeconomic status, bridging economic disparities through programs like the Summer Reading Club, promoting civil discourse and democratic values, creating welcoming community spaces, preserving local and family history, attracting new residents and businesses, supporting non-English speakers, LGBTIQ individuals, and those experiencing homelessness, offering access to the arts and technology to all, serving as a hub for education and information, bridging the digital divide, offering sanctuary for the vulnerable, engaging teens and immigrants, contributing to a circular economy, and providing a safe environment for students.

Crystal Qian Hu, a dedicated Real Estate Broker, Mental health Therapy Technician, and a Mom of three school age children, A legal immigrant supports the invaluable role libraries play in shaping a vibrant and inclusive community.

I am asking for your support on prioritize the library In 11/13 meeting, please.

Thank you so much for saving our library!

Signed,

Stephanie Lee, mom of 5 kids who's first books were from the library. 4 of them are now avid readers. I can't imagine a town without a library.

What are your favorite memories about your childhood library?

Can you imagine not being able to explore, learn, and making memories because someone took that right away? Please. Keep the library open. Our kids and generations to come NEED it.

**From:** [Alex Brown](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** In support of the library  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 10:21:24 AM

---

Hi Budget team and City Council,

I am writing in to share how important the library is to me and my family, and plead with you to find a solution that does not close it or further decrease hours/services. The library is effectively the only remaining place you can go without the expectation of spending money. It gives access to endless hours of learning, entertainment, resources and hosts valuable community events. I use it every week and love seeing all manner of users benefiting. I understand costs are high, past measures limit property tax changes, and we have a shortfall. I support cuts to police and fire over the library. I would rather be at greater risk of being the victim of a crime than live in a city with no library. I would also support a library district or other options that would increase my tax support of the library. Please please do not close the library.

Thank you  
Alex Brown

**From:** [Josh Eggleston](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Library Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 11:25:09 AM

---

Josh Eggleston | office: 503-588-6130 | mobile: 971-453-2804  
City of Salem | Finance Department

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

From: Cheyenne Wray <[cheyennewray@icloud.com](mailto:cheyennewray@icloud.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 10:47 AM  
To: citycouncil <[citycouncil@cityofsalem.net](mailto:citycouncil@cityofsalem.net)>  
Subject: Library Funding

I am very concerned to hear that closing down the library is being seriously considered. We should put more funding into safe places for our youth to enjoy without having to pay, giving them fun and productive things to do, than we do funding policing of our young folks with little money to spend. From what I have read, we are only falling short 10% of what is needed to keep the library up and running, I submit that we take 5% of what is needed from other spending specifically police and fire, which (according to what I have read), takes up 62% of the city budget, and create the other 5% from passing revenue increases. I would personally be happy to pay higher taxes, though I am not well enough educated to know how that would work, and other citizens would likely protest, as money is already quite tight for all of us.

With great hope for the future of our city,

Cheyenne Wray - Ward 6 resident

**From:** [L.P](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 11/13 Budget Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 11:29:18 AM

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Please prioritize funding the library. There are so few third spaces available to people in Salem. The library is so important to our community, and after the expensive seismic upgrades it would be such a waste to close it. I urge you to distribute cuts equally across the board rather than shut it down entirely.

Respectfully,

Leah Pepin



**From:** [Cindy Condon](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Salem Public Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 11:35:50 AM

---

Members of the Salem Budget Committee,

It has come to my attention the budget committee will be considering whether to severely cut or eliminate funding for our libraries. After our recent investment in a substantial upgrade to the library, I am startled the city manager would propose defunding libraries given a long history of strong public support for libraries. Even in light of what appears to be a severe budget shortfall, which appears to be years in the making the budget committee would do a great disservice to residents of Salem by eliminating funding for a service which provides us with access to materials and services which enhance our lives.

I realize there are competing priorities in budgeting and decisions must be made. Cutting library services in a city the size of Salem should be taken off the table.

Consider the issue, but **please do not cut funding for the libraries** which are desperately needed in any civil society.

Thank you for your service,

Cindy Condon  
865 Kingwood Dr. NW  
Salem, OR 97304

**From:** [Karen Williams](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 11/13 Budget Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 11:48:18 AM

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I'm writing to implore the City of Salem to continue library service at least at its current level if not more. In this age of social media and misinformation it is crucial that resources are available for learning. The library is so important to people of all ages but books should begin at an early age. Schools today are in crisis and libraries must be available to make up for quality education. Recreational reading is also important to many people.

Please don't fail to appropriately fund the library.

Karen Ann Williams

[Karenwilli1945@gmail.com](mailto:Karenwilli1945@gmail.com)

**From:** [Sarah Currin](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#); [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Library Prioritization at Nov. 13 Budget Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 11:53:47 AM

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Hello,

My name is Sarah Currin and I am a born-and-raised Salem resident. I am writing to urge you as strongly as possible to prioritize the library in all budget proposals and conversations at your meeting. Our citizens desperately need "third spaces" to engage with each other and the things they need to survive and thrive, and the library is one of the last free public places for people to go for resources, internet access (which is often vital for job, housing, and aid program applications), knowledge, educational opportunities, entertainment, and most importantly, community. Libraries are places where people can learn about the world around them, spend time in a safe place, find out how to do things from accessing shelter to starting a business, and connect with each other. Depriving Salem citizens of that space will only lead to cultural devastation, isolation, and community breakdown. An insufficient or nonexistent library system reflects very poorly on our city's values and priorities and will turn people away who might otherwise live here and enrich our community. Please do right by your constituents and fight to invest in our precious shared public institutions like the library!

Thank you,  
Sarah Currin

Sarah Currin | [Currin Editorial: Editing Services from Portland, Oregon](#)

**From:** [LJ Anderson](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** PRIORITIZE FUNDING OF OUR LIBRARY  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 12:38:31 PM

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Dear City of Salem Budget Committee:

I am writing to encourage your committee to continue funding our public library.

I sympathize with the task you have and thank you for all the time you must be putting into these difficult decisions. However, I disagree with the guiding principle of "Do it well or don't do it at all." I consider library services as essential city services so to "not do it at all" seems like a non-starter that would harm our residents and deter anyone considering moving here. I moved here several years ago and was delighted to walk into the Salem Public Library on Liberty--a beautiful space with so many different groups using it. And I've been a regular user ever since. Had I known that the library would be closed before long, I would not have moved here. I know that because libraries have been essential in my life and to the fabric of every community where I have lived.

My mother was an immigrant and we went to our local library branch weekly as children to each check out six books. Her English skills improved and we were made lifelong readers.

When I walk into our local Salem library, it heartens me to see young parents with their children instilling that same habit that will sustain them during their entire lives.

Salem's library is also unique with its beautiful art collection, the volunteer-staffed store raising money for the library, free internet for people who can't afford a monthly internet bill or are unhoused, space for committee meetings or presentations like one I recently attended on the history of trains in Oregon, concerts in Loucks that provide a space for musicians, speakers and amplify groups who are often marginalized, and more. It is an outstanding library and one Salem should be very proud of.

I would also consider the ramifications of what closing the library would do to the city's reputation and of Oregon. That will make news across the country and not in a good way. As of 2023, Oregon's population has been declining and I can't see young families or even companies wanting to move to a city without library services.

Thank you again for your time and dedication to these efforts.

Sincerely,

(Ms) LJ Anderson  
1607 Cottage St SE  
Salem, OR 97302

**From:** [Laura Sauter](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Library Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 1:28:26 PM

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City of Salem  
Budget Committee

I am writing to urge the Budget Committee to prioritize library services in their decision-making. While I understand the difficulties the city faces in dealing with a \$17 million shortfall in the 2025 budget, to even consider defunding our library is unconscionable.

The library should be considered part of the basic services that any city provides its citizens. Police and fire are crucial to public safety; water, sewer, and garbage to public health. I would argue that the library is equally crucial to the well-being of the citizens of Salem. A democracy depends on the ability of citizens to make informed decisions and intelligent choices. The library provides on-going public education through its many resources: books, of course, but also periodicals, internet access, presentations and programs for all. The library is a center for community engagement and civic discourse, and an important support for our children and their education,

I think with some resentment of the money that has been spent --to little avail --on the Salem Airport. Surely the benefits that the library provides are of more value than the few weekly flights into and out of Salem that the airport has managed to deliver.

Since the beginning of civilization libraries have been considered an important civic good. No city can claim to be a desirable place to live or a center of culture and commerce without a library. Salem is the capital of Oregon; surely, it deserves its library.

Again, I strongly urge you to make library funding one of your highest priorities.

Sincerely,

Laura Sauter  
1145 16<sup>th</sup> St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**From:** [Ariele Miller](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 11/13 Budget Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 2:04:09 PM

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Reasons to prioritize Salem Public Library:

Libraries help create and strengthen reading habits in children from birth to adulthood.

Libraries provide information and educational opportunities free for all people, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Library reading programs for children and teens, like the Summer Reading Club, help bridge the economic divide that impacts student's academic performance.

Libraries promote civil discourse through programs like Salem Reads, modeling and upholding the principles of free inquiry and expression for all.

Libraries champion, promote, and reflect important democratic values through activities like Banned Books Week and other ways libraries encourage engagement with issues like freedom, justice and democracy.

Libraries are "third places" that create community — friendly, safe, welcoming places that you share with your neighbors.

Libraries preserve and promote local history — like our library's Hugh Morrow Collection — and family history — like our library's partnership with the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society.

Libraries can make a city a highly desirable place to relocate or retire (and conversely an undesirable place where library services are lacking). My husband and I are thinking about starting a family, but I am second guessing if Salem is a good place to raise a family if the city doesn't seem to have it's priorities in order.

Libraries can provide information resources to local businesses, especially small local and start-up businesses.

Libraries can ensure that non-English speakers see themselves as represented in their communities with appropriate collections, programs and services.

Libraries provide needed information, resources, and support for LGBTIQ patrons, especially young people in need of support.

Libraries provide access to the arts for all, such as art exhibits and music programs and films and speakers at Loucks Auditorium, not just for those that can afford them.

Libraries serve as the "people's university" where anyone can use free library collections and information resources to become well-educated on any topic imaginable. Oregon public schools already rank among some of the worst in the Nation, Salem-Keizer bring towards the bottom of the pack in the state. Why take away further educational resources?

Libraries help to close the “digital divide” by providing internet access and free wi-fi to anyone who can’t afford access otherwise.

Libraries provide a safe and welcoming shelter for citizens experiencing homelessness.

Libraries provide books and information in all formats to suit all reader preferences — paper books, ebooks, audiobooks, and online databases.

Libraries are a gathering place for teens, such as at our Teen Scene, and provide leadership opportunities, such as with our Teen Advisory Board.

Libraries provide a welcoming afterschool venue for students to do their homework and socialize with their peers. You want to help protect our children and keep them out of trouble? Don't take away safe places for them to be.

Libraries are welcoming to immigrants and their families and strive to provide them with information about, and opportunities to connect with, their new communities.

Libraries contribute to a circular economy by lending books, information – even a “library of things.”

If our Library closes in FY 2026 many dedicated library staff will lose their jobs. Salem will become the only state capital in the US without a library, and the largest city in the US without a library. That most certainly would be front page news. Is that the kind of reputation we want? Would that not be terribly embarrassing as a city planner/committee for the STATE CAPITOL? "Do it well or don't do it at all," indeed.

Businesses will think twice about relocating here. Retirees will think twice about moving here. Families with young children won't want to live here. Salem will have a reputation as the city that doesn't care about reading and children's literacy and information access for all — a reputation that will be hard to live down even if we manage to get our library back some day. And all the money going towards the cultural and tourism fund will be for nothing, and in fact will likely have to pay MORE to try and fix our reputation.

The budget for the Police is around \$170 million and takes up nearly a quarter of the city's budget. Easily the biggest chunk of the budget outside of infrastructure. The library's budget is only around \$6 million. 3% of the police budget. Why not consider making some cuts there? There is PLENTY they're not doing well at all.

For the Budget Committee Meeting of: November 13, 2024  
Additions Agenda Item No.:2.aah

**From:** [Josh Eggleston](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Library Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 3:01:11 PM

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**Josh Eggleston** | office: 503-588-6130 | mobile: 971-453-2804  
City of Salem | Finance Department

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**From:** Snarfy Knutson <snarfywarning@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 3:00 PM  
**To:** citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>  
**Subject:** Library Funding

Hello Salemanders,

I am writing the council to have my voice heard about the importance of the library! In a time where people need to be leaning into community as much as possible, having a place like the library is vital. The library is a reprieve for students, a beacon for lonely folks, and a safe haven for the pizza-hut-certificate-reading club kid in all of us!

I know it is up for budget discussions and I urge the city to find ANY WAY POSSIBLE to keep our main library open. As a tax payer, and as a business owner, id be willing to pay for a library bond or tax. I'd be willing to redistribute police budget funds.

Other cities of our size, like Eugene, have multiple library branches open every day of the week. Our city, our beautiful state capital, and it's citizens deserve at least as much as other cities.

Thank you for hearing my support for the library.

Snarfy Knutson  
Court Appearance Styling Studio  
Lover of Salem



**From:** [Greta Horn](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#); [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Our City Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 3:06:29 PM

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*I strongly encourage that the library receive some priority, it is such an important resource in our community and a terrible loss for so many - students, young children, marginalized folks, community gathering place, access to internet - a safe place for so many of our neighbors. Libraries are more than just books, they also reflect a community's priorities and serve to counteract the 'ban books' hysteria. Our librarians are there to serve all of us, without prejudice. Please fund the library!*

*Thank you,*

*Greta Horn  
535 NW Bonnie Ct  
Salem 97304*

**From:** [Gretchen Jensen](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Library closure  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 3:33:52 PM

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I am an 80 year old Salem resident who has lived here for 55 years. Our library has been a source of education, culture, and even entertainment for me and my family all this time. The library provides families and individuals with experiences they not have otherwise. It is one of the best investments our City is making in the lives of our residents of all ages and economic means.

Salem and its residents have much to lose without our library.

Gretchen Jensen

2032 Manorview Circle NW

Salem OR 97304

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Carol Papinchak](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Budget Cuts  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 3:44:12 PM

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I am writing to ask the City of Salem to prioritize the Library when discussing cutbacks in city services.

As a retired library employee, avid reader, and frequent user of the library, I can attest to the importance of keeping this service alive and healthy.

Libraries provide so much to the citizens of this city, especially those who do not have the resources to purchase internet services, computers and books.

It serves our entire community by providing reading programs for children, teens, and adults, along with information resources for just about anything you can think of.

For a city of our size to already have limited access to the library due to recent budget cuts is unconscionable. To consider further cuts is a blow to us as a community and as a society.

With so much disinformation out in the world these days, we need, more than ever, access to reliable information resources which the library provides.

Cutting back funds to the library is just another form of censorship and dumbing down of the citizens.

Not having access to all the library provides is not healthy for society.

Please consider all the damage limiting library sources will do, not just the monetary side of it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carol Papinchak

**From:** [Lisa Bentz](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Salem Library\*StayOpen!\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 4:06:02 PM

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Hello!

I want to express my deep desire and hope that you will keep the city library OPEN!!

My family has enjoyed and appreciated the library for over 10 years now, and would feel devastated if it was closed.

It provides a massive resource for us, our community, and our CHILDREN!!

Please keep it going

Best,

Elizabeth Jensen

& family

Sent from my iPhone

For the Budget Committee Meeting of: November 13, 2024  
Additions Agenda Item No.: 2.aaam

**From:** [rkfrancois@aol.com](mailto:rkfrancois@aol.com)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 11/13 Budget Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 4:15:01 PM

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Having both managed people and budgets in our professional experience, we understand the dilemma facing the City of Salem..As residents here for more than 20 years, we have come to treasure the library and the MANY roles it plays in our community. Cutting it further will be a strong signal to relocating business, industry, and families that Salem is NOT a place that values learning. What a tragedy.

Do the right thing!

Richard and Susan Francois

For the Budget Committee Meeting of: November 13, 2024  
Additions Agenda Item No.: 2.aaan

**From:** [Kathryn Lincoln](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Keep the Salem Public Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 4:39:10 PM

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In the 45 years I have lived in this area, I have probably not gone more than three weeks without visiting the library. When my children were born, they went with me and honed their love of books and reading. My daughter in town still brings home a stack of books from the Salem Library every couple of weeks. Sitting at home staring at a screen does not compare to what we have at the library. Helpful librarians, a variety of comfortable places to sit and skim through books picked off the shelf, suggestions for new reads, and local art work make every trip to the library a pleasant, enriching experience. In addition, the library promotes civil cohesiveness with Salem Reads and other library programs. The library is a precious asset for everyone in the greater Salem area. Not having a public library would discourage people who might want to move here. How can you have a well-educated populace without access to books and relevant, reliable information?

Please keep the Salem Library and the West Salem Branch.

Kathy Lincoln

**From:** [A.L](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for Library - Please Do Not Raise City Manager Salary  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 4:51:49 PM

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I come to this board and Council with high hopes tonight. I have met all or most of you.

Much of the schedule tonight is about holding people accountable. That's great. Chris Hoy, you want to hold Julie accountable. Don't forget about accountability for yourself and about this entire Council. The average US City manager makes \$115 thousand dollars a year. The average Oregon City Manager makes 115-209000 dollars a year. That means that Keith already makes more than the Portland City Manager.

I am a deeply concerned citizen. We have a money problem this Council can't seem to stop talking about, but by offering the City Manager an incredible raise, you seem to be putting the problem on the people. I spent 7 months of 2024 working with the Revenue Task Force and it seems as though Moss Adams feels that they learned nothing from that time. The City Manager salary could pay for the consultants that we seem to always have with us. Guiding decisions behind the scenes. So why not choose one or the other. Why do we need to have both? Why should Keith get 18,000 more dollars when the library and others that rely on the general fund are bleeding.

I don't have great wealth or great power, but I represent the citizens of Salem who care deeply for this community, and work hard to make it a better place. We have seen this same dedication from many. I have not seen it from our City Manager. You tell us that our city is in jeopardy, but city staff have done little other than turn to consultants to bring us out of financial danger. Please do not plunge us further into the depths of ruin that you warn us about regularly by handing out a deeply disproportionate salary increase to one staff member alone.

- Ariel Loveall

For the Budget Committee Meeting of: November 13, 2024  
Additions Agenda Item No.: 2.aaap

**From:** [Corey Adkins](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 11/13 Budget Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 6:33:03 PM

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A city without a library is a city without a soul. I know you all have inherited a difficult situation but there has to be a way to save the library. It's one of the last public spaces we have left. Please do everything you can.

Concerned Resident



**From:** [Sarah Christine Adams](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Keep Our Library Open  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 6:34:25 PM

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Hi, I hope you're doing well!

I'm writing because I recently heard that our public library might not be a funding priority and could face closure in the future. As someone who frequently uses the library, I'd be heartbroken to see it go. It's an essential part of my life that I can't replace.

The library is more than just a place to borrow books—it's a crucial spot for learning, meeting new people, and accessing important resources. It's a place where everyone, regardless of their background, can come together and grow.

I believe our community would be at a significant loss without this space. Please consider how vital the library is to so many of us and prioritize its funding to keep it open.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cheers,

Sarah Adams

For the Budget Committee Meeting of: November 13, 2024  
Additions Agenda Item No.: 2aaar

**From:** [Alan Rhodes](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 11/13 Budget Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 6:41:59 PM

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I ask that you make keeping the library open a priority since I use it.

Thank you.

**From:** [John and Megan Ouellette](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 7:30:37 PM

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Dear Salem Councilors,

I'm writing to ask that you consider how much the Salem Public Library means to our city.

In 2023, the library had 315,067 visits. The library hosted 4,448 community meetings. Library staff helped people who had questions 29,370 times. People come to the library every week to help with job searches, get books for their classrooms, to have a safe place for their kids to play, to use the internet. I myself am a mother to two young children and use the library weekly as an educational opportunity for them to read and grow. Salem Public Library is a community hub and an essential city service.

It is important to note that Salem Public Library provides all of these services while being understaffed and underfunded. The library already does so much with so little. Further cuts would be devastating.

The proposed option of closing the library permanently, is ridiculous. It is shocking the city would see the library as unnecessary to the vibrant, healthy city we want to live in. The proposed option is a shortsighted solution. Please request the budget committee to bring alternative options for addressing the budget shortfall. Do not cut library services.

Sincerely,

Megan Ouellette

**From:** [Jo or Jim](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fewer kids are reading for fun  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 8:39:41 PM

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Today's World???

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "NPR Books" <[email@nl.npr.org](mailto:email@nl.npr.org)>  
**Subject:** Fewer kids are reading for fun  
**Date:** November 9, 2024 at 8:01:50 AM PST  
**To:** <[joandjimhock@gmail.com](mailto:joandjimhock@gmail.com)>  
**Reply-To:** "NPR Books" <[reply-D67H5ID2BA4U5DELXK4KLBFS5U.60240@nl.npr.org](mailto:reply-D67H5ID2BA4U5DELXK4KLBFS5U.60240@nl.npr.org)>

[View this email online](#)

NPR Books



November 9, 2024



by [Andrew Limbong](#)

*Hey, newsletter readers! Last week's letter about big-name authors boycotting certain Israeli literary institutions generated a lot of strongly worded emails from both sides of the debate. A few of your thoughts below. The inbox is [bookoftheday@npr.org](mailto:bookoftheday@npr.org). And if you want to hear the latest author interviews from across NPR, subscribe to NPR's [Book of the Day podcast](#).*

## Yes, reading is fundamental. But how do we tell kids it's fun, too?

While America was wrapped up in a bit of news this week, some bookish social media accounts based in the United Kingdom were sounding the alarm over a piece in [The Guardian](#) with the headline "Report finds 'shocking and dispiriting' fall in children reading for pleasure." According to a survey by the [National Literacy Trust](#), "just 1 in 3 (34.6%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said that they enjoyed reading in their free time in 2024." That's a drop of 8.8 percentage points over the past year.



A young girl reading in Foyles bookshop in London. *Chris Ware/Getty Images*

That survey covers kids from the UK. But it tracks pretty closely with the most recent U.S. data I could find, [showing our own pretty sharp drop in kids reading for fun.](#)

In this newsletter, we've been talking about students not being assigned full novels – which strikes me as, related to, but slightly different from what's going on here. Screens are a pretty obvious culprit. And, sure, [you can ban phones from schools](#), but it's much harder to make the pitch to a kid to pick a book over a phone during leisure time.

Looking back to my own childhood, I read a lot of comic books and manga, sci-fi, *Redwall*, and of course, I was the exact age demographic for the *Harry Potter* books. But I was mostly encouraged by friends who were reading these things, and I didn't want to be left out. I suspect whatever can be done to stop this drop is going to involve a certain amount of social pressure.

What do you all think? Did you read for fun as a kid? If you've got reading-aged children, are they reading for fun? What types of books get them jazzed? My kid can't read yet and only wants to hear *The Gruffalo* in funny voices. Let us know – [bookoftheday@npr.org](mailto:bookoftheday@npr.org)!

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Newsletter continues after sponsor message



## TBR Pile

The queer feminist writer Dorothy Allison died this week. She was 75 years old. You might recognize her novels *Bastard Out of Carolina*, or *Cavedweller*. She wrote lucidly about sexual abuse, feminism and class struggle. Earlier this year, [LitHub published a speech](#) she wrote accepting a lifetime achievement award from the LGBTQ publishing group The Publishing Triangle. I highly suggest you read it if you are at all interested in the power and worth of writing and the written word. She ends it with this line: “Story is a way out, a way past, a hand in the dark, a whisper of hope, the hope I have for all of us.”

Dorothy Allison in New York in 1992. AP

In other news, I recently published a piece on the new book [Absolution by Jeff VanderMeer](#). It's a prequel to his Southern Reach series (the first entry, *Annihilation*, was turned into a movie starring Natalie Portman). The books – which are weird, spooky expeditions into a mysterious area – earned VanderMeer the label of a “climate-fiction” author. And I talked to him about how he feels about that (tl;dr, ambivalent).

And Maureen Corrigan from WHYY's *Fresh Air* also has [this review of \*Vanishing Treasures\*](#), by Katherine Rundell, a big-deal middle-grade author from the UK (speaking of kids reading for fun). This book, a collection of essays about animals close to extinction, is for grown ups. But Corrigan says it can trigger something childlike in readers. “For anyone whose capacity for wonder could use a jumpstart, Rundell's essays are essential reading.”



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## Mailbag!

Last week we covered a pair of open letters, and asked about the author's role in responding to the Israel-Hamas war. Here's what you all had to say.

**James C.** says that role is a "modest one" at best. "If the United States is unable (so far) to stop the killing, what chance does a literary festival have?"

**Diane S.** writes, "As an individual voter in Montana, I am deeply opposed to US support of the war on Gaza. But much like my opposition to the war on Iraq, when I stood on a street corner during a long Montana winter, I feel as if I am invisible, and that my voice is unheard.

As a writer, however, I can link arms with others and collectively make a statement that you and others in the media will listen to. A writer in Montana may not have much of a national impact when it comes to issues like war and peace (even though my second novel tried to), but there is power in numbers."

And **Linda D.** says, "I think boycotts - particularly cultural boycotts - are really the wrong message and method. It's too broad a brush & it punishes innocent individuals in Israel who do not support the Netanyahu government's actions & injustices. There are more creative ways to help the victims of injustice."

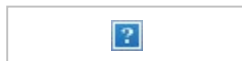
See you next week.

P.S., if a friend sent you this newsletter and you want to sign up, the place to do it is [npr.org/newsletter/books](https://www.npr.org/newsletter/books). :)

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Visit [NPR.org](https://www.npr.org) to hear live radio from Oregon Public Broadcasting ([edit station](#)).



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For the Budget Committee Meeting of: November 13, 2024  
Additions Agenda Item No.: 2.aaau

**From:** [Denny & Corinne](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 11/13 Budget Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 9:00:39 PM

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To the Budget Committee:

Please give high priority to funding the Salem Public Library. The library provides valuable services to Salem residents. I make more use of the library than I do any other city facility. The improvements to the main structure made during the pandemic have produced a safe and attractive public space. Let's continue to make the best use of it.

Corinne Sherton & Dennis Martin  
2213 Thrush Ct SE  
Salem, OR 97306

**From:** [Kathleen Gamble](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 10:15:23 PM

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Dear City Officials,

Libraries play a crucial role in our community by fostering reading habits in individuals of all ages, providing educational resources without regard to socioeconomic status, bridging economic disparities through programs like the Summer Reading Club, promoting civil discourse and democratic values, creating welcoming community spaces, preserving local and family history, attracting new residents and businesses, supporting non-English speakers, LGBTIQ individuals, and those experiencing homelessness, offering access to the arts and technology to all, serving as a hub for education and information, bridging the digital divide, offering sanctuary for the vulnerable, engaging teens and immigrants, contributing to a circular economy, and providing a safe environment for students.

My family utilizes the library weekly, sometimes more. The library allows us access books, media, internet, a quiet place to study, and so many other resources we, otherwise, could not afford. Removing the library is one more way of removing access to vulnerable populations, and preventing them from an education and resources they deserve.

By removing our libraries, we are again, turning back the clocks, to a time of illiteracy, and lack of access, unless you are of a certain class in society.

Please, reconsider the decision of removing our beloved libraries from the Salem community. The Capitol of Oregon must set a precedence for the rest of the state. Keep our libraries open. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gamble

Concerned Mother of 2, Non-profit Founder, Small Business Owner, Salem Citizen

**From:** [Chris McKinney](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Salem Library Budget  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 4:32:06 AM

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Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my concern about Salem Public Library.

As the father of an 11-year-old daughter with autism, the library has been a refuge for us. My daughter has sensory challenges—lights are brighter, sounds are louder, and smells and textures are more pronounced for her. There are few places in our community where she feels comfortable, but the library is a warm and inviting space where her body can rest, and her brilliant mind is allowed to run free.

I have many fond memories of attending story time at the library with my daughter when she was younger. Our library has fostered a love of learning in her, and our visits have been a calming and steady influence over many years.

I understand that the city is facing a significant budget shortfall, but I urge you to prioritize funding for the library. I know that difficult decisions lie ahead, but the library is so much more than a collection of books—it is a place where our children are inspired and where anyone with a thirst for knowledge can find answers. The library is an uplifting institution whose positive influence extends far beyond its walls. Please do everything in your power to keep its doors open by making the library's funding a priority.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Chris McKinney

**From:** [Joyce Zook](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Priority for libraries  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 7:43:35 AM

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Budget Committee and City Officials:

The library services to the Salem community are the most valued services by the residents here. I am always amazed to see the number of children, families, and adults of all ages who visit the library every day that it is open for operation! At times there are very few places to park in the parking structure adjacent to the downtown library!

The group that is encouraging support for libraries in Salem show a long list of reasons why these services are essential for a city of this size. I have witnessed many of those activities offered to ALL people regardless of their socio-economic status, their race, ethnicity, positions of importance, etc.

The library has an outreach in the community with book groups, special programs, and meeting space for non-profit organizations. They are a "hub" for youth and children, providing activities and reading programs that reinforce education on all levels.

The "quality of life" that libraries offer to communities affects the decision made by families needing a new place to live, and businesses seeking to choose locations. The "library factor" weighs heavily on people choosing to live in a city. The positive services offered by the library likely affect many other city costs and expenses, for example law enforcement, when youth do not have constructive ways to spend time.

The investment made to retrofit and remodel the downtown library was significant! The public needs to continue to enjoy all of those improvements! The staff serving the libraries are excellent, and deserve to continue their roles in providing an outstanding job in the education and outreach in our community.

Please place the library support in Salem on your highest priority list!

Joyce Zook, Salem resident for nearly 30 years

**From:** [Norm Baxter](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** City Tax Abatements; Urban Renewal Agency  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 8:26:26 AM  
**Attachments:** [Tax Abatements.docx](#)

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The attached document is for the consideration of the City Council as it works on the Budget.

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[nwbaxter11249@gmail.com](mailto:nwbaxter11249@gmail.com)

Good Evening.

As we all know, our City is facing a financial crisis that has no easy solutions. The Council is faced with very difficult choices, both in the search for additional revenue as well in deciding what cuts must be made to an already stressed budget. In situations like this one, we are faced with doing things differently than we have done in the past.

The City of Salem, in order to encourage development and create jobs, has historically used property tax abatements to meet those goals for the City. These property tax abatements have resulted in a significant loss of revenue. Estimates from a city official are that these property tax abatements have cost the city at least \$20 MILLION DOLLARS in revenue in the last ten years. A recent example of the amounts involved concerns the Amazon Station. That facility alone enjoyed tax abatements valued at \$1.3 million dollars annually. Other tax abatements already in place will continue to cost the city in coming years. Revocation of current agreements and cessation of this practice in the future will go a long way towards solving our funding crisis.

Another possible source of revenue for the City is the Urban Renewal Agency. By restructuring the Agency tax revenues can be directed to the General Fund to fund city services. At present, revenue from the URA is being paid to businesses even when they are prospering and to developers even when their projects are already fully funded. A recent example is the Riverpoint Building. Even before the completion of this project, the building had been completely leased. Despite the fact that the project was already a success, the Urban Renewal Agency awarded \$749,000 to the owners of the building. Payments such as this one are essentially gratuities. Salem must begin to use these resources for the needs of its citizens, and not just to support businesses that don't need city funding.



**From:** [Keegan](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Budget Priorities  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 8:33:31 AM

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Hi Budget Office and City Council,

My name is Keegan Gormally, Ward One, living on 18th St. NE. here in town. I wanted to express my support for current library staffing levels as I've heard (yet again) that the city is considering budget cuts to the public library, all the while offering almost a \$20,000 increase to the city manager salary.

Aside from the obvious hypocrisy there, my main message is that the city's library staffing must be protected. I am concerned about what I've been hearing in the city council meeting streams on YouTube, and would encourage the city council members to reflect on how they proceed moving forward. The city is watching, and will show up in droves and droves should further cuts to the library be proposed.

My previous message was sent in request for comment.

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**Keegan M. Gormally**  
Ward One

**From:** [Alyssa Cokinis](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [citymanager@cityofsalem.net](mailto:citymanager@cityofsalem.net)  
**Subject:** Fund the Library and Community Services in FY26  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 8:36:28 AM

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To the Budget Committee, Mayor Hoy, Council, and the City Manager,

Alyssa here, Ward 1, library worker testifying as a private citizen. However, my work never fully untangles itself from private citizenry. I utilize the library as a patron in addition to working there. Not only are my and my colleagues' jobs threatened once again, but everyone's access to free information and a safe space is once again threatened. This is not something I'm able to leave behind at work when I clock out because it affects my livelihood in work *and* it affects my livelihood in my personal time.

You may push back and say that we don't have the money to further fund the library or other vital community services like parks and Center 50+. I disagree: the bloated police budget, one of the biggest portions of the General Fund, could easily take one for the team to keep some important community services up and running.

A huge thank you to Mayor Chris Hoy for stepping up to keep the library operating at our current levels for this fiscal year. That action did not go unnoticed, and you allowed us library workers to breathe for job security and showed us you're committed to getting creative with solutions, no matter how temporary. I hope the City Manager, remaining council members, Mayor-elect Julie Hoy, incoming council members, and the citizen budget committee will have the same inkling of the vital services the library, parks, and Center 50+ provide, but I'm scared they will not prioritize any of us.

I don't have all the answers, but I know that I'm tired of having this conversation and with very little action. Thank you for your time.

Alyssa Cokinis  
Ward 1

**From:** [Austin Lockwood](#)  
**To:** [citycouncil](#); [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** About today's meeting.  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 10:12:26 AM

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Dear Salem City Council & Budgeting Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for continued funding of our city's public library.

Education is THE greatest investment we can make to ensure a positive future. Surely, you're aware that libraries are not merely places to borrow books; they are hubs for lifelong learning, digital access, and community engagement. For many residents, the library provides essential services that might otherwise be inaccessible. It offers access to computers and the internet, educational programming for all ages, and resources for job seekers and entrepreneurs. In today's digital age, this is especially significant, as libraries help bridge the digital divide and provide equitable access to information for everyone.

This is an especially vital institution that serves as a heart of our community, particularly here in our state capital. The library's role in our state capital is also critical in a symbolic sense. Our library is a testament to our commitment to literacy, education, and informed citizenship. It serves as a welcoming space for tourists, students, and families alike, offering valuable resources that showcase our city's culture and history. Cutting funding would be a disservice not only to our residents but also to the thousands of visitors who come here each year.

What kind of message does it send to the rest of the nation about our state, when the capital has no library? Is it a message about our growing anti-intellectualism? A message of poor budgeting? There is no positive look this could give us.

Oregon is one of the better states, and I'd like to keep it that way. By supporting the library, you are investing in the intellectual and cultural core of our city and ensuring that our community continues to be a place of opportunity and growth for all.

Warm regards,  
Austin Lockwood.  
A concerned Salem resident.

**From:** [Diana Upton](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed budget cuts  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 10:20:44 AM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am just hearing the news that the Salem Budget Committee is considering closing our Public Library. THIS IS A TRAVESTY. A library is the heart of a community. Our library has numerous important functions for the health of our community and include the following:

- The library grows early readers and supports children who struggle with literacy skills, including teens.
- The library provides space for communities to come together and meet (example: I attend LWV Great Decisions where we learn about foreign policy and become better educated citizens).
- The library offers a place for citizens who would otherwise be isolated. (example: my 80 year old husband attended Community College classes in California before they were closed to non-degree students. That cut off his social network and now the library closure will add to further isolation).
- The isolation that individuals feel contributes to deteriorating mental health and that simply adds costs to another city service; mental health services.
- The library provides internet access and free wi-fi to people who can't afford access otherwise.

I can appreciate to difficulty of making a balanced budget and the fact that this is harder since voters rejected the payroll tax last November. But rather than axing a vital service such as the library I'd like to see the City Council educate the public about what it costs to run a city like Salem and why their tax dollars are important. For instance, how many of our growing population realize that the budget decisions made in the 90s hamstring our budgets 30 years later?

To conclude, for Salem be the only state capital in the country without a library would make us the laughingstock of many in the country. What business would want to locate in Salem? Why would families move to a major city without a library? I hope you consider the grave consequences of closing the library.

Sincerely,

Diana Upton

1504 Ammon St., NW

Salem, Oregon 97304



Virus-free [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**From:** [Richard Mclaughlin](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Propose library closing.  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 11:09:17 AM

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What does it say to residents, students, senior citizens on tight budgets, and folks who might want to move here, and to Americans in general, that the city of Salem does not care enough about the benefits of a city library to even have one? This is one more unfortunate consequence of the actions of those parsimonious, selfish citizens that voted down the proposed tax increase.

Once the library is shut down, the workers fired, and maintenance and upkeep ignored or put on a shoestring it may be impossible to bring the library back. Is this what you'd like your legacy to be?

Salem, Oregon: the capital city without a library.

Richard McLaughlin

**From:** [Judith Davis](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** prioritizing funding for the Salem Public Library  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 12:01:21 PM

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Dear Council Members,

In today's climate of misinformation, disinformation, intolerance and ignorance, it is clear that libraries are more essential than ever. More than just storage spaces for books and media, libraries are important community hubs that serve as centers of learning and professional and educational development. They are free public spaces that allow everyone to feel safe and to find opportunity. Now, more than ever, they are vital to those principles that define the city of Salem, the state of Oregon and these United States.

More than a community center, town hall, or public park ever could, libraries connect communities in ways that benefit everyone. Library programs foster community participation and cohesion. Irrespective of socioeconomic status or other factors, libraries provide local resources to all. Educational offerings, job training, homeless outreach, ESL learning, literacy enhancement, creative and artistic expression, etc. are all available for everyone to share.

Please consider this message to be a strong endorsement for prioritizing the continued support for the Salem public library system.

Sincerely yours,  
Judith L Davis

**From:** [Josh Eggleston](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Library Closures  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 12:23:36 PM

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**Josh Eggleston** | office: 503-588-6130 | mobile: 971-453-2804  
City of Salem | Finance Department

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**From:** Anime PDX <rootpdx@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 10:46 AM  
**To:** citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>  
**Subject:** Library Closures

To whom it may concern,

Greetings. My name is Travis Root. Now while I am not a resident of the city of Salem, as an educator, I cannot stand by and allow libraries to be closed down. Libraries are safe places for children and adults alike to learn, foster community, and feel welcomed. The amount of free resources like books, internet access, and film and game rentals open doors to endless possibilities of inspiration, hobby creation, and positive mental health impacts. It is unfair to the citizens of the area to cut out these key institutions. It is unfair to deny people access to the resources they pay for with their tax dollars. Especially now for adolescents where third places are growing smaller and smaller and school Libraries continue to be under attack from book bannings, the public Libraries are a final bastion in protecting the mental health and freedom of our children. Please I ask you reconsider your thoughts and keep Libraries open. All people need them. America needs them. Thank yoh for taking the time to read this and I hope the Libraries, like the books inside will remain open for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Travis Root, concerned educator



**From:** [Kai G](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Prioritizing the Library  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 12:54:11 PM

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It's clear that we have to protect our enclaves of information. In this day and age where education is harder and harder to access, it's more important than ever to prioritize these places for both the public and the children who use these libraries too. Education keeps people aware of the world around them and fostering a community who can access information in a safe place leads to those people becoming more active in both community and their own investment in the world around them.

I have been going to libraries since I was a kid. Since moving to Salem, the library has been a cornerstone of my day to day life here in Salem. To this day, that affects everything about me. I love to read and it has been a great source of information when it comes to all the hobbies and activities I participate in. Additionally, the library helps me and many others mentally during these difficult times.

It is VITAL to allow people the avenue to ask questions and then find answers because it encourages engagement with the world. Without that, people will become less and less interested until it reaches the point that the hunger to learn is just a murmur instead of a roar.

Please prioritize the library. Shutting it down would hurt so many eager people wanting to learn, grow, and help the community.

Thank you,

Kai Garnsey

**From:** [Becky Gleason](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** KEEP LIBRARY OPEN  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 1:14:44 PM

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Closing the Salem Public Library would be a complete EMBARRASSMENT to the residents of Salem, Marion and adjoining counties, to the citizens of Oregon and to the country.

Being the second largest city in Oregon and we can't find a way to fund a much needed and moral boosting facility is pathetic. I just purchased a half million dollar home in Salem with one of the main reasons to buy here was the Salem Public Library and all the activities it offers for a retired single person.

This library has also been the outlet for me meeting 5 other women through a library sponsored book club who have become my best friends. I also started coordinating another evening book club when the library hours were cut back and we utilize the SPL Book Club Kits. Many, many lives are touched and benefit from this one organization, the Salem Public Library.

The SPL is the ball in the basketball game. You remove this "ball" and there is no game, no team, no fans, no cheering. Salem would just become another dying city in the history books.

VOTE to leave the Salem Public Library OPEN! Advocate for more Volunteers if need be.

Respectfully,  
Becky Gleason

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Alice Hyde](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** In support of continued funding for library  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 1:38:10 PM

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Hello,

I am writing today in support of continued funding for the library. It is vital that our library stay open. Libraries provide a valuable community resource that is really not matched by any other resource.

In addition, if you fully close the library, the costs to reopen it will be higher than simply flipping the switch back on. Many of the talented, specialized staff will have had to move on to jobs in other cities or states. The loss of institutional knowledge would be immense. Therefore the greatest effort should be made to keep the library open.

I would support proportional cuts to other services to keep the library open.

As a homeowner, I would happily support a bond or other funding mechanism to fund the library specifically. The funding should be at a progressive rate, not flat. I disliked the payroll tax only because it was so complicated that it would have required additional FTE simply to administer the tax.

Thank you for your work for our community.

--Alice Hyde

**From:** [Glen Kaye](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Funding library services  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 2:28:19 PM

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Our family considers Salem funding of library services as VITAL to healthy life of this community. It is the most important function that makes us feel a part of it. It is crucial to help each and every one of us mature to become civilized. An informed society is the only way to have a successful democracy. Without it, our community, our world cannot withstand the manipulations of dishonorable men.  
Glen Kaye and Harriet Trill

**From:** [Cheyenne Wray](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Subject:** Prioritize our library!  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 2:37:07 PM

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Libraries are important third spaces that hold so much information, and we desperately need places for youth to hang out that are positive influences and don't cost money to exist in. Please prioritize keeping the library open!

Cheyenne Wray - Ward 6 resident

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Sally](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for the 11/13 Budget Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 2:38:08 PM

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I urge you to keep the Salem libraries as priority items in the city budget.

The main library was recently seismically upgraded and remodeled and is heavily used. Most Salem residents can't afford to buy all the books they want to read, so the library is necessary for residents' recreational reading as well as for students' research. Story time plus an extensive collection of children's books encourage interest in reading. Children who are learning to read need the wide variety of books in order to find stories they enjoy so they will want to read. Teenagers need to find stories about people like them as well as books on topics that will keep them interested in reading for pleasure. New residents who are learning English also benefit from the variety of library books and other materials that help them learn.

My recollection is that years ago West Salem residents raised the money to build their library. It should be open so they can use it.

So please prioritize keeping the libraries open while solutions are developed for improved funding of city services.

Sally Hollemon  
3335 Crestview Dr. S  
Salem, OR 97302

**From:** [Darbie Versoza](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Salem public library  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 2:51:53 PM

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Dear council members,

I am a life long resident of Salem and user of our public library system. From participating in summer reading in the 80s and 90s and volunteering in the discovery room when I was in college to becoming a parent where story time and the recourses the library provided were a life saver. Fast forward to today where the same tiny tot who looked forward to getting books and singing songs every week became a discovery room volunteer himself! We looked forward to the community and family time the library allowed us every Sunday. When hours were cut we were saddened, but hoped it was a temporary situation.

It is, frankly, shameful where our city has put its priorities. Please, prioritize the library. Enough is enough. Our library has suffered enough cuts. Our children, families and seniors and community deserve a full service library like we had in the past.

Thank you,  
Darbie Versoza

Sent from Gmail Mobile

**From:** [Michael Versoza](#)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** A plea from a Salem parent for the library system.  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 2:57:39 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am a parent who has been living in Salem for 16 years. One of my points of pride has always been in our great library system and all that it offers. It would negatively impact the up and coming Salem area and surrounding youths to lose this terrific resource. My son is now in high school and I can say without a doubt that all of the library programs and staff have been a part of his continuing high school career. Through his achievements he has become a leader in choir, a highly desired member of the tech crew for the theater program as well as a peer counselor. All of these skills have been strengthened because of the library system in Salem that he grew up his whole life with. I really believe that doing anything short of giving MORE money to the library instead of taking it away is a bad idea. Thank you for hearing the words of a passionate parent who would love to see the library and its programs impact other people's lives the way it has for my family.

Sincerely

Michael Versoza