

From: Katie Wilson
To: [Gonzalez, Lorena](#)
Cc: [John Burbank](#)
Subject: Tax Justice Victory Party: You're Invited!
Date: Monday, July 24, 2017 12:19:51 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Councilmember Gonzalez,

Thanks to your leadership, your vote, and your support, the City of Seattle has passed into law the first income tax in Washington State since the 1930s. While there is still a long road ahead as we navigate legal challenges, this is a groundbreaking moment for progressive policy that deserves celebration!

The Trump-Proof Seattle Coalition is hosting a [Victory Party](#) this coming Sunday, July 30th, 3-6 PM at Southside Commons in Columbia City. **We would be honored to have you and your staff join us for this occasion.**

There will be food, drink, music, and a speaker program. We will be recognizing elected officials in attendance but not asking electeds to speak, so that we can feature the voices of the volunteers, organizers, and coalition members who contributed so much to this effort.

Hope to see you there!

Katie and John

Katie Wilson
General Secretary
Transit Riders Union
<https://transitriders.org>
206-781-7204

The Transit Riders Union is a democratic organization of working and poor people, including students, seniors, and people with disabilities, taking control over our own lives, and building up the power we need to change society for the good of humanity and of the planet. We will fight to preserve, expand, and improve the public transportation system in Seattle and beyond, so that every human being has access to safe, affordable, and reliable public transit.

John R. Burbank
Executive Director
Economic Opportunity Institute
603 Stewart St., Suite 715
Seattle WA 98101

206-755-5969/cell
206-529-6345/office

Building an economy that works - for everyone.



Seeds of Change:

EOI's Annual Dinner

October 12, 2017, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Seattle Design Center, 5701 6th Ave S.

Tickets: bit.ly/EOIDinner2017

From: Katie Wilson
To: [Sawant, Kshama](#)
Subject: Tax Justice Victory Party: You're Invited!
Date: Monday, July 24, 2017 12:18:58 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Councilmember Sawant,

Thanks to your leadership, your vote, and your support, the City of Seattle has passed into law the first income tax in Washington State since the 1930s. While there is still a long road ahead as we navigate legal challenges, this is a groundbreaking moment for progressive policy that deserves celebration!

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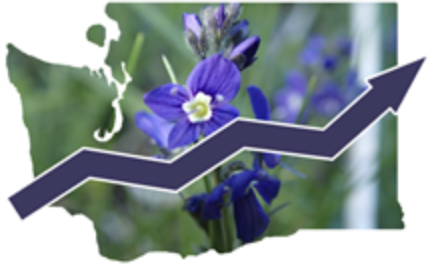
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Tickets: bit.ly/EOIDinner2017

From: Katie Wilson
To: [Johnson, Rob](#)
Subject: Tax Justice Victory Party: You're Invited!
Date: Monday, July 24, 2017 12:18:01 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Councilmember Johnson,

Thanks to your leadership, your vote, and your support, the City of Seattle has passed into law the first income tax in Washington State since the 1930s. While there is still a long road ahead as we navigate legal challenges, this is a groundbreaking moment for progressive policy that deserves celebration!

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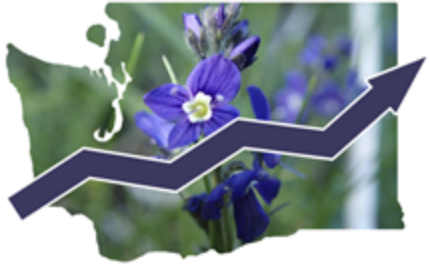
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October 12, 2017, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Seattle Design Center, 5701 6th Ave S.

Tickets: bit.ly/EOIDinner2017

From: Katie Wilson
To: [Bagshaw, Sally](#)
Cc: [John Burbank](#)
Subject: Tax Justice Victory Party: You're Invited!
Date: Monday, July 24, 2017 12:17:09 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Councilmember Bagshaw,

Thanks to your leadership, your vote, and your support, the City of Seattle has passed into law the first income tax in Washington State since the 1930s. While there is still a long road ahead as we navigate legal challenges, this is a groundbreaking moment for progressive policy that deserves celebration!

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Seattle Design Center, 5701 6th Ave S.

Tickets: bit.ly/EOIDinner2017

From: John Burbank
To: [Herbold, Lisa](#); [Aldrich, Newell](#)
Cc: [Katie Wilson](#)
Subject: FW: Thank you!
Date: Thursday, August 03, 2017 4:23:32 PM
Attachments: [calendar for when ordinance takes effect.xlsx](#)

Good CSM article.

From: Katie Wilson [mailto:katiebwilson@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 03, 2017 3:59 PM
To: John Burbank <john@eoionline.org>
Subject: Fwd: Thank you!

Maybe we should thank McGinn for giving the campaign a bump when he declared.

Here's the CSM article: <https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Society/2017/0802/Taxing-the-rich-how-Seattle-leads-a-go-local-trend-in-liberal-politics>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mike McGinn <info@mcginformayor.com>
Subject: Thank you!
Date: August 3, 2017 at 2:29:58 PM PDT
To: Katie Wilson <katiebwilson@yahoo.com>

**McGINN
FOR MAYOR**

Katie --

The election results were not what I was hoping for. But I am tremendously grateful that I had the opportunity to participate in a discussion about Seattle's future, as well as connect and reconnect with so many great people in Seattle.

Campaigns don't happen without lots of people coming forward to help with outreach, events, organizing, donations, and the endless questionnaires! I am tremendously grateful to everyone who demonstrated their support and pitched in to help. They don't do it for the candidate, they do it because they believe in their city. The relationships built during campaigns are one of the most cherished things in my life, so thank you so much. And of course, deep gratitude to my family, who have put up with so much, and who motivate me as much as they tease me and keep me grounded.

I entered the primary determined to make the race about Seattle's future. By its conclusion, the primary was exactly that. Multiple candidates were listening and pushing each other to sharpen their ideas and their approach. I was genuinely glad to see new voices moving the debate forward against status quo politics.

I was proud to participate in that - pushing for an income tax, pointing out bloat in government and how to redirect funds to our priorities, as well as how to hold the line on regressive taxes and tax big successful corporations to pay for new initiatives. I also broke the silence on the dramatic rise in shots fired, and proposed actionable steps to stop the violence. I know that these issues, and others, will continue to get scrutiny in the campaign moving forward.

I also took some pleasure in seeing how the issues I first raised in 2009 around transportation, new housing, municipal broadband, and the city's role in education are now no longer viewed as particularly left-wing. They are now part of the mainstream in Seattle, with candidates often looking to out-do each other. Although of course caution is warranted about whether they really mean it!

Cautions aside, this message is to share my gratitude for being able to actively participate in the civic life of Seattle. Not just in this campaign, but over the many years I have lived here. It always been my view that is better to take the risk and engage, rather than sit back and wonder what might have happened. I don't think there is any more rewarding work than trying to make our community a better place. You know I will keep looking for new ways to do that, and I'll keep encouraging others to do the same, whether as volunteers, on the job, or even as candidates!

Again, gratitude to all.

- Mike McGinn

PS: If you want to help us erase our campaign debt, which is thankfully modest, you can make a donation at <http://www.mcginnformayor.com/donate>.

Thanks again.

McGinn 2017
<http://www.mcginnformayor.com/>

McGinn for Mayor · 4000 Aurora Ave N, Suite 116, Seattle, WA 98103, United States
This email was sent to **Up Time Technology has detected a possible fraud attempt from "x-msg:" claiming to be** katiebwilson@yahoo.com. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).
You can also keep up with McGinn 2017 on [Facebook](#).

From: John Burbank
To: [Aldrich, Newell](#); [Herbold, Lisa](#)
Cc: [Katie Wilson](#)
Subject: The Dirty Dozen reply by JRB
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 9:30:24 PM
Attachments: [The Dirty Dozen reply by JRB.docx](#)
[Seattle General Fund Expenditures and population growth over time.xlsx](#)

I am not sure we should even respond or go down this rabbit hole, but here are my responses.

Updated general fund expenditures.

A worthwhile exercise before my 5:30 AM pod cast with Dave Ross tomorrow!

From: John Burbank
To: [Aldrich, Newell](#); [Herbold, Lisa](#)
Cc: [Katie Wilson](#)
Subject: The Dirty Dozen reply by JRB
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 9:28:02 PM
Attachments: [The Dirty Dozen reply by JRB.docx](#)
[Seattle General Fund Expenditures and population growth over time.xlsx](#)

I am not sure we should even respond or go down this rabbit hole, but here are my responses.

From: John Burbank
To: [Holmes, Peter](#)
Cc: [Herbold, Lisa](#)
Subject: Time to discuss an excise tax based on income above a certain threshold
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:45:45 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[Olympia as a Pioneer for Progressive Taxation.docx](#)

Dear Pete,

I wanted to give you an update and request a meeting with you. As you may have heard, we have been working on a local excise tax on unearned income for those households with AGI in excess of \$250,000. We have convened meetings with 100 people, and 35 organizations participating. The core team includes the Economic Opportunity Institute, the Transit Riders Union, 350.org, Seattle Education Association, and many others. Thus far

- We have talked with Herbold, O'Brien, Juarez, Burgess, Sawant, Johnson, Bagshaw
- We have talked with Gonzales' aide
- We have not met with the Mayor's team yet, nor with you.
- We are working with Pacifica (Greg, Jamie and Paul) and Knoll Lowney and Claire Tonry on the legal strategy.
- The iteration we have will be on unearned income, about \$100 million a year in revenues. Pacifica says that smooths the legal pathway to the State Supreme Court.
- We have set March 1st at 12 noon for an event at City Hall hosted by Lisa Herbold and others to attract a big crowd and have a bit of a teach-in.

It would be good to meet. Could we do that?

FYI, I am attaching a draft ordinance for Olympia which goes right to the heart of the matter. The Seattle ordinance would be an iteration of this, with specific dedications (although aspirational, pending a State Supreme Court decision).

Thanks.

John

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Opportunity
Institute

From: [Herbold, Lisa](#)
To: [John Burbank](#)
Cc: [Katie Wilson](#); [Aldrich, Newell](#)
Subject: Re: Tim's expert panel
Date: Wednesday, May 03, 2017 6:32:19 PM

A week is fine.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 3, 2017, at 6:03 PM, John Burbank <john@eoionline.org> wrote:

I think that is fine. I am working on a brief that lays out some more details and tracks the intersection of our regressive taxation system and the movement of income to the very top, away from the middle and working classes, and the consequent starving of public services. Hope to have that done in a week. I can speed it up if you think that would be good.

From: Herbold, Lisa [<mailto:Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2017 5:47 PM
To: Katie Wilson <katie@transitriders.org>
Cc: John Burbank <john@eoionline.org>; Aldrich, Newell <Newell.Aldrich2@seattle.gov>
Subject: Re: Tim's expert panel

Thx. I've made the suggestion. I'll let you know when I have a better idea what the Burgess outline idea for this panel might be. I'm inclined to propose that we use Conway's 5 indicators as a guide for a committee discussion with experts.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 3, 2017, at 5:34 PM, Katie Wilson <katie@transitriders.org> wrote:

Another suggestion from John:

Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Ph.D., an economist with the Department of Employment Security, might be interested in this as well.

<https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/economists/vance-sherman>

From: Katie Wilson [<mailto:katie@transitriders.org>]
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2017 9:51 PM
To: John Burbank <john@eoionline.org>; Steve Williamson <steve@alltrueendeavors.com>
Subject: Tim's expert panel

John and Steve,

Lisa says: “Tim wants to work out a committee schedule with me soon & he’s interested in doing a briefing panel with academic experts first. Let me know if there are people that I should suggest.”

Thoughts?

Katie

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From: John Burbank
To: [Herbold, Lisa](#); [Katie Wilson](#)
Cc: [Aldrich, Newell](#)
Subject: RE: Tim's expert panel
Date: Wednesday, May 03, 2017 6:03:11 PM

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From: Herbold, Lisa [mailto:Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2017 5:47 PM
To: Katie Wilson <katie@transitriders.org>
Cc: John Burbank <john@eoionline.org>; Aldrich, Newell <Newell.Aldrich2@seattle.gov>
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From: [Herbold, Lisa](#)
To: [Katie Wilson](#)
Cc: [John Burbank](#); [Aldrich, Newell](#)
Subject: Re: Tim's expert panel
Date: Wednesday, May 03, 2017 5:46:59 PM

Thx. I've made the suggestion. I'll let you know when I have a better idea what the Burgess outline idea for this panel might be. I'm inclined to propose that we use Conway's 5 indicators as a guide for a committee discussion with experts.

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To: John Burbank <john@eoionline.org>; Steve Williamson <steve@alltrueendeavors.com>
Subject: Tim's expert panel

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From: Katie Wilson
To: [Herbold, Lisa](#)
Cc: [John Burbank](#)
Subject: Fwd: Tim's expert panel
Date: Wednesday, May 03, 2017 5:34:33 PM

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Sent: Monday, May 1, 2017 9:51 PM
To: John Burbank <john@eoionline.org>; Steve Williamson <steve@alltrueendeavors.com>
Subject: Tim's expert panel

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From: John Burbank
To: [Noble, Ben](#); [Lee, Glen](#); [Caldirola-Davis, Carlo](#); [Herbold, Lisa](#); [Sawant, Kshama](#); [Virdone, Ted](#); [Aldrich, Newell](#); [Meyer, Kent](#); [Claire Tony](#); [Knoll Lowney \(knoll@smithandlowney.com\)](#); [Greg Wong](#); [Jamie Lisagor \(jamie.lisagor@pacificallawgroup.com\)](#); [Hugh Spitzer \(spitzerhd@gmail.com\)](#)
Cc: [Aaron Keating](#); [Katie Wilson](#)
Subject: Today's press release
Date: Monday, June 12, 2017 5:55:52 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I am sure I am leaving out some important city officials and friends, but I just want to say "thanks" to all of you. We have come a long way!

<http://murray.seattle.gov/mayor-murray-councilmembers-herbold-sawant-unveil-tax-proposal-high-income-households/>

John

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From: John Burbank
To: [John Burbank](#)
Subject: Today's Seattle Times Victory for the Income Tax!
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 8:27:43 AM
Attachments: [frontpage.pdf](#)

We made history!

John

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From: John Burbank
To: [Tim Burgess](#)
Cc: [Herbold, Lisa](#); [Burgess, Tim](#); [Sawant, Kshama](#); kshamaatcouncil@gmail.com; lisalouh@hotmail.com; [Claire Tonry](#); [John Gibson \(gibsonconomics@comcast.net\)](mailto:John.Gibson@gibsonconomics.comcast.net); [Katie Wilson](#); [Sund, Erik](#)
Subject: Re: Tomorrow's consideration of the local income tax
Date: Tuesday, July 04, 2017 9:34:01 PM

Thanks Tim. I will be on my way to prepare for the Governor's signing of the family leave insurance law! Too many good things in one day

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 4, 2017, at 9:31 PM, Tim Burgess <councilmantim@gmail.com> wrote:

John, I'm sorry you can't be with us. Don't worry about the fiscal note; that will be changed before final adoption on July 10.

On Tue, Jul 4, 2017 at 9:27 PM John Burbank <john@eoionline.org> wrote:

Dear Tim, Kshama, and Lisa,

I will not be at the committee meeting tomorrow, but Katie will be. I believe she can cover any questions that may come up. With this email, I am also asking Claire to attend, if possible.

I want to let you know that I reviewed the substitute ordinance and am very pleased with its content, especially with the Rob Johnson suggested increase to 2.25%. On a popular note, with the Legislature raising property taxes on Seattle households, the first priority of reducing property taxes rings true.

I also looked at the fiscal summary and the central council memos and noticed that these had not been updated to the 2.25% tax rate. I don't know how important that is at this stage of the game.

Finally, I want to let you know my deep and profound thanks for pushing and guiding this local income tax effort forward. Seattle stands out as model to go forward, not backward, thanks to your leadership.

This will be a wonderful finale for the past two weeks, in which the Legislature

passed the best family leave insurance law in the nation, thanks partially to Seattle's efforts to move forward on this. Now, with your actions tomorrow and on July 10th, Seattle can lead the state in cracking the ice for progressive and equitable taxation.

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Tim Burgess Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: Tim Burgess
To: [John Burbank](#); [Herbold, Lisa](#); [Burgess, Tim](#); [Sawant, Kshama](#); kshamaatcouncil@gmail.com; lisafoh@hotmail.com
Cc: [Claire Tonry](#); [John Gibson \(gibsonconomics@comcast.net\)](mailto:John.Gibson@gibsonconomics.com); [Katie Wilson](#); [Sund, Erik](#)
Subject: Re: Tomorrow's consideration of the local income tax
Date: Tuesday, July 04, 2017 9:30:54 PM

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Cc: [Sund, Erik](#); [Katie Wilson](#); [Claire Tonry](#); [John Gibson \(gibsonconomics@comcast.net\)](mailto:John.Gibson@gibsonconomics.com)
Subject: Tomorrow's consideration of the local income tax
Date: Tuesday, July 04, 2017 9:27:32 PM

Dear Tim, Kshama, and Lisa,

I will not be at the committee meeting tomorrow, but Katie will be. I believe she can cover any questions that may come up. With this email, I am also asking Claire to attend, if possible.

I want to let you know that I reviewed the substitute ordinance and am very pleased with its content, especially with the Rob Johnson suggested increase to 2.25%. On a popular note, with the Legislature raising property taxes on Seattle households, the first priority of reducing property taxes rings true.

I also looked at the fiscal summary and the central council memos and noticed that these had not been updated to the 2.25% tax rate. I don't know how important that is at this stage of the game.

Finally, I want to let you know my deep and profound thanks for pushing and guiding this local income tax effort forward. Seattle stands out as model to go forward, not backward, thanks to your leadership.

This will be a wonderful finale for the past two weeks, in which the Legislature passed the best family leave insurance law in the nation, thanks partially to Seattle's efforts to move forward on this. Now, with your actions tomorrow and on July 10th, Seattle can lead the state in cracking the ice for progressive and equitable taxation.

John

John R. Burbank
Executive Director
Economic Opportunity Institute
603 Stewart St., Suite 715
Seattle WA 98101

206-755-5969/cell
206-529-6345/office

"Building an economy that works - for everyone."

From: John Burbank
To: [John Burbank](#)
Subject: Tomorrow's Meeting for Trump-Proof Seattle
Date: Monday, May 15, 2017 12:59:32 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Friends!

Now that the Seattle City Council has unanimously expressed the **“City of Seattle’s intent to adopt a progressive income tax targeting high-income households”, with introduction of an ordinance for implementation by May 31st, and passage of this ordinance by July 10th,**

we have a lot of work and tasks to complete in a short amount of time – less than eight weeks!

Help us determine and double-down on our advocacy and our policy and legal work. We must make sure that the City Council passes an actual ordinance with meaning, and teeth, and by July 10th!

Come to the Trump-Proof Seattle meeting, tomorrow:

Tuesday, May 16th

10 AM to 11:30 AM

EOI

603 Stewart St.,

Fourth Floor, Building Conference Room

See you tomorrow. We have the world in front of us!

John

John R. Burbank
Executive Director
Economic Opportunity Institute
603 Stewart St., Suite 715
Seattle WA 98101

206-755-5969/cell
206-529-6345/office

Building an economy that works - for everyone.



From: [Herbold, Lisa](#)
To: [Aldrich, Newell](#)
Subject: FW: Tomorrow's Meeting for Trump-Proof Seattle
Date: Monday, May 01, 2017 4:00:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Can you attend? I'll be in committee.

From: John Burbank [mailto:john@eoionline.org]
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 3:56 PM
To: John Burbank <john@eoionline.org>
Subject: Tomorrow's Meeting for Trump-Proof Seattle

Friends!

Today, May 1st, the Seattle City Council passed unanimously this resolution:

A RESOLUTION expressing The City of Seattle's intent to adopt a progressive income tax targeting high-income households.

The resolution includes a timeline, with introduction of an ordinance for implementation by May 31st, and passage of this ordinance by July 10th.

This achievement is thanks to the advocacy and activism of Trump-Proof Seattle. Washington DC goes backward, we go forward.

Now we must double-down on our advocacy and our policy and legal work, to make sure that the City Council passes an actual ordinance with teeth!

Help make this happen!

Come to Trump-Proof Seattle meeting, tomorrow:

Tuesday, May 2nd
10 AM to 11:30 AM
EOI
603 Stewart St.,
Fourth Floor, Building Conference Room

See you tomorrow. We have the world in front of us!

John

John R. Burbank
Executive Director
Economic Opportunity Institute
603 Stewart St., Suite 715

Seattle WA 98101

206-755-5969/cell
206-529-6345/office

Building an economy that works - for everyone.



From: John Burbank
To: [Herbold, Lisa](#); [Aldrich, Newell](#)
Cc: [Katie Wilson](#)
Subject: TPS-RESOLUTION JRB edits
Date: Saturday, April 22, 2017 8:06:38 PM
Attachments: [TPS-RESOLUTION JRB edits.docx](#)

Here are my edits.

Of course, Lisa is the final arbiter of all of this!

From: [Johnson, Rob](#)
To: ["Katie Wilson"](#); [John Burbank](#); [Michael Tamayo \[WA\]](#)
Subject: TRU - Income Tax Initiative

Your meeting was found to be out of date and has been automatically updated.

Sent by Microsoft Exchange Server

From: [Johnson, Rob](#)
To: ["Katie Wilson"](#); [John Burbank](#); [Michael Tamayo \[WA\]](#)
Subject: TRU - Income Tax Initiative

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From: [Johnson, Rob](#)
To: [Katie Wilson](#); [John Burbank](#); [Michael Tamayo \[WA\]](#)
Subject: TRU - Income Tax Initiative

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Sent by Microsoft Exchange Server

From: John Burbank
To: [Katie Wilson](#); [Herbold, Lisa](#); [Lisa Herbold](#); [Aldrich, Newell](#); [Claire Tonry](#)
Subject: two days to go!
Date: Thursday, August 10, 2017 7:52:30 AM
Attachments: [calendar for when ordinance takes effect.xlsx](#)

From: John Burbank
To: [Tim Burgess](#); [Burgess, Tim](#); [Tim Burgess \(timothy_burgess@msn.com\)](mailto:Tim.Burgess@msn.com)
Subject: FW: Wanted: Smart, Transparent, Fair, and Adequate Tax Policy
Date: Monday, May 01, 2017 9:07:33 AM

Thanks for this, Tim!

From: Councilmember Tim Burgess [mailto:tim.burgess@seattle.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2017 9:04 AM
To: John Burbank <john@eoionline.org>
Subject: Wanted: Smart, Transparent, Fair, and Adequate Tax Policy

Trouble seeing the message? [View this email in your browser.](#)



Councilmember Tim Burgess



Washington State's tax system is terribly unfair. Our lowest income households pay a higher percentage of their income in taxes than do our highest income households. Don't believe it? Read all about it [here](#) and [here](#).

It lacks transparency—do you know what your household pays in total city, county, and state taxes each year? No, you don't, and I don't either. Read *The Seattle Times'* [FYI Guy](#) to learn precisely why our tax burden is so opaque.

It's not adequate to fund essential government services, like basic education and early learning

From my blog

[SPD Found in "Initial Compliance" on Use of Force](#)

[More Taxes: Fair and Effective?](#)

[Defending the Rule of Law](#)

On my desk

[Ajay Chaudry, Taryn Morrissey, Christina Weiland, Hiro Yoshikawa: Cradle to](#)

opportunities for our children.

It's not stable. Because of its reliance on sales taxes, governments in Washington State can see huge swings in revenue as the economy moves through its regular ups and downs.

What can we do to improve our tax system?

Tax discussions are difficult because they can be dry and wonky, and many of us are already concerned about affording our own family's necessities, not to mention funding essential government services. But we need a statewide, robust policy conversation on how to solve the tax mess we have today.

Local economist Dick Conway, a man I know as a thoughtful, pragmatic, and thorough professional, has studied tax policy for decades. He recently updated his [study](#) of taxes in every state. Conway's analysis looked at five characteristics of taxes: fairness, adequacy, stability, transparency, and economic vitality. His conclusion, as in his earlier work, is that Washington's tax system "continues to be dysfunctional." Conway argues that the solution is a flat-rate personal income tax that eliminates the need for other taxes.

This suggestion causes consternation in many people. Personal income tax! We don't have one, they say, and we don't need one.

Well, Washington State already has a corporate income tax; we call it the "business and occupation tax." The tax is based on gross revenues, not net revenues, which means companies pay it even if they don't make a profit. Large companies don't object because the rate of the tax is relatively low (ranging from 0.13% to 3.3%, depending on business [classification](#)), but it can make things hard for small or new companies.

So, what's the solution to this overly complicated, politically charged issue? Conway suggests a personal income flat tax of 10.5% annually, a rate that is in the narrow range of what the national, average household state and local tax burden has been, going back to 1970. Had Conway's plan been in place in 2015, Washington State would have raised \$38.3 billion in state and local taxes, about \$4 billion *more* than was collected with the current tax system. That would have covered the estimated shortfall in education funding and left about \$2 billion for other needs.

Whether or not Conway's flat tax idea is the best is

[Kindergarten: A New Plan to Combat Inequality](#)

Here is a very pragmatic and effective road map that will pay huge dividends for our children. Chaudry, Weiland and Yoshikawa helped me with early policy and design issues for the Seattle Preschool Program. I highly recommend this book for those who want to move the needle and solve our children's opportunity gap.

Through the lens

If you have time and interest, you can [watch an interview](#) with me and Councilmember Lisa Herbold discussing affordable housing and progress on SPD reform.

irrelevant at this point; we need to have a serious policy conversation about solutions. The outcome should be a tax structure that allows our lower-income neighbors to pay less, our middle-income neighbors to pay about the same, and our highest-income neighbors to pay more while, at the same time, introducing more transparency, more fairness, more stability, and more adequacy.

Seattle Times business columnist Jon Talton thinks we should [consider a local income tax](#) in Seattle to prompt a statewide conversation. Not everyone agrees, including Talton's bosses, as this [editorial](#) in yesterday's *Seattle Times* shows.

This is a conversation my colleagues and I will jumpstart this afternoon when the Council will likely adopt a policy resolution setting the framework for establishing a city-based income tax. As with many important matters, Seattle can lead the way toward a more fair, just, and sustainable tax system for the people of Washington. That would be good for everyone.

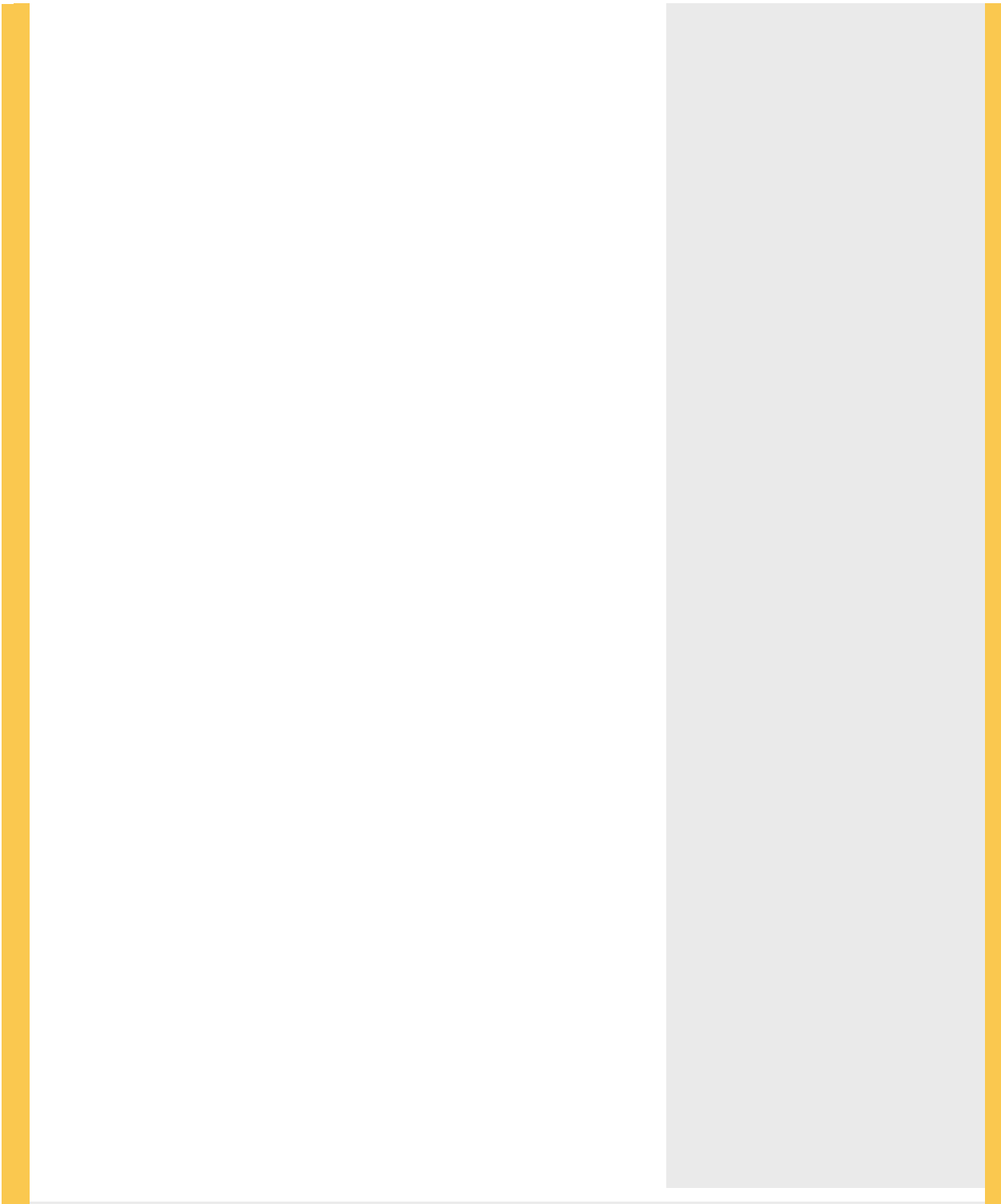
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Burgess', with a stylized, cursive script.

Councilmember Tim Burgess

Email: tim.burgess@seattle.gov

Phone: (206) 684-8806

Online: [Council Website](#)



[Facebook](#)



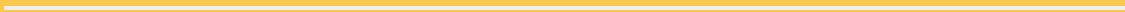
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Seattle, WA 98104

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From: John Burbank
To: [Herbold, Lisa](#)
Cc: [Aldrich, Newell](#)
Subject: FW: Why Art Matters: April 12 @ Youngstown // City Homelessness Levy Not Moving Forward // South Park Business Roundtable // Terminal 5 Update
Date: Friday, April 07, 2017 4:51:40 PM

I support efforts to develop options to find new, less regressive revenue sources to fund essential city services, such as efforts that could prompt a legal challenge with the objective of overturning the statewide prohibition against state and municipal income taxes.

YES!!

From: Councilmember Lisa Herbold [mailto:lisa.herbold@seattle.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 7, 2017 4:48 PM
To: John Burbank <john@eoionline.org>
Subject: Why Art Matters: April 12 @ Youngstown // City Homelessness Levy Not Moving Forward // South Park Business Roundtable // Terminal 5 Update

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Councilmember Lisa Herbold



WHY ART MATTERS: APRIL 12 @
YOUNGSTOWN

CITY HOMELESSNESS LEVY NOT
MOVING FORWARD

SOUTH PARK BUSINESS
ROUNDTABLE

TERMINAL 5 UPDATE

LETTER RE: 35TH AVENUE SW AND
FEDERAL FUNDING PRIORITIES

Why Art Matters: April 12 @ Youngstown

On April 12, KUOW, the Office of Arts and Culture and I will be hosting a forum, [Why Does Art Matter](#), at Youngstown Cultural Center, from 6-8 p.m.

The 2018 federal budget released by Donald Trump proposes elimination of federal support for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

The Office of Arts and Culture (OAC) notes that local groups received \$750,000 from the NEA for more than 23 organizations, and Seattle Public Schools received \$100,000 for The Creative Advantage, a partnership of OAC and the Seattle Foundation.

The Office of Arts and Culture's website has [additional details](#):

A panel moderated by KUOW's **Marcie Sillman** will discuss the role of public investments in the arts and the health of our community, and the current landscape of dedicated arts funding. Confirmed panelists include **Vivian Phillips**, Seattle Arts Commission; **Simon Woods**, Seattle Symphony; and **James Miles**, Executive Director of Arts Corps. Break-out sessions after

the panel will focus on diving more deeply into specific issues and action steps.

Now more than ever, the arts play an important role in defining our identity and leading the way for racial equity. The National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting are vital for our community's well-being. The President's proposed budget would eliminate federal funding for these agencies, and brings up questions about how to continue this important work, as well as the larger question of what the elimination of government-sponsored cultural agencies communicates to Americans and the rest of the world.

A statement I released notes the [numerous local groups](#) that receive funding.

A Full federal budget proposal expected in May.

April 12, 2017, 6-8 p.m. doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Youngstown Cultural Center

4408 Delridge Way SW, Seattle, WA 98106

RSVP [here](#).

City Homelessness Levy Not Moving Forward

On [Monday, 4/3/17](#), the Mayor announced he was withdrawing his support for a citizens' initiative asking Seattle voters to approve a new property tax levy to fund services for unsheltered individuals and families.

Without knowing more about the impact this would have on low and moderate income renters and homeowners, I had concerns about passage of a new [property tax measure](#). Prior to the passage of the Seattle 2016 Housing Levy and Sound Transit 3, we had some good information about how much people in Seattle paid in property taxes as compared to our neighbors in 19 other jurisdictions. At the time, it turned out that, when adjusted for assessed value, our property taxes are lower than 17 other jurisdictions in our region, only Bellevue and Mercer Island had lower property taxes. Without adjusting for assessed value we fell in about the middle of the pack.

Fast forward to 2017 and the arrival of our 2017 property tax bills. According

the [King County Tax Assessor's Office](#):

“Initiatives approved by voters last year will increase King County property taxes in 2017, resulting in additional investments in schools, fire protection and transportation. Most property tax revenue, nearly 52%, will pay for schools... While individual property taxes vary depending upon location, property taxes went up 7.96% percent at the aggregate level. Countywide, property tax billings will be \$4.8 billion in 2017, up from \$4.5 billion from last year. Property taxes are the primary funding source for schools, public safety, parks and libraries.”

I have asked the Tax Assessor's office to provide me with a new, updated comparison of property tax paid in nearby jurisdictions - post passage of the Seattle 2016 Housing Levy and Sound Transit 3. This information should help policymakers and the public make decisions about future property tax measures.

Washington state is one of only seven states without a State income tax. We have the nation's most regressive state and local tax systems. Therefore, we unfortunately [rely on property taxes and sales taxes](#) to fund most local priorities. The poorest 20% of earners pay 16.8% of their income in taxes, compared to 2.4% for the top 1% of earners. In other words, the poorest 20% must work two full months just to pay those taxes; yet the wealthiest 1% pay their years' worth of taxes in only 6 weekdays. Any tax increase falls hardest on those who can least afford it.

In his announcement, the Mayor joined King County Executive Dow Constantine in support of a new regional 2018 effort that would increase the sales tax by 0.1 percent. This countywide sales tax increase would provide \$68 million per year for services focused on getting shelter and permanent housing for people who are currently unsheltered. Though our region is home to the two most wealthy people on the planet, I am hearing from many people who say that they are getting priced out of Seattle. I support efforts to develop options to find new, less regressive revenue sources to fund essential city services, such as efforts that could prompt a legal challenge with the objective of overturning the statewide prohibition against state and municipal income taxes.

South Park Business Roundtable

The [Seattle Metropolitan Chamber](#) of Commerce has started a new effort to focus on advocacy for small neighborhood businesses. To do so they have begun to collaborate with smaller neighborhood chambers. As part of this effort, they have facilitated a series of business roundtable conversations with Councilmembers in their home districts. On Tuesday, I had the pleasure of attending one co-convened by the [West Seattle Chamber](#) and [South Park Business Association](#). This was an opportunity for me to discuss current opportunities and challenges for small businesses as well as emerging issues at City Hall. We discussed issues ranging from concerns about use of a Junction port-a-potty for activities other than intended, to the impacts of some of Seattle labor laws on franchise employers, to the new [fee structure](#) for the business license tax certificate fee that - for the first time - includes a new and higher tier for businesses with \$5 million in revenue from a \$110/year fee paid last year to \$1,000/year beginning this year and \$2,000 in 2019. Creating such a tier for larger business was a priority of mine because it allowed the City to *hold harmless the smallest 85% of Seattle business* – those with \$500,000 or less a year in revenue.

I look forward to continuing this dialogue with the Metropolitan Chamber, South Park, and West Seattle business owners to ensure neighborhood businesses have their voices heard at City Hall.

Terminal 5 Update

Terminal 5 (T5), behind the Chelan Café, has been empty since late 2014. The Port Commission authorized \$4.7 million for modernization of the terminal. You may recall from [one of my blog posts](#) last spring, that I wrote this [letter](#) expressing the importance of implementing a quiet zone, the use of shore power, and the addition of broadband back-up alarms. The letter was my comment responding to the Port's Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS). I

felt it was important to give voice to the impacts of the project on behalf of District 1 constituents who live in the area. Subsequently, the Port released the Final EIS in October which you can read [here](#).

Once that proposal was completed the Port applied for a Shoreline Substantial Development Application with the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection (SDCI). On Monday, SDCI issued an analysis of the application, which can be found [here](#). On page 25 you can review the conditions that will be placed on the Master Use Permit; among them are the use of broadband back-up alarms, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Seattle Department of Transportation to establish a railroad quiet zone, and a MOU with Puget Sound Clear Air Agency to implement an Air Quality Management Program to be consistent with the objectives described in the SEPA analysis.

I will continue to follow and continue to advocate for the use shore power when a ship has the capabilities.

Letter re: 35th Avenue SW and Federal Funding Priorities

I recently sent two letters regarding transportation priorities.

First of all, I sent [a letter to SDOT Director Scott Kubly](#) regarding the condition of 35th Avenue SW, which is one of only a few north/south arterials in West Seattle, and a key link to the West Seattle Bridge. I've received numerous complaints about the condition of the pavement since taking office at the start of 2016, and experienced the poor condition of the road in my travels. Complaints have increased recently.

The letter, linked here, details some of what I've heard from West Seattle residents, and requests, "please consider this letter a request to examine and repair potholes on 35th Avenue SW from Roxbury to Alaska. I'd appreciate an answer to this request as soon as possible." In the longer term, the letter requests SDOT:

- To reconsider their [2016-2024 paving plan](#), which lists 35th from Roxbury to Morgan as a planned paving project for 2023;
- To provide the current pavement condition rating of 35th, according to the standards of SDOT's [Pavement Management webpage](#);
- Provide the estimated cost for the paving work on 35th, and
- Whether they have an update to the 2013 Arterial Pavement Condition map included in the [2015 SDOT Asset Management Status and Condition Report](#) (see Figure VII, page 68 of the report, page 74 of the pdf), which shows a significant portion of 35th as dark red, the worst rating.

I appreciated SDOT's quick response saying that "...later this month our crews will be doing a concerted effort to address potholes caused by the wet and cold winter. 35th Ave SW is on their plan as a route to be targeted."

SDOT also indicated they would be in touch later on my larger request re: modifying the pavement plan, and acknowledged that they have begun looking at the implications, as well as my request to re-evaluate the corridor.

Federal Funding Priorities

Earlier this week I sent [a letter to 7th Congressional Representative Pramila Jayapal](#) listing my priorities for federal infrastructure funding. Representative Jayapal reached out to elected officials in the district regarding their priorities; I appreciate her collaborative approach.

I noted the importance of Seattle receiving the \$55 million federal Fast Lane grant for the [Lander Street overpass project](#), which would take traffic over the railroad tracks. The railroad tracks result in 4.5 hours of road closures daily; this is important to maintaining access to Downtown from West Seattle and South Park.

I also note that with the passage of ST3, light rail is scheduled to arrive to West Seattle in 2030. The timetable could be delayed, or the project endangered, if funding to complete ST2 does not proceed as planned. The letter notes support for full federal funding for the Northgate to Lynnwood line, the Angle Lake-

Federal Way line, and the Tacoma Link extension.

Finally, the letter notes that funding for the Center City Streetcar is not a priority of mine, given the uncertainty of access through Downtown Seattle during the removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, construction of a new Alaskan Way, and potential construction of the Washington State Convention Center expansion, with the potential for severe disruption of access to Downtown from West Seattle and South Park.

The [One Center City](#) group comprised of SDOT, Metro, Sound Transit and others is looking for ways to maintain access to Downtown, and is expected to release a proposal later this month, or next month. The Viaduct is currently scheduled for removal in 2019, with a new Alaskan Way scheduled to open in 2020, which raises the question of how buses that use the Viaduct to access Downtown (e.g. the C Line) will access Downtown.

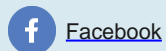


Lisa Herbold

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Phone: (206) 684-8803

Online: [Council Website](#)



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