

### TAKE BACK THE BUDGET

Thank you to everyone who voted, helped, and supported the No City Fee Campaign. People stepped up from all over our community to write letters, go door to door, make phone calls and contribute skills or resources — we could not have prevailed in this election without your activism. Together, we fought City Hall and won.

Like most struggles, it goes on. We can't assume the city's overwhelming loss at the ballot means they finally "get it." It is painfully obvious that city leadership is out of touch with the everyday lives and challenges of its residents. The mayor has already signaled she may repackage the fee and bring it back. The city manager's abbreviated and tightly manipulated budget process is a continuation of the dysfunction that disenfranchises taxpayers, and fosters distrust of city government. And our most needed and popular city services are still on the "chopping block."

It remains to be seen if the Budget Committee and council have the smarts or the spine to take back control of the budget and do what's right for the public they serve.

We strongly encourage you to stay involved and submit comments to the budget process online at [eugene-or.gov/budgetcommittee](http://eugene-or.gov/budgetcommittee) or testify at the next three meetings; May 30, June 4, and June 5. You can also send comments to the city on the most recent tax exemption application for MUPTTE for student housing at [wkly.ws/1hj](http://wkly.ws/1hj).

Information and links to submit comments are at our [VoteNoCityFee.org](http://VoteNoCityFee.org) website, where you can read my comments submitted to the Budget Committee.

Bonny Bettman McCornack  
Eugene

### DELAY CITY HALL

I don't envy the task the Eugene Budget Committee is facing right now to figure out how to balance the budget without adequate funding. I suggest that in order to keep services that are necessary for the livability of our city, do not put any funding into rebuilding City Hall until fiscal times are better. It's my understanding that there is also money that has been put aside to rebuild City Hall, I suggest spending some of that money on critical services for the city.

With the economy in such dismal shape and inadequate funding due to the passage of Measure 5, now is not the time to rebuild City Hall. Hopefully in the future the fiscal picture of our city, our state, our country and the world will improve, but until then it is important to spend funds on services such as CAHOOTS, Buckley House, recreation, the library and other important services and forgo funding less important material items such as a City Hall and tax breaks for developers. We need all the taxes possible, so no more tax breaks!

I work in the Lane County public service building and enjoy having the city offices sharing the building with us. As the county has had to downsize we have room for some of the city staff. Harris Hall has

also worked out to be a good place for City Council meetings. It makes good fiscal sense to share as well as being better for the environment.

Susan Barnhart  
Eugene

### A NEW BEGINNING

The voters across the spectrum, from progressive to conservative, have delivered a resounding "no confidence" vote in the city manager, who through his incompetence and duplicity has once again led the mayor and City Council to a disastrous result.

It's time now for all who care about accountability and transparency in our local government to unite and send another clear message to the Budget Committee and the mayor and council that it's well past time for the city manager and staff to start serving the community, not just a select few who want to profit from city giveaways and preferential treatment.

As a first step, we should make clear to the Budget Committee and City Council that our priorities are emergency shelter for the homeless, fire protection, Sheldon pool, CAHOOTS, neighborhood services and other *community-building* services. Our priorities are not more tax exemptions for student housing developers, "lux" digs for the city manager and his posse, fantasy "visioning" exercises by ivory tower planners or all the other self-aggrandizing pursuits of the city manager and mayor.

If you supported Measure 20-211

because you cared about our fellow citizens and quality of life, do not despair. This could be a long-needed new beginning, if we unite in our efforts to have an accountable city organization that is genuinely responsive to our community's priorities.

Paul Conte  
Eugene

### LOVE IN MY HEART

I wish to thank all those who spent much time and energy arranging for His Holiness the Dalai Lama's recent visit to our community. I was blessed to have been able to share this time with the Dalai Lama and about 12,000 other brothers and sisters.

If I had to describe the gathering in one word I would say "lovely." And I would add about his holiness: humble, kind, calm, love and peace along with a wonderful sense of humor! Lasting effects seem to be a smile coming across my face, calmness in my body and peace and love in my heart — better than any of the high blood pressure medicines I have tried, and without all those nasty side effects listed in TV commercials!

Once again, thank you all. Love,  
Tim Boyden  
Eugene

### BENEFITS OF 'YES' VOTE

The passage of the Lane County levy was not only good news for public safety but also for clean drinking water, wild salmon and remaining ancient forests of western Oregon. The vote signals that

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Arriving By Bike bicycle showroom is located at  
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