

Thank you for the progress you have made in housing our homeless and a special thanks to Commissioner Saltzman for the work he has done in this area.

The time seems right, though, for tax reform that will generate more revenue. We are facing budget cuts, possible limited deductibility of the property tax, and more needs. Our reliance on the property tax—which increases housing costs and is already sky-high—may no longer be possible.

2 new revenue sources should be considered. First is the long-overdue 2-3% tax on served food and drink, a tiny tax with a huge return, already used at 5% in Ashland and Yachats, and considered nearly a luxury tax, since many Portlanders cannot afford to eat in restaurants or to patronize food carts. Portland's tourists and visitors can help pay this tax. They pay more tax nearly everywhere else.

The second change would be to scrap the business income tax for a gross receipts (or gross profits) tax. Revenue could easily double without the problems of watching the tax expensed away, of non-compliance, and of high administrative expense. Speaking of which, the ill-fated Arts Tax could be eliminated with new revenue sources.

Some Portlanders reject these taxes because they are “regressive” sales taxes. However, the progressive income tax is the only tax that is not regressive. Any tax with a fixed rate or amount is “regressive”, including our federal, state, and local gas taxes, the property tax, the Arts Tax, and many more. The same people who object on the grounds of regressiveness also envy the social services provided in other advanced nations by a very large sales tax—the value-added tax. Obviously, the kindest tax system in the world cannot provide opportunity without revenue. In 2008 a European study published in *The International Institute for Labor Studies* found a three-fold increase in incomes at the low end in nations that provide “social transfers” as opposed to those nations that rely on tax policy as an anti-poverty measure.

I live in the pearl District, where dogs live inside and people live outside. In this upside-down world, Portland, be bold. You are the default government when all else fails.

Parsons, Susan

Nov 29

From: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: FW: public comment

From: Roberta Palmer [mailto:roberta.palmer35@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 30, 2017 10:17 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony <CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Re: public comment

Yes. I will be at city hall Nov. 29, 0930. Communication is "Tax Reform", and I will bring 6 copies.

Roberta Palmer
[503-774-4667](tel:503-774-4667)

On Thu, Sep 28, 2017 at 9:47 AM, Council Clerk – Testimony <CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

Hello Roberta,

We have an opening Nov 29. Will that date work for you?

Susan Parsons

Assistant Council Clerk

City of Portland

susan.parsons@portlandoregon.gov

[503.823.4085](tel:503.823.4085)

From: Muir, David
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 1:23 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony <CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: FW: public comment

From: Roberta Palmer [mailto:roberta.palmer35@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 12:47 PM
To: City Info <cityinfo@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: public comment

Greetings;

I would like to join the list for public comment session before city council. Comment on tax reform, poverty. Available anytime except Oct. 15 - 20.

Roberta Palmer

[503-774-4667](tel:503-774-4667)

Request of Roberta Palmer to address Council regarding tax reform
(Communication)

NOV 29 2017

As Amended

Filed NOV 20 2017

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		