

Public Forum Voice Mail Log

Voice Message Number	Date	Time	Last Name	First Name	Summary of Message
1	5/21/2020	2:23PM	Not Provided	Not Provided	Caller stated that it is an inappropriate time to be moving forward with a hearing on pay raises. There are more important things to be working on right now. Said that no one should be getting a pay raise and that people should be volunteering to reduce their salaries. Caller stated that Trump and Josh Freed, if elected, will reduce/not accept the salary. The caller stated that if pay raises occur they will protest and bring legal action.
2	5/21/2020	4:30PM	Zalavin	Jerry	Caller asked that the Commission make this decision next year, as we have so many people unemployed and on food stamps. Stated belief that it is not the year for raises to be given.
3	5/21/2020	4:43PM	McFarland	Kelly Lynn	Caller said that there are people losing their jobs and savings, and the City Council does not need a raise in the middle of this. Stated that if Council thinks they deserve a raise, they are not actually serving the people.
4	5/21/2020	4:44PM	McFarland	Brian	Caller expressed displeasure that the City Council would ask for a raise during this pandemic and said that the City Council has no concerns for their citizens.
5	5/21/2020	4:45PM	Lucas	Dave	Caller said that it's a bad choice and a bad time to be looking at raises when the City is facing significant cut backs, people are losing their jobs or are out of work. Caller stated belief that the optics and functions are not good at this time and recommended that City Council should not be receiving pay raises at this time.
6	5/21/2020	4:47PM	Not Provided	Not Provided	Caller said they do not think City Council pay raises should happen. This person stated that the football coach at WSU and the Athletic Director have given themselves pay reductions.
7	5/21/2020	4:57PM	Peterson	Terry	Caller said that this is not the appropriate time to be making salary decisions because people don't have jobs. This is a time when people are taking pay cuts, not getting raises. Caller said he is against pay raises.
8	5/21/2020	5:13PM	Not Provided	Not Provided	Caller stated opposition to Mayor Woodward getting a pay raise while Washington has a record unemployment level.

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9	5/22/2020	7:55AM	Not Provided	Not Provided	Called stated opposition to any City employee getting a pay raise and expressed disbelief that a leader would be asking for a pay raise.
10	5/22/2020	8:48AM	Mariad	Jackie	Caller said no to pay raises and stated that the citizens have lost their jobs, can't get unemployment and can't do anything. Caller said that now is not the right time to be asking for pay raises.
11	5/22/2020	8:48AM	Chastain	Darren	Caller said he does not think that pay raises are a good idea at this time and believes that City Council is not doing a good job representing the people
12	5/22/2020	9:18AM	Neff	Russell	Caller would like the City Council to recognize Scope Creep. This is when a person begins taking on tasks that are not theirs to take on, which builds on their work load and causes them to want more money. Caller said maybe it's time to get back to the basics.
13	5/22/2020	9:58AM	Howler	Justin	Caller said no raises when so many people are out of work and no raises when City Council won't fight to get the people back to work
14	5/22/2020	11:10AM	Not Provided	Not Provided	Caller believes this is not the time for City Council to be asking for a raise. This person believes that City Council Members are not being good servants of the people.
15	5/22/2020	11:32AM	Maycomber	Rabel	Caller said City Council does not deserve a raise. Everything is in economic turmoil and raises should not be allowed. Caller stated the City Council does not do their jobs appropriately, they just do what they feel is needed. Caller asked why City Council deserves a raise for things they don't even care about.
16	5/21/2020	8:19PM	Clausen	Cal	Caller thanked the Commission for allowing public testimony and offered 1) City Council is a part-time position and if it gets paid at full-time position rate, this will become an issue of how to establish another pay level when/if the Council position becomes full-time. 2) evaluate comparable cities, look at what the pay is for every 100,000 residents. 3) the citizens should vote on whether or not the Council position become full-time.
17	5/21/2020	8:28PM	Not Provided	Not Provided	Caller said they are not happy to hear that City Council is asking for pay raises when unemployment has increased. Caller said that she is on the frontlines in the hospitals and is not getting a raise, and believes City Council Members in quarantine should not get a raise.

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18	5/22/2020	12:36PM	McCoy	Michael	Caller stated disagreement with City Officials getting raises. Unemployment is at an all-time high. Caller said he does not feel that City Officials have handled this situation well and that they are not doing their jobs and standing up for the citizens. Caller said that officials should not be asking for pay raises
19	5/22/2020	12:32PM	Not Provided	Not Provided	Caller stated that now is not the right time to be making pay decisions and that citizens already pay enough in taxes and the money is being mismanaged. Caller stated belief that City Council should be happy for what they have, when many people are going without.
20	5/22/2020	1:14PM	Not Provided	Not Provided	Caller stated belief that there is no reason that City Council Members should be getting a raise when people are losing their jobs and businesses.
21	5/22/2020	2:07PM	Smith	Michael	Caller said he is very much against pay raises. It sends the wrong message when people are out there hurting.
22	5/22/2020	2:19PM	Not Provided	Not Provided	Caller stated that they would be sick to their stomach if a raise is given. Caller states that we have people starving, not able to get jobs, trying to get through this madness and this is no time for irresponsible governing.
23	5/22/2020	2:43PM	Rollette	Sarah	Caller said she lives in Spokane and that City Council should not give themselves a pay raise at this time. Caller stated that the COVID situation should be stabilized and see how much our City has had to spend on it before any raises are given.
24	5/22/2020	2:50PM	Not Provided	Not Provided	Caller said they are a Spokane citizen and is hoping and watching to ensure that raises do not happen, especially while the rest of us are going without any kind of income.
25	5/22/2020	2:54PM	Storhaug	Yvonne	Caller stated that she can't believe anyone is thinking about raises and that the Commission might want to call all of the restaurants that are permanently closing to see what kind of raises they're getting. Caller stated that a pay reduction should be considered.
26	5/22/2020	3:05PM	Not Provided	Not Provided	Caller stated they are a taxpayer and that no way should the City Council or any other elected official should be getting a raise at this time when so many citizens are out of work and have had to close their businesses. This is not the time.

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27	5/22/2020	3:28PM	Not Provided	Darren	Caller said he is a concerned citizen and that this does not seem an appropriate choice to make during this period of extreme upheaval and general discouragement of the people amidst the unemployment, lost income. Caller expressed belief that it is absurd to hear that the Council believes they deserve a raise. No one deserves a raise except maybe the healthcare workers. The City Council does not deserve a raise and if a raise occurs, he hopes there will be marches to protest.
28	5/22/2020	3:53PM	Smith	Jaylen	Caller said she is a citizen of Spokane county and that it is completely inappropriate and unfathomable that this would be up for discussion. Caller said it is disgraceful and unconscionable that this is even a topic they are wasting time discussing. Caller said she believes opening up Spokane is a great idea.
29	5/23/2020	6:34PM	Not Provided	Not Provided	Caller shared concern over proposed pay raises when there are people unemployed because of government shut downs. Caller said they do not believe the County or the City Council needs raises at this time.

From: Erin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 6:26 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: City council raises

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

This city council is so tone deaf and self absorbed. Their city is going to heck with businesses closed, some never to re open, homeless taking over, and are any of them actually fighting to re open the city. They do not need raises! Last year, Kate Burke actually spent time wanting to update the spokane flag!? I never even knew and none of my friends/coworkers/family heard spokane had its own flag. We are all good with our American flag. This woman spent her time on taxpayer money on a flag which on my list of 100 priorities, wouldn't even make the list. I beyond frustrated with this city council last 10 yrs.

This is not a full time job for them and most in the past actually had other jobs, this was part time. Now they want to get paid way toooo much for doing way toooo little. Going to meetings, give me a break.

I apologize for the frustrated/angry tone of this email but this is beyond ridiculous, coming from a tax paying citizen who works their rear off with a 53 hr 5 day work week.
They need a reality check!

Erin Blessing
Sent from my iPhone

From: Karen Byrd <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Addendum to Salary Review Testimony

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Dear Ms. Steinolfson,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide telephonic testimony to the Salary Review Commission regarding City Council Members' salaries.

Please pass along to the Salary Review Commission the following addendum to my previous testimony:

I was encouraged to run for City Council around 2011 after having served as both Chair of the Logan Neighborhood Council and as President of the Plan Commission. I believe that I would have been an exceptionally-qualified candidate for the position and I know that I would have loved the opportunity to run and potentially serve my community as a Council Member.

But there was no way I could've made the position work with the pay. As a nurse at Sacred Heart, I would have had to take more than a 50% pay cut had I earned the position. There certainly no way I could send my two approaching-college-aged children through college with the salary then. That is still the case today.

I would like to emphasize that community members like myself, who have been willing to volunteer their time at the Neighborhood Council level and on Boards and Commissions like the Plan Commission, Salary Review Commission, and others, are the exact type of people who should be running for City Council.

While citizen volunteers are immensely valuable to the public process, I have seen up close how much of a greater work load, responsibility, and expertise is required of a Council Member. The pay is not commensurate with that fact.

In regard to those calling for a vote of the people on this matter, the citizens voted in 2000 to amend the Charter and move beyond a Council-Manager form of government. The citizens of Spokane opted for a Strong Council / Strong Mayor form of government instead. The Council is a separate and equally-important branch of government. It is critical that they be compensated as such. That responsibility falls to you.

Ensuring that Council Member pay is commensurate with the time and expertise it takes to perform the job well is the best way to attract community-minded, thoughtful, and engaged citizens to run for the office.

Thank you for your time and for your service.

Sincerely,

Karen Byrd
District 1 Resident

From: Laura C <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 1:07 AM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Vote NO for a pay raise for city council members.

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

We cannot afford to give anyone a raise at this time. We are in no position to be putting money out in pay raises or any other unnecessary expenses.

Thank you
Laura Creel

From: Joanna Cable [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 11:02 AM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Cc: Kevin Cable
Subject: Please do not grant the city council a raise

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Dear Sir/Madame,

My family and I are very grateful to live in Spokane, and we appreciate the hands and hearts that serve it. **A raise in pay for what used to be a volunteer position however, is hard to stomach.** I am certain everyone is working hard, but let us profit from the spoils of living in a beautiful corner of the world where we can work productively and freely invest in our neighbors so we—and they—can thrive in heart, soul, and mind. I did not think that money was a reason people wanted to serve on the City Council.

Thank you for your consideration-

Joanna Cable

Sent from my iPhone

From: Lynn Fox [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 12:28 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Pay raises

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

At a time in our country and county when we are all sacrificing and trying to keep our businesses afloat, I disagree that any council members would have a pay increase.

Thank you.

Lynn Fox

From: Ken Garceau [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 8:14 AM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: RE: City Council Raises

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Absolutely NOT!

Ken Garceau

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Ken Garceau

[REDACTED]

From: Natalie GAUVIN [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 3:07 PM
To: City Council Members and Staff; Piccolo, Mike; Dunivant, Timothy; Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Today's Hearing

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

It is shocking, disturbing, disgusting and egregious that while our first, second, and fourth amendment rights are being stripped from us for a mortality rate that no one agrees on, that is constantly changing, that is by many views under one percent, and that while my business and many others are going under and that while my kids' public education has nearly come to a screeching halt, and that while teachers were let go just several months ago (I could go on) that you all have the audacity to even talk about a raise!

I was encouraged to run for local office in this election and supported by three different elected officials. If I were sitting on your council or an assistant or involved in any way, I would have had the intelligence, the nerve and the reasoning mind enough to say there is no way we should have this hearing at this time. And if you all insisted on having a hearing about receiving a raise, I would have walked out on all of you and played no part therein.

The only cause to rescind this message and these thoughts would be that as a result of today's meeting, all city council including the mayor decides on at least a fifty percent cut in salary for the remainder of the year. Remember, Trump donates his salary and Joshua Freed promises to if elected Governor. That is not a statement of endorsement. That is a simple statement of fact....if you public officials can still discern such things as facts, given today's undereducated masses.

Natalie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 11:46 AM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: City Council raises

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

To Whom It May Concern:

We do not believe there should be any raises given until they open Spokane area and end the lockdowns. There are too many people who are hurting financially from this ongoing debacle.

Respectfully,
Glen & Karen Gephart

From: Morna Gilbert [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Pay raises? Really?

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

I would say your timing is severely off for the proposal to give city council members a pay raise.

I am not convinced they have earned it but more importantly there are so many of us Spokane citizens who are in dire need right now due to this stupid virus fiasco.

Don and Morna Gilbert
Citizens of Spokane for over 35 years

From: Anthony Gill [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 6:10 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Comment on City Council raises

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Hello, Meghann —

I hope you're doing well and staying safe. I wanted to offer a quick comment on the proposal to raise City Council's salaries.

I strongly, strongly support the measure.

I firmly believe that serving the City as a Councilmember should be considered a full-time job, and that our current pay rates do not adequately compensate them for the work they do for the community. Many do significant work outside of their typical "office hours" and Council, commission, and board meetings, and that should be recognized as a net benefit to the city and its citizens.

Additionally, City Council's salaries are inequitable when considered in contrast with the mayor's salary of \$168,000, which is more than Seattle's mayor. I recognize that they mayor has generally more responsibilities and roles than the City Council, but that position does not have four times the responsibilities. This disparity erodes the separation of powers between the executive and the legislative branches of our government, and gives the mayor disproportionate power.

Lastly, the City Council should be an accessible means of public service for working people, and the current salary makes that impossible. Young people, black, brown, and indigenous people, as well as working-class people of all races and ethnicities, are unlikely to pursue public service if it pays less than their current positions. These perspectives and opinions are invaluable in local government, and the composition of our current Council demonstrates that we aren't hearing enough from them. Increasing their pay will both improve the composition of the Council and the quality of service that we receive from them.

Thank you for all of your work sifting through these comments!

Thanks,

Anthony Gill
[REDACTED]

From: Dan Glover [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Salary increase

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

To all concerned,

It is not necessary to compensate city council members. It is not a burden to represent the citizens of our city, but rather an honor. Any member who doesn't feel that way should reconsider their motive for being there. Is it for power? For profit? As a stepping stone to higher positions? Or, in my humble opinion, for the true meaning of the creation of a body of government, to serve whom they represent.

Dan Glover

Spokane, Washington

Sent from my iPad

<https://www.facebook.com/emily.strode>

From: Bryan Grayhek [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 1:21 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Spokane City Council Pay Raise

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Absolutely not! Now is not the time to be considering these measures. Completely inappropriate while citizens all over the city are struggling to get by. The council should be grateful that they were not impacted by the economic destruction that has plagued the city for the past 10 weeks. Many people have lost their jobs permanently as their employers have been forced to close the doors on their businesses.

-Bryan Grayhek

From: Harrington, Dennis [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 5:55 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Pay Increase

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

There is NO WAY the City Council can justify a pay raise at this time! Folks are out of work, businesses closed or bankrupt and they want a raise? NO WAY!!

Dennis P. Harrington I MERCK I
Washington/Idaho/Montana
[REDACTED]

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From: Derrick Haxton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 5:26 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Comment on city counsel raise proposal

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Hello, I would like to comment on the city counsel's proposed raise. How in the world can our local government even think about giving themselves a raise when a huge number of their constituents are unemployed or losing their businesses? Last I checked, you work for the taxpayers. What makes you think you're "above" us taxpayers? Unless you open Spokane's economy today, you shouldn't even be entertaining a raise! If this passes, you will be voted out of office, and should be too. Shame on you!

Derrick Haxton
Marketing Director
Critical Asset Recovery
[REDACTED]

From: J. J. H. [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 7:04 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: No raises for City Council

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Dear Spokane City Council,
I find it appalling that you are asking for raises while so many people are out of work and struggling.
Please restrain yourselves from taking advantage of people being distracted by this crisis.
Respect the poor business owners who are seeing their livelihoods taken away by COVID.
Sincerely,
Jennifer Hicks

From: Tim Hilliard [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 9:05 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: City Council Pay
Attachments: City Council Pay .xlsx

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Meghann,

My name is Tim Hilliard, I live at [REDACTED] on the South Hill. I serve on the Rockwood Neighborhood Council Executive Board and have been a Spokane resident for 11 years. I've resided in several areas of town to include; Indian Canyon, Browns Addition and downtown, prior to buying our current home in 2014. I'm writing to express concern about possible pay increases being given to the Spokane City Council.

I understand they recently voted to consider their roles as full time jobs and have hired staff accordingly. The council members believe they deserve additional pay to their current salary earned; however, given the fact that Spokane has a population of less than 250,000 residents, they are already earning more than other council members in cities comparable in size. I'd like you to have you look at the ten closest sized cites in terms of population. (see attached)

Spokane is ranked the 100th most populous city in the US. When comparing city council salaries, I compared the five cities above and below Spokane ranked by population. Spokane's City Council members already make the most when compared to the average council member salary of \$25,989.90 per year. That's 80% higher than the average of the ten other cities! Additionally, I decided to compare Spokane to the other cities by crime rate per 1,000 residents. Our crime rate is also the highest, coming in at 78.39 incidents per thousand residents. This is 95% higher than the average of our ten sister cities! Property crime accounts for most of the issue as we have 108% over the average rate of the other cities, but when it comes to violent crime we are still 25% above their averages in that statistic as well.

I can't in good conscience as a concerned citizen, father, or taxpayer sit by and watch our elected leaders get rewarded for what I believe to be sub par performance when it comes to crime. High crime has multiple negative effects on our city. It leads to higher taxes due to more police required, higher rents and home prices due to higher taxes, higher levels of homelessness due to rising housing costs, and higher insurance rates due to the increased risk to property, among many other things.

In sum, I'd like to formally voice my disapproval of the notion that the Spokane City Council deserves a raise.

Sincerely,
Tim Hilliard
[REDACTED]

Population Rank in US	City	State	City Council Member Salary	Violent Crime Rate per 1000 Residents	Property Crime Rate per 1000 Residents	Total Crime Rate per 1000 Residents
95	Hialeah	FL	\$12,017.00	2.28	22.62	24.9
96	Fremont	CA	\$25,416.00	2.32	20.96	23.28
97	Boise	ID	\$26,430.00	2.78	20.22	23
98	Richmond	VA	\$26,205.00	5.34	41.31	46.65
99	Baton Rouge	LA	\$38,573.00	9.44	56.12	65.56
100	Spokane	WA	\$46,700.00	7.95	70.44	78.39
101	Des Moines	IA	\$26,000.00	4.88	29.33	34.21
102	Tacoma San	WA	\$45,000.00	8.64	52.53	61.17
103	Bernardino	CA	\$14,000.00	15.36	43.49	58.85
104	Modesto	CA	\$24,288.00	8.86	36.72	45.58
105	Fontana	CA	\$21,060.00	3.46	15.42	18.88

From: Karen Ingalls [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 6:39 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Salary Review for City Council

Importance: High

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

I believe it would be an in appropriate time for the City Council to give themselves a pay raise while much of the community are suffering from job loss and loss of income. We are all impacted by restrictions resulting from the lockdowns and for the City Council to entertain a pay increase while others are losing their life savings and relying on food banks to feed their families would be a complete insult and lack of compassion for the citizens.

Karen Ingalls

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Paul Kropp [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 9:25 AM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Salary Review Testimony – Council Member Salary
Attachments: 2016 Stum SRC Testimony.pdf; 2016 Kropp SRC Testimony.pdf

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the matter before you today: the duty of the Commission to serve the residents and businesses of the City of Spokane in order to

... base salaries of the mayor, council president and council members on realistic standards so that the elected officials may be paid according to the duties of their offices and so that citizens of the highest quality may be attracted to public service. SMC 02.05.040 at A.

There are two documents from the Commission's 2016 proceedings that I wish to submit for the 2020 record, one of which is my own and both of which are attached to this email.

First, the "remarks" submitted to the Commission by Blake Stum in 2016 are no less apt and pertinent today as they were four years ago. A key quote:

... forces and institutions outside of the control of council have created an environment where it is not only expected that council members show that level of dedication, but it is necessary that they do so in order to be effective at their jobs, and help our city compete in this new world ...

The City Council's board, commissions, and committees assignment list in your record is no joke; it's daunting and not padded with extracurricular activities by any means, all 50 lines worth.

Second, I have attached the letter I submitted in 2016 for the Commission's public hearing. I believe my arguments then are no less applicable today.

As to my speculation about job responsibility equivalency for our local elected officials, I used the aggregate salaries of the Spokane County's commissioners as a rough and ready measure of the aggregate salary for the city council because the aggregate policy and oversight responsibilities of the two groups are reasonably similar. The computation then resulted in a city council member salary amount of 46,500. Ultimately the 2016 recommendation was 45,100. Today the numbers are 2020 commissioner pay = $117,400 \times 3 = 352,200$. City council share = $352,200 / 6 = 58,700$.

Finally, my thanks to the Commission members and staff for their diligence in this important assignment

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Paul Kropp, [REDACTED], Spokane, WA 99223

From: Paul Kropp [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 09:25
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Salary Review Testimony – Council Member Salary
Attachments: 2016 Stum SRC Testimony.pdf, 2016 Kropp SRC Testimony.pdf

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

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Finally, my thanks to the Commission members and staff for their diligence in this important assignment

--

Paul Kropp, [REDACTED]

Salary Review Commission Remarks by Blaine Stum

Greetings Commissioners,

I submit these comments today out of my volition. I have worked as a Legislative Assistant to Councilmembers for over three years now, and have a background in political science. I have seen firsthand the amount of time and effort it takes to be an effective Councilmember. I firmly believe that council is a full-time job, and that dynamics and forces beyond their control have made it this way.

My previous boss, former Councilmember Jon Snyder, was an example of what it takes to be a responsive, well-rounded Councilmember. In 2013, while running for re-election, he made the difficult decision to sell his self-published magazine "Out There Monthly." When people would ask why, the response was simple: he didn't have enough time to work on the magazine and be a Councilmember.

He served on a dozen boards, commission and committees; and was engaged in numerous other initiatives and projects beyond those. Some may say he "chose" to put that much effort into his job; and there is a very small degree of truth to that. The reality is it was a choice made for him: forces and institutions outside of the control of council have created an environment where it is not only expected that councilmembers show that level of dedication, but it is necessary that they do so in order to be effective at their jobs, and help our city compete in this new world

A Gridlocked Congress and State Legislature: What It Means for Local Government

There are several dynamics that drive this, but perhaps none more so than the gridlock of government at a State and Federal level. Polarization in our state and federal legislatures has created an environment where local governments shoulder more and more duties and responsibilities, because state legislatures and Congress are simply not as productive as they once were. In the federal legislature, Brookings Institute "Vital Statistics on Congress" data shows just how far legislative productivity has sunk despite the myriad challenges we face:¹

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The same dynamic can unfortunately be seen on a State level in Washington:

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- The number of bills passed is the lowest it has been since the early 1980's.³
- The number of special sessions has increased due to the inability of state legislators to compromise on pressing issues.⁴

While it may be nice to believe that this polarization will decrease in the future, we have little reason to believe it actually will. If anything, current polarization is a return to historical norms pre-WW2.⁵

At the same time this slump in legislative productivity has reached new lows, resources for the enforcement and education of existing laws has been squeezed to its breaking point, necessitating a larger role for local government in issues such as wage theft, affordable housing, mental health services and criminal justice to name a few.

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This means local governments must step up to the plate and fill gaps left in the wake of all of this. I am far from the only person who holds this view. As Bruce Katz, the Vice President of the Brookings Institute and Director of their Metropolitan Policy Program noted in an interview about the consequences of gridlock at the federal level with the Washington Post in fall of last year, "There's a new math, frankly, whether it's transportation, housing or economic development. The new math is that this is going to be locally owned, locally designed and locally financed."⁷

This is precisely what we are witnessing now:

- In 2000, there were 13 local transit ballot initiatives across the country. In 2015 there were 38.⁸
- Up until 1999, around 100 cities and counties had inclusionary zoning programs to create more affordable housing. The most recent data suggest that number has grown to nearly 500 cities and counties.⁹
- The number of cities who have signed on the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement has gone from 141 in 2005 to 1,060.¹⁰
- The number of sick leave laws passed by local and state jurisdictions has gone from 1 in 2006 to 29.¹¹
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This increase responsibility, whether desired or not, creates expectations of what local governments should be focusing on. A survey by Ipsos Social Research Institute in 2010 found that the top two local priority areas for US citizens are job prospects, and wage levels and cost of living.¹³ This confirms other research that has found that citizen perceptions of local government performance are driven by more than just filling potholes.¹⁴

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Checks and Balances against a Strong Mayor

While some of the duties and responsibilities of local governance fall under the purview of the Mayor in our system, most of the issues mentioned in this testimony cannot be tackled effectively without legislation from council; and as council represents the constituents in their district, their work as legislators/policy makers should be based on the desires and expectations of those citizens, not the Mayor or staff. This is where council acts as a check and balance against the Mayor in our "strong mayor" form of government. The importance of this cannot be understated. Our entire political system is based on the idea that unchecked power is not only undesirable, but dangerous.

The increasing role of council then is not only a function of gridlock and lack of state and federal resources; it is borne of a political culture and expectation for a more responsive, efficient and professional government. We are far from the only city to experience this. Recent research on Mayor-Council cities has shown that this form of government has evolved and adapted all across the country, incorporating many of the key features of council-manager governments as a way to increase their efficiency and responsiveness.¹⁵

I hope these comments are useful in framing the issue of why council is a full-time job and should be treated as such in terms of pay. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,



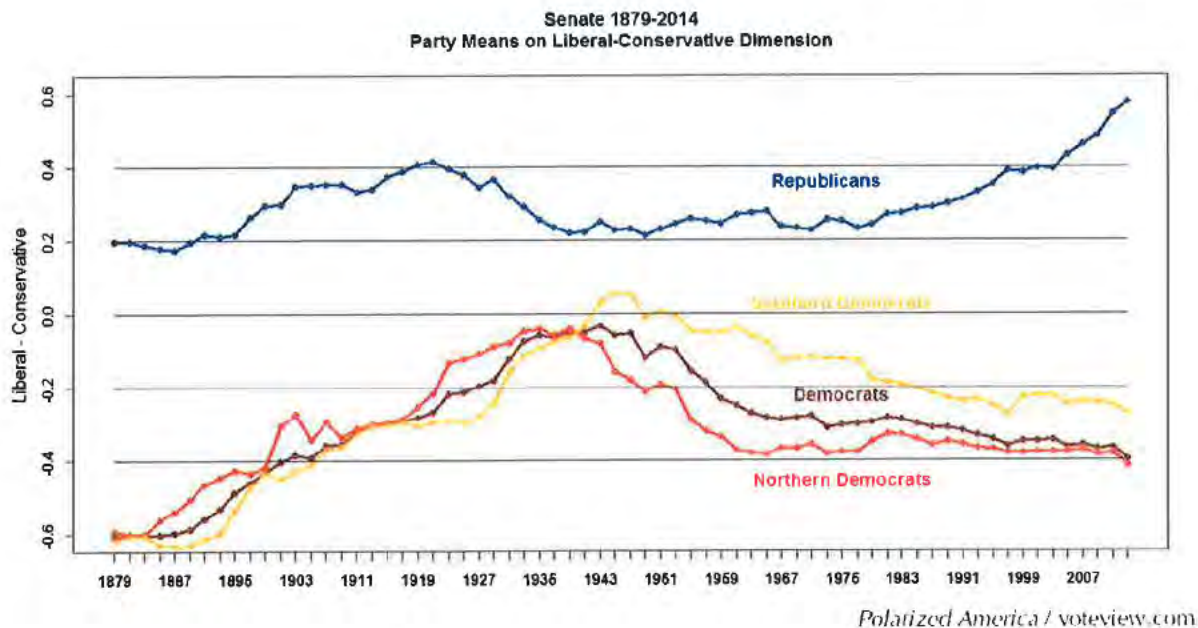
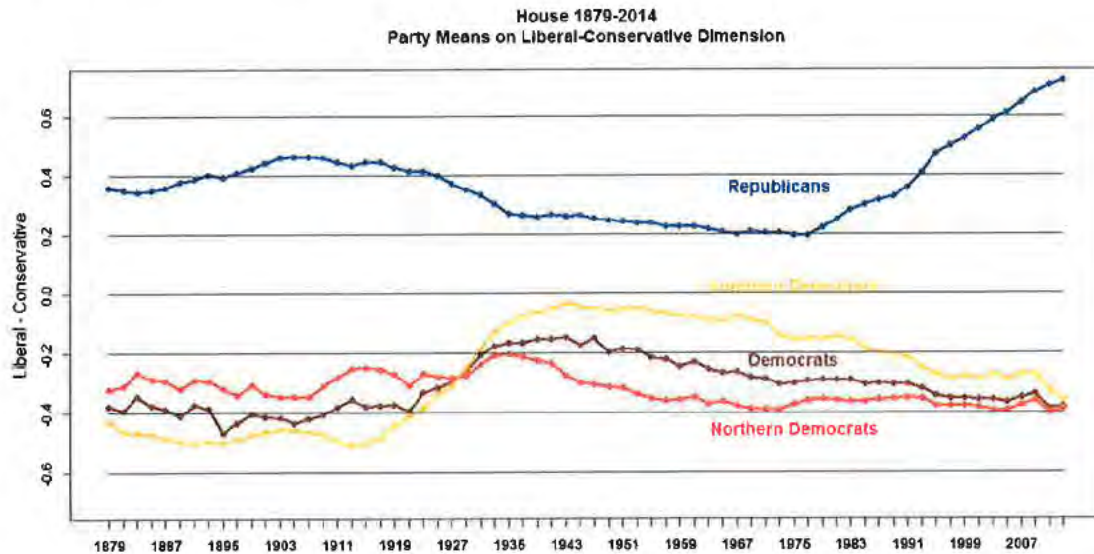
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Historical Polarization in Congress

The charts below, pulled from research by Hahrie Han and David Brady, shows that current levels of polarization in Congress represent a return to historical norms that disrupted by party realignment and crises in the early-to-mid 20th Century.¹⁶



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Party realignment describes the phenomenon where constituencies who were once supporters of one party gradually become supporters of another.

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To: City of Spokane Salary Review Commission

From: Paul Kropp

Spokane WA 99223

Re: City council member salary standards

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in today's public forum.

This is to offer an admonishment to the commission, and one observation.

The admonishment is to take all requisite care to arrive at your decision for this two-year period. The commission should obey both the standard set by Spokane's municipal code for salary levels and for providing the written basis for its decision for a salary schedule

The city's municipal code at SMC 02.05 sets both the standard for salary levels and for an accounting for the basis of a decision.

Firstly, the standard for salary levels is at SMC 02.05. It is a dual standard: "paid according to the duties of their office," and "[paid] so that citizens of the highest quality may be attracted to public service."

The duties of Spokane city council members are unquestionably full time, so the salary commission has no choice but to recognize the controlling standard is a level of compensation that can attract "citizens of the highest quality ... to public service." (SMC 02.05.040, at A.)

Secondly, SMC 02.05.050 at G.1 requires the salary commission to document – as in justify in detail and provide the documentary basis for – its decisions.

Thus, my admonition. The salary commission must publicly document and justify, in the case of city council members, a reasoned decision such that "citizens of the highest quality may be attracted to public service."

My observation is about a possible comparable for aggregate city council salaries.

As there are few direct comparables for city council positions in the so-called "strong mayor" form of municipal governance, perhaps a local analogue could be useful.

In my opinion the duties and responsibilities of Spokane city council members and Spokane County commissioners are, in aggregate, roughly equivalent. And especially with regard to "external" duties.

So, posit the Spokane County commissioners are paid \$93,000 per year. Then distribute the aggregate amount of commissioner pay (\$279,000) among the six members of the Spokane city council. That would equal \$46,500 for each.

I would be very interested to read a salary commission finding that attempted to rationalize a Spokane city council member salary at any less than \$46,500 per year. Certainly more is justified.

Kropp: Council Pres. = Mayor

Salary Review Commission Remarks by Blaine Stum

Greetings Commissioners,

I submit these comments today out of my volition. I have worked as a Legislative Assistant to Councilmembers for over three years now, and have a background in political science. I have seen firsthand the amount of time and effort it takes to be an effective Councilmember. I firmly believe that council is a full-time job, and that dynamics and forces beyond their control have made it this way.

My previous boss, former Councilmember Jon Snyder, was an example of what it takes to be a responsive, well-rounded Councilmember. In 2013, while running for re-election, he made the difficult decision to sell his self-published magazine "Out There Monthly." When people would ask why, the response was simple: he didn't have enough time to work on the magazine and be a Councilmember.

He served on a dozen boards, commission and committees; and was engaged in numerous other initiatives and projects beyond those. Some may say he "chose" to put that much effort into his job; and there is a very small degree of truth to that. The reality is it was a choice made for him: forces and institutions outside of the control of council have created an environment where it is not only expected that councilmembers show that level of dedication, but it is necessary that they do so in order to be effective at their jobs, and help our city compete in this new world

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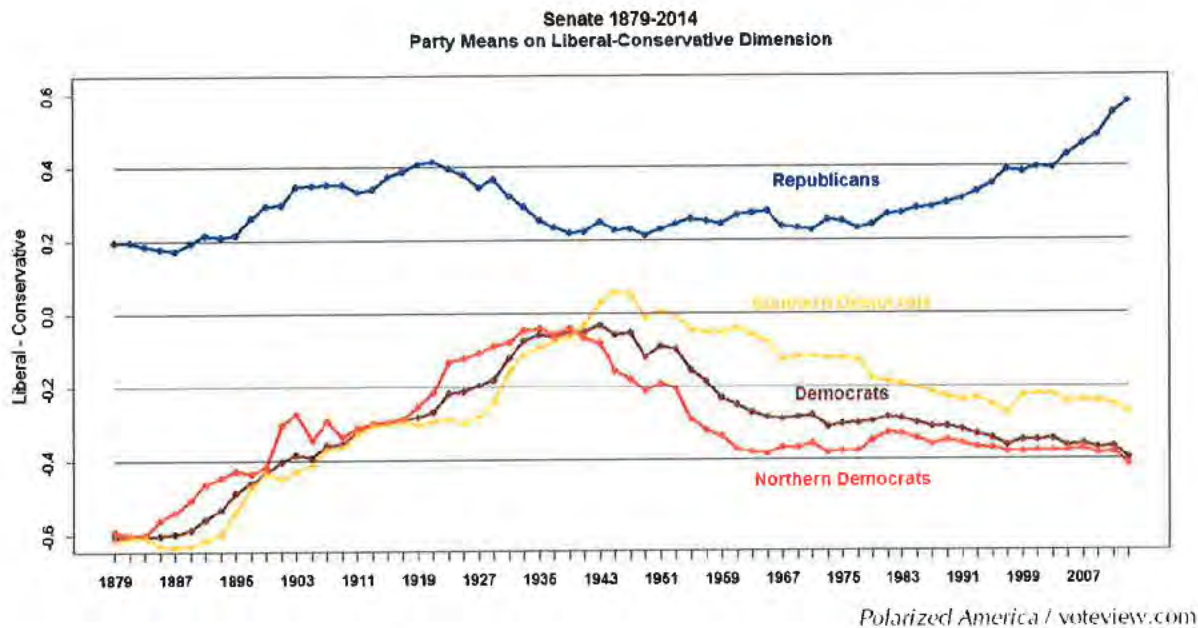
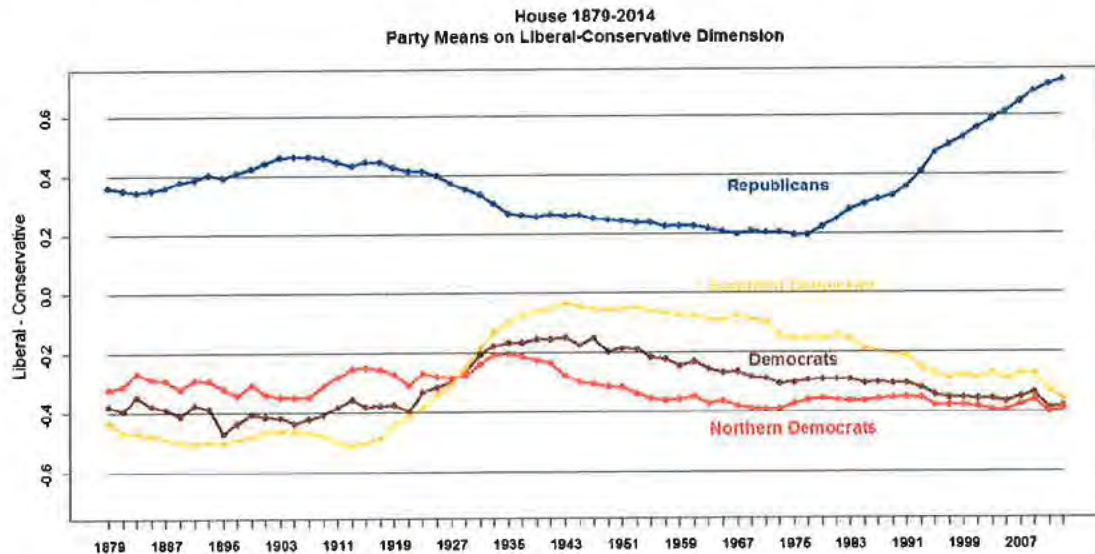
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Kropp: Council Pres. $\hat{=}$ Mayor

From: sean lumsden [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 5:27 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Council Comment

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Thank you for the opportunity.

I am a small business owner, pastor and flaming moderate politically. I have voted both R and D for decades.

I do not support the raise for this council.

2 weeks ago, our council voted to walk in lock-step with the cool-kids in Olympia and the Big Man on Campus Gov. Inslee.

When all the other regional political leaders voted to re-open the economy and the data AGAIN told us that Spokane's crisis was well contained, they announced 'olly olly oxen free' and decided to endorse re-opening.

That was a great example of Followership.

Leaders deserve raises. But when finances are tight, and they vote AGAINST the one thing that could help the economy so that their Democratic friends can think they are fighting the Republicans, I think that is embarrassing.

Thank you for your time.

Pr. Sean Lumsden
Pastor: Living Hope Spokane
Owner: No Off Switch Creative Services
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Earl Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 12:54 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

To Whom it may concern,

At this present time I am appalled that the City Council members and President would even consider a raise...

When they ran for election they knew the salaries

They are elected as part-time and they have assistance

As part time elected electorates you are public servants

If President Beggs spends 60 hours at council business a week he needs to take some management classes.....

Unemployment is rampant right now and you want a raise....

I am not in favor of this at all....

Earl Moore

From: Becky Myers [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 12:21 AM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Pay raise

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Dear Council,

I am a law abiding, tax paying, small business owner, wife and mother of the city of Spokane.
I work hard and have all my life. I have lost most of my business due to this Pandemic.
You have the audacity to want a pay raise when your fellow constituents are struggling to pay bills and live.
Our unemployment is at a all time high!
This tells me you are greedy and ungrateful for what you have.
You should be ashamed for even considering this!
Just know that if this goes through. We will vote you out! People see what you do.
I pray you do the right thing not for yourselves but for the people of Spokane.

Becky

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: Rachel Nicholson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 3:46 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Comment regarding city council pay increase

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

I do not think it is the right time for the city council to raise their pay (and neither the Mayor, she makes plenty). Our economy has just taken a huge hit, many people are without any jobs at all. Employers have hiring freezes and budget cuts. Surely the city will have budget cuts. How is it fair, let alone responsible, to increase the council's pay right now?

Also, I think there are other places that the city budget needs to be directed to right now, as we recover from the covid shutdown.

Furthermore, I don't feel that my two reps in district 3 really earn any more than they get right now. They do not listen to their constituents and work for them (as opposed to Mumm's aide that I spoke with, he actually took the time for me). They only listen to the people they already agree with and only do work toward their own agenda. Mumm actually said that she was going to do something about my issue, but it's been like 5 years, and nothing has changed. Stratton just ignored me.

Thank you,
Rachel Nicholson
District 3

From: Susan Senske O'Neill [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 5:42 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Pay raise

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

No, I do not think a pay raise is in order considering the budget problems due to Covid-19.

Many have lost all their savings, their jobs, and more. It seems almost unseemly to be asking for a raise in salary at this time.

Respectfully,
Susan Senske O'Neill

From: Rozier, Bill [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 8:21 AM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: City Counsel Pay

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Hello,

I want to express my concern about increasing pay in a time where we are all taking pay cuts. I do not think it is responsible to increase the Counsel's pay and quite frankly I cannot even believe it is being considered. This City, County State, Country and World are all suffering economically.

Best Regards

Bill Rozier

[REDACTED]
Spokane WA 99208

From: Kerri Schoolcraft [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 6:08 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Pay Raises for City Council

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Good Afternoon

I am writing to share my opinion on the raises suggested for the City Council. At a time when people are losing their jobs, when small businesses are struggling to survive and when the city is facing possible budget reductions I think it is in poor taste for the council to raise their salaries. In fact, they should be setting an example and voluntarily cutting their salaries. I hope that the commission will do proper due diligence to see the raises are not warranted at this time.

Kerri Schoolcraft
Sent from my iPhone

From: Sandy Sheehan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 1:31 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: Spokane City Council Raises - Deny Please

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Hello,

Please do not give the Spokane city council a raise.

Taxes are going up and services are going down. It isn't always safe to go to the local park or shopping centers. I see this as a failure of the city's leadership.

Businesses are closing under there watch right now. I am sure more will close even though we are in phase two.

I only get a raise if my job performance exceeds expectations. They have not met expectations, let alone exceed them. I manage to live on a salary less than what they make now.

Please do not give them a pay raise.

Thank you,
Sandy Sheehan
Property Owner, Avid Voter

From: Dawn Sugasa [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 4:58 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: SRC Comment

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Hi Meghann –

Thanks again for your help yesterday. It's been a zoo of a week. I just realized that I failed to submit my own comment regarding raises for the City Council. I've included that below.

Also, I see there are some vacancies on the SRC. Do you manages all of the boards and commissions? If yes, could you direct me to where I can find a list of all of the vacancies?

Thanks again! Have a great weekend.

Dawn Sugasa
[REDACTED]

City Council positions were deemed part time positions via a vote of the citizens of Spokane. If a council member decides to join numerous boards and take on more public roles, that's at the discretion of the member. Having part time City Council members, by design, is important to our local system of government as it ensures that Spokane is represented by people who have additional jobs and roles in the community. We have a part time state legislature for that very reason. We do not need a fulltime council. Nor can we afford it. If the Council thinks such a pay increase is warranted, they should at least have to convince the taxpayers via a public vote.

From: Davida [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 6:51 PM
To: Steinolfson, Meghann
Subject: City Council raise

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Verify Sender]

Dear Council,

I am strongly AGAINST pay raises for you at this time. To you even consider a raise during these difficult times show how out of touch you are with the citizens. There are people losing their lively hoods, having difficulty feeding their families, and worse. Should you grant ?yourselves? pay raises would be a slap in the face to the people you serve!!

Davida Zinkgraf