



SALEM CITY CLUB

Celebrating 41 years of exceptional civic discourse

“SLICING AND DICING LOCAL BUDGETS”

'Tis the season for Oregon governments to slice and dice their budget requests----from the Legislature down to every unit of local government.

We will hear about this year's budget problems and alternatives from the City of Salem, Marion County, and the Salem-Keizer Transit District at our meeting **Friday noon, May 8th**.

All of our **local governments** have some things in common. All are required by Oregon law to appoint a citizen budget committee, hold hearings, and adopt a balanced budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1st. All are impacted by Oregon law that restricts increases in property assessed values to 3% per year. And all are somewhat at the mercy of what the Oregon Legislature decides to do.

Salem City Manager Linda Norris has recommended a city general fund budget (for police, fire, library, parks etc.) of \$98.7 million, a reduction from this year, and one that will require employee layoffs. She will explain why revenue will be down, the need to reduce present city services, and the alternatives facing the budget committee and council.

Marion County's initial budget planning has assumed a general fund shortfall of about \$3 million. But with more than \$80 million of the county's budget coming from the state this year, legislative budget decisions could change that considerably. The county will be deep in all-day budget hearings on our meeting day, as its process continues.

Salem-Keizer Transit District has been struggling with the need to cut back services and budget, following voter rejection last year of a proposed property tax levy. The elimination of Saturday service has been part of that discussion, as well as the possible reduction of routes.

Salem City Manager Linda Norris and **Salem-Keizer Transit General Manager Allan Pollock** will be our speakers May 8th. We are hopeful that Marion County Chief Administrative Officer John Lattimer or a substitute also can participate, although the county's all-day budget hearings have prevented a firm commitment.

Norris was Eugene's assistant city manager before joining the City of Salem in 2004, after previous work in city government in Colorado. She was promoted to Interim City Manager in 2007 and City Manager in 2008, where she works for the Salem City Council and leads more than 1,200 city employees.

Pollock became General Manager of Salem-Keizer Transit in 2007. A retired U.S. Army major, Pollock previously served in the Los Angeles area as Director of Transportation at Montebello and as Manager of Field Operations for the Orange County Transportation Authority.

We should learn a lot about what it takes to squeeze down those local budgets, about what alternatives elected officials have, and about what services we can expect.

Please join us on May 8th. For lunch reservations email salemcityclub@aol.com or call 503.589.2975 before noon Tuesday, May 5, 2009. The community is welcomed and encouraged to join us - there is no charge to attend the program at noon. Parking is free. Doors open at 11:30 AM. For more information on this program, and directions to the event, please go to www.salemcityclub.com.

When: Friday, May 8, 2009; 11:40 lunch | Noon Program
Where: Mission Mill Museum-Dye House, 1313 Mill St. SE, Salem, OR 97301
Contact: Bill Mainwaring, 503.589.2975
Email: salemcityclub@aol.com
Web Site: www.salemcityclub.com