

From: Katie Wilson
To: [Herbold, Lisa](#)
Cc: [John Burbank](#); [Aldrich, Newell](#)
Subject: Re: following up from last Thursday's meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 3:14:09 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Lisa,

Here's the status of the Town Halls:

[April 14th - District 6](#)

[April 20th - District 2](#)

May 4th - District 1 - just confirmed today that we can hold this at South Seattle College, assuming this date still works for you

May 12th - District 7 - probably at the SEIU 775 building, and it looks like we will be inviting Burgess and Gonzalez to this one too

Still scheduling D5 and D3.

Katie

Katie Wilson
General Secretary
Transit Riders Union
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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.

On Wed, Apr 5, 2017 at 2:51 PM, Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov> wrote:

If you think it's helpful, I would like to participate in your meeting with Ben and Chris. Can you also let me know the schedule of Town Hall meetings? Thank you.

From: John Burbank [mailto:john@eoionline.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 11:11 AM
To: Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; O'Brien, Mike <Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov>
Cc: Marwaha, Jasmine <Jasmine.Marwaha@seattle.gov>; Aldrich, Newell <Newell.Aldrich2@seattle.gov>; Knoll Lowney (knoll@igc.org) <knoll@igc.org>; Claire Tonry (clairet@igc.org) <clairet@igc.org>; Michael Tamayo (mtamayo@washingtonea.org) <mtamayo@washingtonea.org>; Katie Wilson <katie@transitriders.org>; Makini Howell

(makini@plumbistro.com) <makini@plumbistro.com>

Subject: RE: following up from last Thursday's meeting

Just a note to note that we have completed

- a public memo to back up this approach.
- met with Pete Holmes.
- This informal talk with Knoll and Greg may have happened yesterday.
- I reached out to Ben Noble and Chris Gregorich
- I spoke with the Mayor yesterday and am setting up a meeting with Robert Feldstein

Let's accelerate!

John

From: John Burbank

Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 7:57 PM

To: Lisa Herbold (lisa.herbold@seattle.gov) <lisa.herbold@seattle.gov>; Mike O'Brien (mike.obrien@seattle.gov) <mike.obrien@seattle.gov>

Cc: 'jasmine.marwaha@seattle.gov' <jasmine.marwaha@seattle.gov>; Aldrich, Newell <Newell.Aldrich2@seattle.gov>; Knoll Lowney (knoll@igc.org) <knoll@igc.org>; Claire Tonry (clairet@igc.org) <clairet@igc.org>; Michael Tamayo (mtamayo@washingtonea.org) <mtamayo@washingtonea.org>; 'Katie Wilson' <katie@transitriders.org>

Subject: following up from last Thursday's meeting

Friends,

Sorry this has taken so long. We have been pushing ahead on multiple fronts. I think we agreed as follows:

We want to move this progressive tax ordinance through city council.

We need some clarification as to the legal pathway, especially for the iteration which is a tax on adjusted gross income.

- Knoll and Claire will develop a public memo to back up this approach.
- Lisa has already arranged for John Burbank and either Claire or Knoll to meet with Pete Holmes. Scheduling is underway.
- Knoll will have another informal talk with Greg (and maybe Paul) at Pacifica. And then we can see if Pacifica could help with the city attorney's office.
- We will continue to reach out to Ben Noble and Chris Gregorich
- We would like to get a direct meeting with the Mayor ASAP.

The question of the RCW prohibition on localities establishing a tax on net income came up. Here is some concise discussion from our legal work in Olympia, along with the RCW citation:

Question: Is this tax valid in light of the RCW prohibition of net income taxes being imposed by cities? "RCW 36.65.030 Tax on net income prohibited. A county, city, or city-county shall not levy a tax on net income."[\[1\]](#)

a. Our attorneys have argued that this RCW is unconstitutional as it is embedded in a chapter on city-county governments, and not germane to that chapter.

b. Regardless of this, Opportunity is not a tax on net income. Net income is a measure of business and corporate income, after expenses. Adjusted gross income for individual taxpayers does not take account of and nor does it subtract expenses necessary for living, such as food, clothing, transportation, health care premiums, etc. As such, it is not close to a measurement of net income.

c. Further, by establishing a threshold for taxation only in excess of \$200,000, Opportunity leaves the vast majority of income completely untaxed. It leaves all income of 97% of the taxpayers in Olympia untaxed. This is not a tax on net income.

d. Also note that OfO is not anything like the 1932 or 1935 income tax measures. The 1932 initiative, which passed with 70% of the vote, levied taxes, after assorted deductions, as follows:[\[2\]](#)

First \$1,000

1%

Second \$1,000	1.25%
Third \$1,000	1.5%
Fourth \$1,000	2%
Fifth \$1,000	2.5%
Sixth \$1,000	3%
Seventh \$1,000	3.5%
Eighth \$1,000	4%
Ninth \$1,000	4.5%
Tenth \$1,000	5%
Eleventh \$1,000	5.5%
Twelfth \$1,000	6%
In excess of \$12,000	7%

The 1935 law levied taxes as follows:[\[3\]](#)

First \$4,000 of net income:	3%
Net income in excess of \$4,000	4%

- We also discussed other attorneys who might be helpful with these arguments.

Hope I got everything straight!

Thanks so much. Onward. Viva the resistance!

John

John R. Burbank

Executive Director

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Building an economy that works - for everyone.



[1] <http://app.leg.wa.gov/rew/default.aspx?cite=36.65.030>

[2] Initiative 69, 1932, State of Washington

[3] Session Laws, 1935, Chapter 138 (HB 513), beginning on page 660.