

ATTN: Mayor Joe Fontana; Councilors Bud Polhill, Joe Swan, Stephen Orser, Denise Brown, Paul Van MeerBergen, Dale Henderson, Sandy White

As a citizen of London, Ontario, I hereby formally request that City Council abandon the present pursuit of maintaining a zero percent tax increase.

In light of our community’s current economic situation, I am concerned that the service cuts that are required to freeze taxes (as currently manifested by the proposed budget) may have longterm negative consequences for our city, both socially and economically. We should maintain a municipal revenue stream that is able to adequately and effectively address the diverse and growing needs of our city.

Please make the needs of your constituents the primary focus of the budget. Responsiveness to the social and economic conditions of your constituents should be a greater priority than an ideology, rhetoric, or campaign promise about a 0% tax increase. Cutting back funding for affordable housing and disability programs does not represent a future that is in our collective best interest as a city. These needs will only tend to grow the longer they go underfunded.

Forcing a future council to spike taxes down the road is economically irresponsible. It does not provide any competitive advantage now, nor does it position us well down the road. The competitive adaptability of London depends on a growing civic infrastructure of services, not freezing them in time. The yearly compound effect of the tax freeze will result in a cumulative revenue loss worth millions of dollars: socially, structurally, and economically, the tax freeze is the perfect recipe for many future “sinkhole” scenarios.

I am concerned that drawing from reserve funds to meet budget targets will produce longterm fiscal ramifications that are not in the best interest of the city. Please do not mortgage the future to pay for the present. Weakening our future reserves in order to achieve such an arbitrary and short-term fiscal goal is a profoundly unsustainable way to govern a city.

I formally appeal that you abandon the 0% tax agenda and increase my taxes.

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| Full Name | |
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