



NEWS RELEASE

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Community Invited to Help Shape City Budget Solutions

Five Interactive Community Workshops Will Be Held In High Schools Throughout Eugene

The City of Eugene's budget still faces a significant gap and the citizen members of Eugene's Budget Committee want residents' help in shaping a solution. Five community workshops are occurring in the high schools throughout Eugene between October 15 -30. At the workshops citizen volunteer members of the Budget Committee along with City Councilors from each area will meet with community members to discuss the situation and seek input on solutions.

All of the workshops will be from 6-8 p.m. The dates and locations are:

Tuesday, October 15	South Eugene High School
Wednesday, October 23	Sheldon High School
Thursday, October 24	North Eugene High School
Tuesday, October 29	Willamette High School
Wednesday, October 30	Churchill High School

Budget Committee Chairperson Laura Illig said, "The Budget Committee faces some very tough decisions about how to fund services and we are seeking the community's help. We hope people will join us to meet and engage with their neighbors and help find ways to address this situation that threatens City services."

The City of Eugene is committed to access for all participants. All events are held in wheelchair accessible rooms. Assistive listening devices (if available), sign or Spanish-language interpretation, note taking and materials in alternative formats can be provided with one week advance notice prior to the meeting. Childcare with refreshments can also be provided upon request. To arrange for these services, contact staff at 541-682-5670.

Background

For the last five years, largely as a result of the recession and low property tax revenues, the City of Eugene has faced deficits in its General Fund, the "discretionary" fund that pays for police, fire, parks, library and other basic City services. Over four years, the City decreased its expenses by \$24 million and eliminated 100 positions in order to live within its means.

Last year, the City faced another \$5.3 million gap in the General Fund. A proposed City service fee failed, and after hearing from hundreds of community members who advocated for maintaining services, the Budget Committee and City Council decided to use reserve funds, essentially the City's savings account, to fill the gap for one year only. They wanted to allow time for a more in-depth review of the budget and for discussion with the community.

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