From: ian magruder
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: [MAYBE SPAM] RE: Affordable Housing Trust Fund tax bond
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:35:52 PM

Dear City Council members,

I am writing you to tell you I am opposed to taxing the homeowners of Missoula any further for the proposed Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Our property taxes are nearly doubled from when we bought our house six years ago and all of our Missoula neighbors have experienced a similar increase. Personally, we have a child to support. We have ever increasing medical expenses to cover like everyone else in this city and country. Our paychecks are not rising exponentially like our property tax. I know a lot of homeowners in town who are on the edge of being unable to afford their existing payments. The city can't keep squeezing the working, homeowning public to pay for every possible wish. I am not writing to comment that low income housing is not a pressing need. My comment applies not just to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund but to council's general city budgeting.

Missoula needs to look to other sources of funds for low income housing other than its overtaxed citizens. Look to federal grants. Look to private grants. Do whatever you can to improve zoning for high density, lower cost housing. Approve developments that meet these needs faster and more efficiently than you are now. Have the city's consultants prepare master plans that are geared more towards ensuring housing for Missoula's low income and working class and less towards fancy amenities. Missoula's housing affordability problem is nothing new and somehow we have been moving farther and farther away from fixing that.

City government is currently pursuing a path which only considers those either unable to afford a home or those with sufficient means and desire to pay for high-end housing and high property tax. You are currently missing the needs of the large middle of your populace who are too busy working and raising families to lobby your council.

Sincerely,

Ian Magruder, resident of Ward 1