



City of Independence

Budget Committee
Wednesday, May 6, 2026 @ 6:30 PM
Civic Center - Event Center

(see agenda footer for meeting attendance information)

1. **Call to Order**
Continued from Budget Meeting held on April 29, 2026
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Public Hearing/ Public Comment**
Public hearing to solicit comments on the proposed budget and use of State Revenue Sharing funds for Fiscal Year 2026-2027
 - 3.1. Public Comment: Nicholas Carroll
 - 3.2. Public Comment: Kathleen Dinges Rice
4. **Budget Presentations**
 - 4.1. 2026-2027: Amanda Carey, Finance Director/Budget Officer
 - Committee questions / discussion
5. **Action**
 - 5.1. Approval of Budget

- OR -
 - 5.2. Continue to Date/Time Certain: May 13, 2026, 6:30 PM
6. **Adjourn/Recess**
Note: An Independence URA Budget Committee meeting follows immediately.

Meeting Attendance Information:

The Budget Committee will hold this meeting in-person in City Hall Council Chambers, via video conference (Zoom) or by phone. Meetings are also live-streamed on the City's YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofIndependenceOR>.

- To attend in person, the City Hall address is 555 S. Main St.
- For Zoom login visit:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87017363955?pwd=HZ4IFoWbFFseUCthOYKzM9NXbBOaek.1>
- To participate in the meeting **by phone, dial US: +1-253-215-8782** and enter **Webinar ID: 870 1736 3955** and **Passcode: 455926**

Written comments are also welcome and may be delivered to City Hall or emailed to CouncilComments@ci.independence.or.us no later than 4:00 pm the day of the meeting.

Remote Public Comment: Members of the public may provide testimony remotely during the meeting. To participate remotely, individuals must notify the City Recorder, Myra Russell, via Page 1 of 2 email (mrussell@ci.independence.or.us) or phone (503-838-1174) no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day prior to the meeting. Instructions for accessing the meeting via Zoom will be provided upon request..

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired, or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities, should be made at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to Myra Russell, City Recorder, 503-838-1212/TTY: 800-735-2900.

Dear Budget Committee,

I am writing to voice my support for funding the Library, Museum, and Parks. Having lived in Independence for around 4 years I can say that these services are cornerstones of our community.

Having grown up in a lower income family I know first-hand how critical access to a good library is. We live in a time where media literacy is in active decline, this poses many dangers. We are potentially facing a world where the generation that will care for us in our old age may be less literate than the one before it. Library access is a proven solution to this problem. In addition to these vital functions our library also provides children and adults alike a safe place to engage with their curiosity. Nurturing this curiosity allows us all to learn about ourselves and about the world.

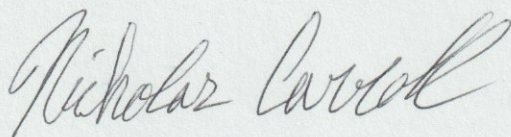
Our museum is an invaluable tool in a world filled with special interest groups which actively seek to sanitize and rewrite our history. Having an independent highly localized repository of our history is powerful check against these forces. We cannot have honest conversations about our future without having difficult and honest conversations about our past.

Our parks provide sources of free recreation that otherwise would not exist in our community. In addition to the recreation they provide parks also beautify our neighborhoods and significantly increase property values. Living near downtown on Main Street I have the pleasure of being a short walk from Riverview Park. Losing any more of our parks would truly destroy the fabric of our community.

In closing I urge the Budget Committee to fund this core services through any means necessary.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Carroll

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicholas Carroll". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

From: kathleen dingesrice

Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 10:58 AM

To: Myra Russell <mrussell@ci.independence.or.us>

Subject: Notes in support of cultural resources in Independence including Independence Heritage Museum and Library

Hi Myra,

My name is Kathleen Dinges Rice, address [REDACTED], Independence OR 97351. I am writing this email as I cannot be at the Budget meeting tonight, and would like to add my notes to the record.

I, as well as my family that includes my husband, 18 year old, and 12 year old boys, are in full support of Independence finding ways to fund the cultural and community resources in our community. We are willing to pay an extra fee. Please note that Portland has an Arts Education and Access tax at \$35 that supports the arts for all school youth, for example. Places like the Library and Heritage Museum (where I give my time as a board member), the Riverfront Park and events that Independence has, and so on, are WHY we are so vibrant. These entities bring people from the surrounding region which in turn, supports our restaurants and establishments, providing a place that people want to live and work. So many people travel from Salem to visit us! Most of our community, 78%, are under the age of 50. The median age is 29-31 years old. New businesses run by very young people are moving to Independence (Rough Cut Vintage). I believe much of the reason people are attracted to Independence is because of its vibrance and the cultural range it offers.

Additionally, investing resources in the community at the front end, helps reduce the need for additional police at the back end, as shown in places like Seattle and Denver and countless others. Given that we have a large population of young people, this approach is valuable as Independence continues to grow. Many older folks appreciate these same kinds of events and ways to engage with the community.

Please continue to invest in our people, and our future to create a thriving community.

Thank you,

Kathy