

# Holyoke City Council resolution supports ‘millionaire’s tax’

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By **Dennis Hohenberger** | Special to The Republican

HOLYOKE — In a voice vote Tuesday, the City Council approved a nonbinding resolution supporting the “fair share amendment,” also known as the “millionaire’s tax.”

Currently, the state imposes a flat 5% income tax for all income classes. If approved by voters in November, the constitutional amendment would tack on 4% in taxes to incomes exceeding \$1 million annually. Revenues derived from the proposed tax would fund education and transportation needs.

Councilor at Large Tessa Murphy-Romboletti, who chairs the Development and Governmental and Relations Committee, said the amendment drew a “lively discussion” in committee.

“I believe that this is an opportunity for us to access revenue without putting the burden on taxpayers and small businesses. A majority of them are not the folks impacted by this,” she said. “For the council to send a message is really important.”

Councilor at Large Jose Maldonado Velez, the order’s author, said the City Council continues to hold hearings on the budget for the coming fiscal year, which contains cuts. But, he said, whether someone is a millionaire or average or low-income earner, everyone should invest in transportation and education.

“This is an investment in the people of the commonwealth,” Maldonado Velez said. “This is about a message that Holyoke, specifically, we need more revenue.”

According to Maldonado Velez, the resolution states that Holyoke’s roads and 11 city-owned bridges need costly repairs.

Ward 5 Councilor Linda Vacon understood “sending a message” with the resolution, but voters on past referendums supported cutting income taxes. The call for lower taxes “fell on deaf ears” with the Legislature, she said.