

**Mayor's column for  
The Enterprise  
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An opportunity will present itself to you at the end of this month that I hope you will take advantage of. The Edmonds City Council voted to ask Edmonds voters to increase their property taxes in order to maintain our present service levels. The Council's plan is to place a levy on the November ballot. A levy failure would mean millions of dollars in budget cuts, resulting in a loss of service to Edmonds residents.

The Council made this decision last fall at the end of budget deliberations after hearing a loud and clear message from citizens. The citizens implored the Council not to take the budget cuts that were proposed in the 2009-10 budget. Bowing to the desires of the public, the Council instead offered up the property tax levy. They reaffirmed that decision at the City Council retreat a month ago.

Now they are asking for a citizens' group to volunteer for four meetings on consecutive Mondays at the end of March and beginning of April to help them with this decision. How much should the levy be, what will it be used for, should there even be a levy or should we take a few million dollars in cuts? The meetings will begin with a course in "City 101." City staff will be available to talk about their mission and answer questions.

This is a pivotal time in the history of Edmonds. Never have the stakes been so high and the challenges so difficult. I know many of you are feeling the pain of our economic troubles. And I know you also care about our city. Writing letters to the editor isn't going to solve our crisis. But your involvement can. You can make a difference! And we need to right the ship for the future of this town we all love and cherish.

Please go to the City's website at [www.ci.edmonds.wa.us](http://www.ci.edmonds.wa.us) and follow the link on the front page for more information on the Citizens Levy Review Committee, and help shape the future of our town. Thank you!