

Some comments by City Council candidate Rob Johnson on the Oct. 2, 2015 edition of the Seattle Channel program Inside/Out in debate with Michael Maddux, moderated by Brian Callahan. Viewable at <http://www.seattlechannel.org/CityInsideOut/episodes?videoid=x58992>.

24:13 Brian Callahan: “Rob, I’m going to ask you the question here: millionaire’s tax, capital gains tax, you’ve heard some of these ideas. Do you support those ideas?”

24:19 Rob Johnson: “Yeah, I do. And I would say that one of the other differentiators here is that like Michael I’m interested in tax reform. And one of the ways I’ve been talking about tax reform is through property taxes. You know, right now we pay property taxes based on the value of the land and the value of your building on top of that land. There’s models that have been shown to be very successful in other parts of the country that would allow you to charge somebody based on a value of their assessed property so if you’re in a neighborhood that is assessed to be able to go to three stories and you’re in a single family home, we’re going to charge you as though you’re a two story building. That’s going to encourage more turnover in places where we want to see higher density. It would help flatten out some of the construction booms and busts that we see. When I talk to economists, they also believe that it would really help us, you know, just generally think through our growth strategies by encouraging people to buy those places and then turn them over more quickly. So, you know, when I think about the tax structure that we’ve got, it certainly isn’t perfect. I’m a proponent of tax reform. I think that there’s a lot of options on the table, but, you know, as somebody who has worked a lot in Olympia, I think it requires somebody with really good relationships in Olympia to get a lot of these things done. And I think that I’m the person who could really go down to Olympia and help twist some arms like I have done on transportation issues and other issues.”

25:36 Brian Callahan: “OK, thank you very much. It’s time for us to wrap up our show. Great conversation, guys., I really appreciate it. Time for that last statement here. If you would, Rob, I’ll let you start.”