

Submitter: Elice K.
On Behalf Of: Oregon Citizens
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB1599

2/7/26

Response [Again] on the Multi-billion ODOT Transportation Tax 26-302 / SB1599

Déjà Vu. Here we go again. We have already let our so-called representatives know that we don't want the Multi-billion ODOT Transportation Tax, but they've come up with a new tactic. A backroom deal with a new way to deny us the fair vote we deserve and should legally be ours on the Multi-billion ODOT Transportation Tax, per Oregon law and the ballot date on the 250,000 signed petitions.

At the direction of Gov Kotek, Dem Senator Rob Wagoner and Dem Rep Julie Fahey, are bringing the manipulation, aka legislation, behind the scenes to interfere with the vote on the new ODOT Transportation Tax.

The May election has a much lower turnout than the November election. Everyone knows that. This is one of the two reasons Dems, lead by Gov Kotek, are manipulating this election by moving the vote to May. They want a lower turnout. It favors them. They have used this ploy before. But tax measures are supposed to be voted on in the November election in Oregon precisely because it gets a larger citizen turnout. You know, 'democracy,' the term Dems scream about but, as this maneuver shows, is the last thing they want. If they were in support of democracy we wouldn't be required to tell them NO again.

They want a light vote because the gargantuan government contingent in Oregon voting for higher taxes is what they do. But referendums must be on the November ballot.

But Oregon Dem Gov Kotek and the Dem 1-party rule decided we should not get a vote, so all last year we told them no, we don't want or need a Multi-billion dollar increase in ODOT taxes, there were meetings, sent them letters like this, plus 250,000 citizens signed petitions to get a vote. And now this back room deal, to again, refuse to listen to the people and deny us the fair vote we deserve, a vote in November 2026, like it says in Oregon law and on over 250,000 signed petitions we had to get signed for the 'Queen Kotek to even grant us a vote.'

For example: Oregon May and November elections for 2024: [SOS.oregon.gov; you can see many years history]

2024 - Primary Election

May

Voter Turnout - 35.8%

General Election

November Voter Turnout - 75.40%

As we can see for 2024 the voter turnout in November is more than double. And Oregon law is clear, 'Referendums must be in November.' So what are Dems trying to pull?

With the size of Oregon government payrolls this May election with a lower voter turnout gives the massive government contingent voting block a clear advantage. We already know that the only growth industry in Oregon is Big Government. We've seen all the businesses moving out.

What we are seeing is the caliber of representation we have in Oregon State government. They do not represent working Oregonians. They have another agenda entirely. We have trusted the wrong people for way too many decades. And they are destroying Oregon.

Billions in new taxes is the worst thing that can happen to our economy. But Gov Kotek seems to ignore that reality. Oregon already has a toxic business reputation. Look at how much the US Bank Tower [Big Pink] sold for in downtown Portland: That should be a Red Flag to leaders. 2015: Sold for \$373 Million; 2025 Sold for \$45 Million. But not a word from Dem leaders.

We need a leader who is not ignoring reality, but facing it head on. Government spending has doubled in only 10 years. Oregon is in serious trouble and no amount of these manipulations by Dems are going to bury the second reason Gov Kotek wants this on the May ballot; she is running for governor on the November 2026 ballot. I know you Dems are back slapping each other, so glad you found this maneuver but if you think you are going to garner respect for this manipulation, you won't. As far as we are concerned you are breaking the law and deliberately going against citizens 250,000 ballots signed for a fair vote.