



# OREGON SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Legislature Cannot Repeal Referred Transportation Tax According to Attorney General Legal Opinion

**SALEM, Ore.** – A [1935 Oregon Attorney General opinion](#) confirms that once Oregonians invoke their constitutional right to referendum, the Legislature has no authority to repeal the measure before voters have their say. That precedent directly contradicts **Governor Tina Kotek's** recent call for lawmakers to repeal her signature transportation tax package after more than 250,000 Oregonians signed a petition demanding a vote.

"This attorney general opinion makes the law unmistakably clear. Once the people invoke the referendum, the Legislature has no authority to repeal it out from under them," said **Senate Republican Leader Bruce Starr (R-Dundee)**, one of the chief petitioners on the successful referendum. "The Constitution requires an election. There is no statutory workaround, no procedural loophole, and no legal basis to keep this measure off the ballot. Governor Kotek's sudden call for repeal is an attempt to censor the people's vote, plain and simple, and it doesn't change the law. Oregonians demanded a vote, and the law guarantees they will get one."

"The Oregon Constitution is clear that the power of referendum is reserved to the people, and once a measure qualifies through signature verification, the Secretary of State has a duty to place it before voters," said **House Republican Leader Lucetta Elmer (R-McMinnville)**. "It is concerning that it took [investigative reporting](#) to bring attention to decisions that appear to deviate from established state policy and practice. Oregonians followed the constitutional process to request a vote, and they deserve transparency, adherence to the law, and leaders who respect the role of voters in deciding major tax policy."

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