

**Senator Alan Olsen
Senate District 20**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Alan Olsen Votes Against Bill To Limit Special Elections

Salem, OR - Today, Senator Alan Olsen (R-Canby) voted in opposition of a bill that limits the rights of local citizens to call special elections. The bill, HB 2957, states that no election on county, city or district measures called for by citizens can be held outside of traditional election days in May or November. The bill passed in the Oregon Senate.

"This bill limits the right of Oregon citizens to call an election to address pertinent local issues in a timely manner," said Senator Olsen. "Preventing special elections erodes our democracy and restricts the will of the people."

HB 2957 only allows county or city officials to call for a special election. In recent years, citizens of Clackamas County have used their right to call a special election to refer major local projects like the Sellwood Bridge and light rail expansion to the ballot.

"Special elections are an important tool citizens have to make their voice heard," explained Senator Olsen. "With this bill, we are taking away the long-held rights of citizens to determine how local governments spend their tax dollars. By restricting the ability for citizens to call a special election, we are preventing Oregon citizens from making their voices heard."

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