



OREGON SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER PRESS RELEASE

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Revenue Forecast Shows State Revenues Rising While Oregon Families Struggle with High Energy Costs

SALEM, Ore. – Oregon’s [quarterly revenue forecast](#) released this morning showed state revenues continuing to climb, largely driven by gains in the stock market among higher-income earners, making the state’s revenue base more sensitive to shifts in the market.

But rising state revenues don’t mean most Oregon families are doing better. Many are getting squeezed by high energy costs that show up every time they fill up or pay a utility bill.

While Supermajority Democrats in the Legislature blamed the Trump Administration entirely for rising fuel costs, that doesn’t explain why Oregon drivers are paying far more at the pump than most of the country. [According to AAA](#), the national average gas price is **\$4.56** per gallon, compared to **\$5.35** in Oregon.

Over the last decade, Democrats in Salem have implemented repeated tax hikes, mandates, and regulations that have steadily increased the cost of gas, electricity, and heating bills for Oregon households and businesses. Those policies include the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, gas tax increases, renewable energy mandates, and the state’s Climate Protection Program.

State projections and outside analyses have warned the Climate Protection Program, once fully implemented, could increase per gallon fuel prices between **\$1.51** and **\$5.64**. And in 2025, Governor Kotek’s Department of Energy released an [“energy strategy”](#) recommending a series of new taxes and mandates that would increase energy costs for Oregon households and businesses by billions of dollars. The report itself acknowledges that:

“[T]he increased costs necessary to pay for significant resilience or reliability investments will fall hardest on those households and businesses already suffering from a high energy burden.”

Senate Republican Leader Bruce Starr (R-Dundee) released the following statement:

“Heating your home in the winter, cooling your home during a heat wave, and driving to and from work are not optional expenses Oregon families can simply cut out of their budgets. They deserve action from the Legislature to lower their costs, and our side of the aisle is willing to take that action. But if Democrats continue doubling down on policies that have driven costs higher for more than a decade, families should expect prices to keep rising.”

Oregonians overwhelmingly rejected the transportation tax and fee increase referendum in yesterday's primary election by a [4-to-1 margin](#). Voters sent a clear message that they are exhausted by rising costs and want leaders to focus on making life more affordable.

The primary also set the stage for November's general election, with Republicans nominating Christine Drahan to challenge Tina Kotek, and strong Republican candidates advancing to face many incumbent Democratic legislators across the state. Voters will ultimately choose between candidates with vastly different approaches to Oregon's cost of living, taxes, and energy policy.

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