



from the offices of

**SENATOR
KIM THATCHER**

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Democrats suppressing Oregonians by tampering with election date for referral of multi-billion dollar sales tax

SALEM, Ore.—The supermajority Democrats are manipulating the referendum process—which voters can use to repeal bad policies at the ballot box—and preemptively tilting the outcome in their favor. They are doing this by manipulating the election date for the referendum of House Bill 3427—which is a gross receipts tax, or a “hidden sales tax,” that will be layered throughout the economy and will be paid by Oregon businesses, employees and consumers. This new sales tax will cost the average household upward of an additional \$1,000 a year. The Democrats are giving themselves power to write the ballot language in their favor to thwart attempts by the people to overturn this tax.

Holding special elections costs millions of dollars and they are notorious for low voter turnout. Instead of the vote to repeal the sales tax being held in November of 2020, the vote will be held the day after Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which is a federal holiday. There is also New Year’s Day ahead of the vote.

The move is similar to when the Democrats moved the referendum of the 2017 health care sales tax to January of 2018 instead of November of 2018. Meaning, Democrats are not only actively seeking to manipulate outcomes, they will be using boatloads of taxpayer cash as well as dark money groups and special interests to promote their agenda across the state with slick, well-coordinated and bankrolled campaigns.

The election tampering was stuffed into [Senate Bill 116](#), which was rammed through the Senate Rules Committee with all Democrats voting “yes” and all Republicans voting “no.”

Republican state Sen. Kim Thatcher, of Keizer, released the following statement:

“Taxpayers’ hard-earned money should not be spent on a rigged process. It’s an abuse of power, not only to force a vote during an expensive, historically low-turnout special election, but even more so to manipulate ballot titles and descriptions in a way that further tilts the playing field in their favor.”

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