



*FROM THE OFFICES OF THE*  
**PRESIDENT OF THE OREGON SENATE**  
**&**  
**SPEAKER OF THE OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Legislative Leadership to Ask Voters to Weigh In on Transportation Funding in May**

*Holding the election in May would bring faster clarity to Oregon's near- and long-term transportation funding status*

**SALEM, Ore.** – Today, **House Speaker Julie Fahey (D-Eugene)** and **Senate President Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego)** announced that they will introduce legislation to set the date of the referendum on House Bill 3991 for May 19 to coincide with the statewide primary election.

This would allow voters to weigh in on the measure as soon as possible and, once the outcome of the election is known, will clarify for lawmakers, cities, and counties what level of transportation funding can be expected this biennium.

Conversations around building a better and safer transportation system for all of Oregon are expected to continue throughout the year.

"Voters were clear that they want to have a say on this bill, and legislators and our local partners need to know the transportation funding landscape so meaningful conversations can continue," President Wagner said. "Setting the election date for May achieves both these goals."

The Oregon Constitution gives the Legislature the authority to set the dates of initiative and referendum measures.

This timeline also aligns with the last time a state transportation funding measure was referred; legislation passed in the 1999 session was referred by voters and went to the ballot in May 2000.

"In this time of uncertainty, we're focused on governing, not politics. That means acting as quickly as possible to prevent disruption in our transportation system and to protect the roads and bridges that connect Oregonians to work, school, and emergency services," Speaker Fahey said. "Setting the date for the May primary gives lawmakers — and all Oregonians — needed clarity and certainty on the next steps for Oregon's transportation future."

After considerable legal research, the Legislature's attorneys have now concluded Oregonians have a right to make their voices heard through the referendum process and the Legislature cannot repeal a measure that has been referred, though it can set a date for the election.

The 2026 legislative session begins on February 2.

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